



## LITTER, RECYCLING, AND HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE RESOURCES

### WHAT TO PICK UP/LEAVE

- **Litter** - we pick up only human-created matter (cigarettes, plastics, metal, glass, Styrofoam, etc.), even if it is small and seemingly insignificant.  
Did you know that small debris such as plastic bottle caps is often what birds mistake as food?
- **Recyclables and Hazardous Waste** - Recyclable and HHW items should not be placed with trash. Please separate out throughout the cleanup.
- **Leave natural debris** like leaves, plants, sticks, etc.; they are part of the natural ecosystem we are working to restore!
- **Avoid disturbing any areas with animals, do not approach any encampments, and do not stomp through sensitive habitats to obtain trash.**

### FILLED BAGS

Bring filled bags back to your residential receptacles. Empty recyclables into container and dispose of bags in the trash – plastic film is *not* able to be recycled in comingled containers!

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### What do I do if I find...

If you are in the County of Santa Clara, please use [Access Valley Water](#). It is a reporting app and website where you can submit requests and report issues along our waterways to Valley Water staff and crews. This includes things like illegal dumping and obstructed storm drains.

#### 1. ABANDONED SHOPPING CARTS

Follow these steps to report and remove shopping carts you find in your cleanup:

- If the cart has a phone number on it for retrieval purposes, call that number and report the location of the cart. The number may be that of the store or that of the California Shopping Cart Retrieval Corporation (CSCRC), which has contracts with some stores to retrieve and return their carts. Its number is **1 (800) 252-4613**.
- If the cart has a store name on it but no phone number, look up the number of the nearest store and call it to report the location of the cart to report its location.

#### 2. MATTRESSES OR OTHER LARGE ITEMS

For mattress recycling options, visit [byebyemattress.com](http://byebyemattress.com) or [recyclestuff.org](http://recyclestuff.org).

- Soiled mattresses are unable to be recycled and must be hauled away for disposal. While mattresses and other large items are allowed to go into dumpsters, they are not allowed in residential containers.
- If safe, move these items to an area that is not obstructing paths, sidewalks, or roads. If you cannot move items yourself, please note the coordinates or closest address, number of items left behind, and take a photo of the items. Report this information and locations via the [Access Valley Water](#) app.

### 3. BICYCLE AND CAR TIRES

If you find illegally dumped tires during your cleanup, collect the latitude/longitude coordinates or an address with a brief description of where the tire is located and contact the San Jose Conservation Corps at [tires@sjcccs.org](mailto:tires@sjcccs.org) or submit a report through [Access Valley Water](#) if the tire is located in a creek.

### 4. DEAD OR INJURED ANIMALS

**Be sure volunteers DO NOT pick up or attempt to help any dead or injured animals. Dead animals should NOT be placed in trash bags.**

- Injured wildlife rescue: Silicon Valley Wildlife Center **(408) 929-9453**; Wildlife Education & Rehabilitation Center **(408) 779-9372**.
- Dead animal removal Santa Clara County Animal Services **(408) 794-7297**; County of Santa Clara County Animal Care & Control Division Field Services Office **(408) 201-0660**.

### 5. HOMELESS ENCAMPMENTS

Avoid confrontation. Do not approach anyone living in the encampment. Our policy for all volunteers is to **LEAVE ALL PERSONAL BELONGINGS**. Do not take down tents, remove clothing, bedding, or other personal belongings. When in doubt, leave it be. Report abandoned encampments or other issues through the [Access Valley Water](#) app.

### 6. DOCKLESS BIKES OR SCOOTERS

In some parts of the county, there are dockless bikes and scooters available to the public to use. Some of these dockless bikes and scooters are in obscure places or in plain sight, some in usable shape and some not. Should you encounter any broken, damaged, or vandalized bikes or scooters please contact the respective companies to inform them of their location. Once reported, leave the items in an area not blocking private or public walkways, driveways, parking spaces, etc.

	Bike	Scooter
Bird		866-205-2442; <a href="mailto:hello@bird.co">hello@bird.co</a>
Jump	833-300-6106; <a href="mailto:support@jump.com">support@jump.com</a>	844-505-9155; <a href="mailto:support@jump.com">support@jump.com</a>
Lime	888-546-3345	415-818-1305; <a href="mailto:GetItDone@li.me">GetItDone@li.me</a>
Lyft	Bay Wheels (855) 480-2453	628-230-3562; Submit a Request
Skip		844-929-2687; <a href="mailto:hello@rideskip.com">hello@rideskip.com</a>

# YES, THIS CAN BE RECYCLED!

To best recycle these materials, think: **DRY, CLEAN and UNBAGGED.**



All Glass Bottles and Jars



Empty Aerosol Cans



All Plastic Bottles and Jars



Metal/Aluminum cans



Dry Cardboard



Dry Paper Bags



Clean Aluminum Foil, Foil Trays



Cartons, Tetra Paks



Other Dry Paper Products (Newspaper, Mail, Magazines, Catalogs, Paper, Food Boxes)



Clean Plastic Food Packaging

(No compostable plastics or PLA, Styrofoam plastic film, bags or utensils)



Plastic Buckets, Tubs, Pots and Toys\*

\*Other non-food plastics **that are accepted** include large items such as plastic crates, totes, laundry baskets, pallets, and lawn furniture. These types of items must usually be broken down to fit into the blue recycling carts. If they are jammed into the container or protruding out of the container, the recycling truck may not be able to empty your container.

## Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), Universal Waste (UW), and Electronic Waste (EW)

### What is HHW?

A household hazardous waste is any unused or leftover portion of products used in and around the home containing toxic chemicals. Any product labeled with the words CAUTION, WARNING, DANGER, POISON, TOXIC, FLAMMABLE, CORROSIVE, IRRITANT, REACTIVE or COMBUSTIBLE is considered a hazardous material.

- **Examples of HHW:**

Lawn/garden-care products, paint and paint-related products, automotive fluids and batteries, beauty products and medicines, household cleaning products, and other miscellaneous products like photographic chemicals and lighter fluids.

### What are Universal Wastes (U Waste) and Why Can't I Put Them in the Trash?

Universal waste is low risk hazardous waste generated by a variety of people. This waste has five categories: batteries, pesticides, mercury-containing equipment, lamps, and aerosol cans. This waste must be disposed of properly, and cannot be thrown in the trash because they contain harmful chemicals.

- **Examples of Universal Waste:**

**Common Batteries:** AA, AAA, C cells, D cells and button batteries (e.g. hearing aid batteries).

**Light Bulbs:** Fluorescent tubes and bulbs and other mercury-containing lamps.

**Mercury-Containing Devices:** thermostats, switches, thermometers, dental amalgam, pressure and vacuum gauges, novelty items, counterweights and dampers, medical devices known as dilators and weighted tubing, certain rubber flooring, and gas flow regulators used in older residential gas meters.

**Non-empty aerosol cans that contain hazardous materials:** many aerosol cans contain flammables, like butane, as propellants for products like paint. If your aerosol can is labeled with words like TOXIC or FLAMMABLE, don't put it in the trash unless it is completely empty.

### What is Electronic Waste (E-Waste)?

Many types of electronic products used in the workplace and homes contain hazardous substances like lead and mercury. When these products reach the end of their useful lives or become obsolete, some are considered hazardous waste. Wastes are hazardous waste when they exhibit one or more of the following characteristics: toxicity, ignitability, corrosivity or reactivity.

In general, hazardous waste may not be discarded in the regular trash. Instead, it must be sent to a facility that has a permit for treatment (including recycling), storage, or disposal.

- **Examples of Electronic Waste:**

**Large Electronic Devices:** Cathode ray tube (CRT) devices (including televisions and computer monitors), LCD desktop monitors, laptop computers with LCD displays, LCD televisions, and plasma televisions.

**Personal Electronic devices:** televisions and computer monitors, computers, printers, VCRs, cell phones, telephones, radios, and microwave ovens.

Much of this information is provided by the Department of Toxic Substances Control's web site. Please visit <http://www.dtsc.ca.gov> for more information.

### What do I do with HHW, EW, and UW found in Santa Clara County?

**Visit [RecycleStuff.Org](http://RecycleStuff.Org) to find the best option for disposal.**

**Toll Free: 1-800-533-8414 or 408-299-7300    Email: [info@recyclestuff.org](mailto:info@recyclestuff.org)**