

# Residential Recycling Services

## Collection Safety

If your neighborhood is tight on curbside space on collection day (for example, a large amount of street parking, narrow streets or driveways) consider moving your car to the garage, driveway or another street where you feel secure parking your vehicle. If you aren't able to move your car, set carts and cans out as close to the guidelines as possible.

As a safety precaution, always be mindful of driving around an Allied Waste truck. If you can't see the driver, the driver likely can't see you.

## Proper Set-Out is Important

When placing your carts, cans or bags at the curb on collection day, remember to follow Allied Waste's guidelines for a safe, clean pick-up.

- Place carts in the street wheels against the curb, 4 feet away from parked vehicles.
- Place carts at least 2 feet apart. This allows your driver to easily service the containers in an efficient manner
- Fold or cut extra cardboard to fit in the recycle cart. Place next to the cart if it is full. (*See About Cardboard, pg 2!*)
- Place 32-gallon cans with lids and 32-gallon plastic bags tied at the top at the curb, not in the street. Cans cannot weigh more than 75 lbs. and bags cannot weigh more than 25 lbs.
- Use only approved jugs for motor oil recycling (available at Milpitas Fire Stations) and set next to your carts at the curb, not in the street. Two-gallons per week per resident. Remember, only used motor oil will be collected. Allied Waste can't recycle anti-freeze or any other auto fluids.

City of Milpitas Municipal Services Bill:  
**Online Bill Pay**

[www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov](http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov)

Go to right side of web page

1. Find "Get & Pay Your City Utility Bills Online!"

2. Sign-up

3. Save Resources

Questions? Call (408) 586-3100

## Hazardous Wastes ...in MY home?!?!

Yes! Do a "Safety Cleaning"  
and call the

### Hazardous Waste Hotline

at 299-7300 for a  
**FREE** Saturday  
appointment.

## Got Motor Oil?

Don't dump it! Motor oil pollutes our groundwater. Call the City of Milpitas Recycling Hotline at 586-2680 for a list of local businesses that accept motor oil and filters. For curbside collection, get approved recycling jugs at Milpitas fire stations and Allied Waste Services.

## Recycle Right!

- Plastic containers labeled 
- Please: no black plastic, no Styrofoam!
- White plastic shopping bags
- Aluminum & metal cans
- Glass bottles & jars
- Mixed paper & newspapers
- Flattened cardboard. Place in cart. If full, fold to cart size & stack next to cart.
- Set out motor oil at the curb (not in the street!). Only use jugs available at Milpitas fire stations.



## Extra Yard Trims Options

- Call **Allied Waste Customer Services** at **432-0444** for a free extra yard trims sticker.
- Place extra trims in a clean 32-gallon garbage can. Place the can at the curb, not on the street.
- Attach the extra yard trims sticker on a clean 32-gallon can. Face sticker towards the street.
- Your green yard trims must be set out with the extra yard trims.
- Place yard trims cart on the street in front of the curb, lid closed.
- For tree trims and brush not fitting in the cart, tie with twine into three-foot bundles and place at the curb, not on the street. Be sure to keep bundle diameter nor larger than the width of your yard trims cart.
- REMINDER: Rocks, concrete, sod, dirt, plastic bags, loose fruit or vegetables, and pet waste are NOT ACCEPTED as yard trimmings.

### Accepted

Grass Clippings  
Brush & Weeds  
Prunings & Tree Trimmings  
Leaves  
Tree Trunks of less than 6" in diameter & 3' in length  
Vegetables & fruit on the vine or limb

### Not Accepted

Rocks  
Concrete  
Sod  
Dirt  
Plastic Bags  
Loose fruit or vegetables  
Pet Waste

Always flatten and cut or fold cardboard to fit inside your cart. When the cart is full, flatten and size cardboard to fit inside the cart, and then stack it next to the cart.

## A Few Words About Cardboard

Your driver can collect cardboard placed next to the cart only when it is sized to fit inside the cart. *Cardboard that does not fit into your cart can't be collected. If this happens, drivers will leave a non-collection notice.*

For extra cardboard, drivers first empty your full recycling cart, dismount the vehicle to put properly sized cardboard into the cart and then empty the cart again.



## Post-Consumer vs. Pre-Consumer

Post-consumer materials include any items that have been used by consumers or businesses and collected for recycling. Pre-consumer materials include "waste" items generated during manufacturing, such as paper trimmings at paper mills. By choosing products with the highest percentage of post-consumer materials, we support recycling collection programs.

## Recycled Content vs. Recyclable

These terms can be confusing. "Recycled content" means the product or its packaging material is made from recycled material; but a recyclable product is one that can be recycled after it has reached the end of its useful life. While it is important to look for products with both recycled content and that can be recycled, buying a "recyclable" product only has meaning if you can, and will, actually recycle it in Milpitas. *Remember, not all city recycling programs accept the same materials.*

## Green Shopping Tips

- **Save energy – shop in Milpitas!**
- Buy products made from recycled materials.
- Take reusable shopping bags to the grocery store and mall.
- Buy what you need – use what you buy.
- Buy products with less packaging.
- Avoid single-use, throwaway products.



Solid or filled-in arrows means the product is made with recycled content and is recyclable.



Open or outlined arrows means the product is not made with recycled content but is recyclable.



## Happy Holidays from the City of Milpitas!

### 'Tis better to give than to receive. Give the gift of a low-waste holiday



#### Try these gift ideas:

- Language, sports, or music lessons
- Admission to a museum or exhibition, or tickets to a play
- Membership to a club or association
- Health spa gift certificate
- On-line magazine subscription
- Park passes and fishing licenses
- Transit passes and tickets

#### For kids, give the special gift of your time:

- A day at a regional or national park
- Dinner out for a favorite food
- A movie

#### Give Investments

Most gifts don't last long, but investments do, especially for youngsters:

- Start a 529 college savings plan. Visit [www.savingforcollege.com](http://www.savingforcollege.com).
- Give U.S. savings bonds. Visit [www.savingsbonds.gov](http://www.savingsbonds.gov).
- Open an Education IRA with a broker or financial planner.

#### Still want to give a wrapped gift?

- Give a gift card or certificate. The recipient will get he or she really wants.
- Buy "durable durables." Durable goods are expected to last 3 years. But do they? Electronics become obsolete, and novelty toys collect dust. How about bikes, tools, a live tree, or good kitchenware?
- Let a child's mind "grow into" the toy. Choose toys that challenge: musical instruments, art supplies, tools, chess sets.
- Buy pre-owned. A thrift shop or flea market may have the perfect gift.
- Buy goods with recycled content.
- Send e-greetings for the holidays.
- Wrap a gift in a scarf, tote, backpack, toolbox or bucket that becomes part of the gift.

#### After the Holidays:

- You'll have things you don't need, since you received gifts that "upgrade" them. You may also have gifts you don't want. Give unwanted items in good condition to local charities. Remember, giving drops off after the holidays, as people forget the needy.

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## The Biodegradability Myth

A recent claim in markets is that all products are biodegradable. Biodegradable material is that which can be naturally broken down into organic components. Technically, everything will eventually break down, but at what rate? Archeologists have dug up 15 year old newspapers (that can still be read!) from sanitary landfills.

From a practical perspective, be careful about buying products with this claim. Most "biodegradable products" cannot deliver what they say. For the best resource conservation, stick with reusable products and materials.



## Closing the Loop

Recycling is a three-step process – that's why the recycling symbol has three chasing arrows:

**Step 1: Collection** – when you place recyclables in the single stream cart.

**Step 2: Manufacturing** – when recyclables are processed into raw materials for new products.

**Step 3: Buying Recycled** – when you buy products from recycled materials.

Recycling only works when all three steps happen in that order. *You aren't really recycling until you buy recycled.*

This holiday season, look for recycled products or those with packaging made from post consumer recycled content. Then, buy recycled throughout the New Year!

Translation information provided upon request. Please call (408) 586-2680.

La información sobre la traducción está disponible  
previa solicitud. Llame al (408) 586-2680.

歡迎來電要求提供翻譯資料。  
電話為 (408) 586-2680。

Thông tin về dịch thuật sẽ được cung cấp khi có  
yêu cầu. Vui lòng gọi số (408) 586-2680.

अनुरोध करने पर अनुवाद सूचनाएं उपलब्ध करायी जाती हैं।  
कृपया (408) 586-2680 पर फोन करें।

## For Milpitas Residents: The Latest Recycling and Waste Reduction News!



Reuse line 586-2680



Service Questions?  
432-0444

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### After the holidays:

- All those catalogs you used, to help with shopping, just keep coming and coming. The average American receives more than 500 pieces of junk mail each year! That's about a tree for every household. Call the ordering number on the back of the catalog and stop delivery. Visit [www.StopJunkMail.org](http://www.StopJunkMail.org) to cut down on your junk mail.
- Recycle your tree. **Call Allied Waste Customer Service** at **432-0444** for set out instructions.
- Bring used packaging peanuts and other materials to a Milpitas mailing store.
- And, of course, recycle all those catalogs, cardboard boxes, cards and paper wrap!

