



WASTE CONNECTIONS INC.  
Connect with the Future

El Dorado Disposal Services  
Customer Service  
530-626-4141 or  
916-985-1162  
Ombudsman • 530-295-2818  
eldoradodisposal.com

Summer 2014



## Never miss collection day again!

Do you ever have trouble remembering to put your carts out on your collection day? El Dorado Disposal now has a new program that will help you remember. You can sign up for individualized trash and recycling collection reminders at [www.eldoradodisposal.com](http://www.eldoradodisposal.com). Click on your service area, and then type your address in the "Collection Schedules and Reminders" box. You'll see an individualized collection calendar, as well as special events in your neighborhood. You can check the calendar online, print and post it, or add it to your online calendar. Check it out!



## The advantages of a debris box

If you're preparing for a large cleanup or doing remodeling or demolition, you might need a temporary dumpster, or debris box. Our debris boxes are large, open-top collection containers like those you might see at a construction site. When you rent a debris box, you get a large amount of disposal capacity for a short period of time, saving you extra trips to the landfill or Transfer Station. When you rent a container, we deliver it to your site, roll it off our truck onto the ground, and then pick it up when you are finished, making disposal convenient and cost-effective.

We have debris boxes in various sizes, including 6, 10, 20, 30, and 40 cubic



yards (1 cubic yard is about the size of a washing machine). If you would like more information, including costs, please call Customer Service at 530-626-4141.

## Yard Waste Solutions

After your yard cleanup, you may be left with several bags of grass clippings, leaves that survived the winter, and weeds from your garden. Now that your yard is picture-perfect, it's time to set your bags out for collection.

If you reside in the City of Placerville, Cameron Park, El Dorado Hills, or parts of El Dorado County, you can take advantage of our curbside yard waste collection. These items are acceptable in your yard waste cart:

- Plant material
- Grass
- Leaves
- Weeds
- Plant and tree trimmings
- Houseplants (no pots)
- Small amounts of sod (less than 60 pounds)

- Branches and twigs (up to 4 inches in diameter and no more than 4 feet long)

Remember that these carts are for organic yard waste, so not everything you pick up in your yard can go into the cart. Please do NOT put any of these items into the yard waste cart:

- Plastic or synthetic bags
- Animal waste or litter
- Dead animals
- Rocks and gravel
- Cement and concrete
- Loose soil
- Lumber and wood
- Fencing material
- Metal
- Household trash or litter
- Hoses and garden tools
- Bricks and tile
- Construction debris
- Nursery pots
- Tinsel, ornaments, and flocking
- Hazardous waste

If you occasionally have a larger amount of yard waste, you can put out extra bags or bundles that weigh no more than 50 pounds and, in the case of bundles, are no more than 4 feet long and 2 feet in diameter. Please do not tie bundles with wire, nylon cord, or plastic banding. Prior to setting out your bags or bundles of extra yard waste, please call Customer Service at 530-626-4141 or 916-985-1162 to make collection arrangements. After you make the call, you may place the bags or bundles next to your yard waste cart. They should be at least 3 feet away from your garbage or recycling cart.

If you frequently have more yard waste than will fit into your yard waste cart, please order another cart. To order an additional cart, call Customer Service.



## Community Cleanups draw crowds

This spring, El Dorado Disposal partnered with several communities for spring cleanup events. Cameron Park CSD, Camino, Pollock Pines, El Dorado Hills CSD, and Placerville all participated, collecting trash, yard waste, bulky waste, metal, and recyclables. Thanks to everyone who took part. Here are the results:

- ◆ Cameron Park CSD: On April 26, residents dropped off 26.75 tons of trash, 5.86 tons of yard waste, and 2.18 tons of recycling.
- ◆ Pollock Pines: On May 3, the community cleanup brought in 49.15

tons of trash, 7.46 tons of metal, 5.25 tons of yard waste, and 0.58 tons of recycling.

- ◆ Camino: On May 10, residents delivered 15.49 tons of trash, 5.25 tons of metal, and 1.39 tons of yard waste.
- ◆ El Dorado Hills CSD: On May 17, we collected 32.54 tons of trash, 8.54 tons of scrap metal, and 1.85 tons of yard waste.
- ◆ Placerville: On June 21, residents dropped off 37.53 tons of trash and 6.2 tons of yard waste.

## Preparing for summer picnics

During the summer, we enjoy many picnics and barbecues. While you're enjoying the great outdoors, don't forget the three R's. Here are simple tips for reducing, reusing, and recycling:

### Reduce

- ❖ Plan ahead so that you don't have too much food. Potlucks, in particular, often lead to a lot of food waste (which translates to wasted money and time on food purchases and preparation). Rather than asking everyone to bring food, consider assigning other tasks, such as bringing cloth napkins or monitoring recycling bins.
- ❖ If you'll be somewhere without running

water, take along a jug of water and soap or a bottle of hand sanitizer rather than moistened towelettes or wipes.

### Reuse

- ❖ Select washable plates, cups, and silverware. For outdoor use, especially around swimming pools, rivers, and lakes, use plastic and metal rather than glass.
- ❖ Instead of paper napkins, which can easily blow away and become litter, take along washable napkins, small hand towels, or washcloths.
- ❖ If you need a new cooler, select one that is sturdy and will last for many years.
- ❖ Consider washing and reusing "disposable" plastic cups, plates, forks, and spoons.

### Recycle

- ❖ Collect bottles and cans for recycling. You can put empties back into your cooler or use a bag or box.
- ❖ Place empty recyclables into bins provided at parks or take the recyclables home for recycling in your bin.



# Waste in Focus



The Griffin family of Atlanta, Georgia, agreed to collect their waste for a week. They ended up with 31 pounds of trash for the landfill and 10.1 pounds of recyclables.

Peter Menzel, whose previous photo-essays include *Material World: A Global Family Portrait* and *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats*, teamed up with frequent collaborator, Faith De' Aluisio, to create the Waste in Focus Project, a look at eight American families and their trash. Families were chosen from around the country. Each family collected all garbage, recyclables, and compostables for one week. At the end, everything was weighed and displayed for a family portrait.

In an interview with Isabelle Raphael in *Parade* magazine in April, Peter Menzel said, "This was not really an exercise to compare the families one to another. It was more of an exercise for each to learn what they could do better—both to lessen their total household waste and to properly manage their recycling. For instance, while many of our families were already fairly adept at following their municipality's waste collection rules, nearly every family had put some amount of recyclables in their trash bin."

To see the photos, read the families' stories, take the waste quiz, or find answers to some of our frequently asked questions, go to [www.WasteinFocus.com](http://www.WasteinFocus.com).

The project was funded by the Glad Products Company, in partnership with Keep America Beautiful.

## QUOTES REQUESTED



Photo by Frances Benjamin Johnston, Library of Congress

When you do the common things in life in an uncommon way, you will command the attention of the world.

George Washington Carver, 1864-1943  
Scientist and Inventor

# Beyond bottles

According to a study prepared by Moore Recycling Associates, recycling for non-bottle rigid plastics rose to 1.016 billion pounds in 2012, triple the amount recycled in 2007 when tracking of rigid plastics recycling began. Rigid plastics include containers and packaging, such as cups, trays, lids, and food tubs, as well as bulky items, such as crates, buckets, baskets, toys, and lawn furniture. About three-quarters of these items are made from either polypropylene (PP, #5) or polyethylene (PE/PET, #1).

Almost all recycling programs nationwide have long accepted plastic bottles and jugs, such as soft drink bottles, water bottles, milk jugs, and detergent jugs. However, non-bottle rigid plastics are new to the mix. More than 60% of U.S. residents now have access to non-bottle rigid plastic recycling, either at curbside or drop-off centers.

In 2012, 57% of the rigid plastics were processed in the United States and Canada, while the rest was exported, mainly to China. End uses for non-bottle rigid plastics include crates, buckets, pipes, automotive products, lawn and garden products, and industrial drums.

Not sure what plastics you can recycle? Find out by calling us or visiting our website.

The study by Moore Recycling Associates was funded by the American Chemistry Council.

**New crates are one of the many products that can be made from recycled rigid plastics.**

© Hansenn | iStock | Thinkstock



## In praise of junkyards

Adam Minter is a journalist from a family of “scrappers,” so it isn’t surprising that his debut book, *Junkyard Planet: Travels in the Billion-Dollar Trash Trade* (Bloomsbury Press, 2013), explores the vast expanse of the global recycling economy. The result is an unexpectedly interesting tale that aims “to explain why the hidden world of globalized recycling and reclamation is the most logical (and greenest) endpoint in a long chain that begins with the harvest in your home recycling bin, or down at the local junkyard.”

Minter knows that the numbers can be astonishing—American consumers produce 251 million tons of trash annually, of which almost 87 million tons are recycled and composted. But he gives life to the recycling and scrap industry by introducing people who handle scrap—sorting, buying, selling, or remanufacturing—in the U.S. and China. As he introduces these people and businesses, Minter takes the reader on a journey from scrap men of the early 20th century to the boom of the 1960s American recycling industry and around the world, showing us the growth of the global recycling industry. Along the way, he explains what happens to the plastics, papers, and metals thrown into recycling bins and carts.

Minter is uniquely qualified to offer this perspective. Minter’s family owns a scrap yard in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Founded by his late great-grandfather during the Great Depression, the junkyard was a business born of poverty-driven ingenuity and a desire to find a way to earn a living for himself and his family. This entrepreneurship was passed down through the generations. Minter grew up in the junkyard, run by his father and grandmother, and the yard holds many special

memories from his childhood. He notes that, like many of China’s growing recycling companies, “the world’s largest recycling industry—the U.S. one—was also born from self-interested motives.” Today, Minter is a journalist for *Bloomberg World View*, based in Shanghai, China.

The book begins with a trip to Texas to visit one of the largest sorting facilities for household recyclables in the United States. Minter describes the recycling facility as a “Walmart-sized space.” He likens it to “Willy Wonka’s chocolate factory: conveyors of trash

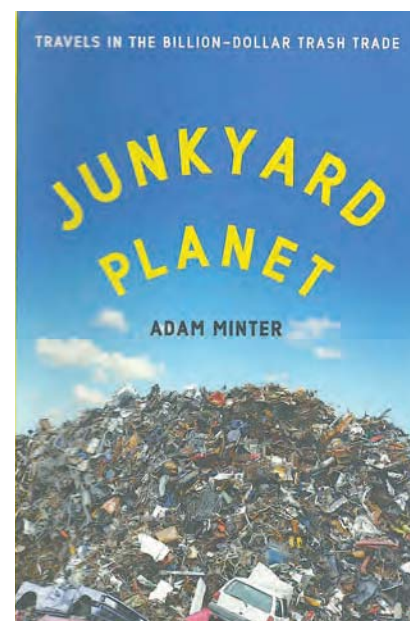
rush upward and release their cargo into spinning stars that toss it about in a manner that I can only describe as joyful, like popcorn jumping in a frying pan.” This plant accepts mixed recyclables, also called “single-stream recycling,” meaning the consumers don’t separate their recyclables. Instead, machines and workers along the system of conveyor belts separate materials by type, which are then baled or packaged for shipment to processors and manufacturers.

Reuse and recycling require, as Minter notes, ingenuity and entrepreneurship. Most scrap and recycling businesses begin in “backpacks, pickup trucks, and perhaps a discrete backyard or two.” For instance, in Shanghai, where peddlers scrounge for cans and other recyclable items, Minter sees a migrant woman with a fanny pack filled with scrap money “presiding over a system that harvests recyclables from the trash.” Worldwide, the industry has grown, not for altruistic or environmental reasons, but because “somebody was short a resource, and somebody else with some ingenuity and entrepreneurship had an idea for how to provide it.”

Minter explores the stories of some of these entrepreneurs who have made recycling more efficient and feasible. Leonard Fritz began “grubbing,” or scrapping for metals, in 1931 in order to make money for school clothes. Fritz now owns one of the largest scrap companies in the United States, the Huron Valley Steel Corporation, which, in 2007, received over 1 billion pounds of scrap. Similarly, Alpert & Alpert in Los Angeles started in the 1950s when the company bought scrap from peddlers and sold to only three steel mills. They now ship billions of dollars’ worth of scrap to Asia. Minter also visits OmniSource in Fort Wayne, Indiana, which has some of the most expensive and high-tech metal separating equipment in the world, and Scott Newell in El Paso, Texas. Newell created the auto shredder and is now the supplier of more than 30% of the world’s metal shredders.

While explaining the vast expanse of the recycling world, Minter also relates how cyclical the industry is, mirroring the larger economy. “The global recycling business, no matter how sustainable or green, is 100 percent dependent upon consumers consuming goods

According to Adam Minter, “the world’s most recycled product (by weight) isn’t a newspaper, a notebook computer, or a plastic water bottle—it’s an American automobile, most of which is metal. In 2012, the United States recycled nearly 11.9 million cars..., generating millions of tons of metal that was quickly and efficiently recycled into a range of new products (mostly parts for new automobiles) around the world.”



made from other goods,” writes Minter.

According to Minter, “U.S. manufacturers (second only to China in total output) still use roughly two-thirds of the recycled materials that are generated within the U.S. borders.” The next largest user of American recyclables is China, where companies use these raw materials

to manufacture exports, as well as to serve their own growing economy, much as the U.S. recycling industry boomed in the 1960s as the middle-class grew in this country.

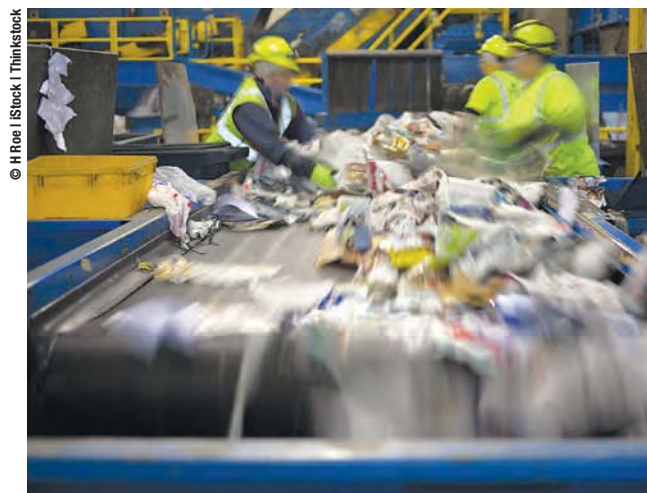
Minter travels through China, following various recyclables as they are sorted, processed, and reused or remanufactured. In Foshan, China, migrant workers separate metals used to build the numerous buildings in China’s cities. This process is mainly done by hand labor, which provides a better living for the migrant workers than subsistence farming in their villages. This metal separation is also, environmentally, a better alternative than mining for new metals. In Taizhou, China, old automobiles are taken apart, parts are sorted by hand, and then reused to repair cars in China. If a part cannot be reused, it is recycled and sent to Japan. Wen’an County in northern China is the heart of the global scrap-plastics trade, and, unfortunately, one of the most polluted areas in the country. However, the plastics sorted there are used, as Minter notes, to “make everything from cell phones to coffee cups.” In Guiyu, China, old iPhones and other electronics are refurbished and used by people who cannot afford to buy a new phone. However, some products prove difficult to recycle. For instance, many touchscreens are made in such a way that it is not profitable to extract the valuable rare earth minerals found in them.

In describing this vast journey of recycling and the immense volume of resources that come from it, Minter shows that, while recycling is good, it is important to reduce and reuse first. He cites several studies that have found when recycling bins are present, we actually use more. “Above all, though, I encourage people to think about what it means to recycle, and make smart choices as a consumer before you buy that thing you’ll eventually toss out,” he writes.

As Minter notes, consumers play an important role—and not only by recycling. He suggests that consumers ask companies to design products for repair, reuse, and recycling. For instance, in electronics, companies could make it easier to replace batteries or disassemble components for recycling. He recommends that the U.S. dedicate more research and development money to recycling technologies, something that is already occurring in China and other Asian countries on a larger scale. Finally, he supports policies that encourage recyclable materials to move around the country and around the globe to businesses that can most efficiently extract and reuse the resources.

For Minter, and for all of us, junkyards are a good thing—places where what might have become waste is re-imagined. This book will leave you contemplating where that plastic bottle and cereal box you throw into the recycling bin will go, and the numerous lives they may change along the way.

“The world is a better, cleaner, and more interesting place for its junkyards. I wouldn’t want to live on a planet without them.”



Workers pull recyclables off a moving conveyor belt in a recycling sorting facility. Materials coming into this facility come in as mixed recyclables from “single-stream” carts and bins.

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## Hours of Operation

**Transfer Station Facilities and Services**  
**4100 Throwita Way, Placerville**

### Material Recovery Facility

Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 7 days/week  
 Closed: Christmas and New Year's Day.

### Electronic Waste Drop-Off

Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 7 days/week, except for Christmas and New Year's Day. No charge.

### Large Appliances, Tires, and Bulky Items Drop-Off

Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 7 days/week, except for Christmas and New Year's Day. Fees apply.

### Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off

Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday and Saturday only.  
 Item limits apply.  
 No charge.

### Home-Generated Sharps

Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday and Saturday only.

### Business Hazardous Waste Drop-Off

Hours: By appointment between 8 and 9 a.m., Friday and Saturday only.  
 Call 530-295-2808, Monday through Friday, for appointment.  
 Fees apply.



### Off-Site Recycling Centers

#### 580 Truck Street, Placerville

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday (Closed for lunch 12:30 to 1 p.m. daily; lunch times may vary).

Accepts Recyclables, CRV Bottles and Cans (buy-back), Electronics, Household Batteries, and Fluorescent Bulbs.

#### 3510 Palmer Drive, Cameron Park

(Located behind Bel-Air and Long's Drugs)

Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday (Closed for lunch 12:30 to 1 p.m. daily; lunch times may vary).

Accepts Recyclables, CRV Bottles and Cans (buy-back), Electronics, Household Batteries, and Fluorescent Bulbs.

#### 4421 Latrobe Road, El Dorado Hills

Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday (Closed for lunch 12:30 to 1 p.m. daily; lunch times may vary).

Accepts Recyclables, CRV Bottles and Cans (buy-back), Electronics, Household Batteries, Fluorescent Bulbs, and Yard Waste.



**Need more info? Visit:**  
**www.ElDoradoDisposal.com**

# Hazardous waste accepted year-round

Household hazardous waste includes lawn and garden chemicals, oil and automotive fluids, paint and paint thinner, and cleaners like toilet bowl cleaners, as well as fluorescent tubes and bulbs, household and automotive batteries, and used medical sharps. All of these items are accepted every Friday and Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility, which is located at the Transfer Station in Placerville. Residents who are dropping off items that were used in and around their



homes can drop off hazardous waste at no charge, but some limits apply:

- No more than four propane tanks (gas-grill style) will be accepted for free per resident per trip.
- No more than 15 fluorescent tubes and bulbs will be accepted per resident per trip.
- Department of Transportation regulations limit the amount of hazardous waste that can be transported at one time to 15 gallons or 125 pounds.

Household batteries are accepted—free of charge—at the Hazardous Waste Facility, as well as at our Recycling Centers.

Qualified businesses may also drop off hazardous waste. However, a Commercial Hazardous Waste Account and an appointment are required. Businesses will be charged for hazardous waste disposal. For details, call 530-295-2808.

## Wondering what you can recycle?

If you recycle in a curbside cart or at one of the drop-off centers, remember to empty recyclables from bags or boxes. When recycling is inside bags and boxes, it takes extra space in carts and bins and can create difficulties when materials are sorted. Place LOOSE recyclables into carts and bins.

You can place all of these materials into curbside carts or drop-off recycling bins:

- ◆ All California Redemption Value (CRV) bottles and cans
- ◆ Clean paper and mail
- ◆ Corrugated cardboard
- ◆ Cereal boxes (remove and discard the liner)
- ◆ Shoe boxes
- ◆ Brown paper bags
- ◆ Newspaper and magazines
- ◆ Shredded paper (strips only; bag in clear plastic bag and tie shut)
- ◆ Paperback books
- ◆ Catalogs and phone books
- ◆ Milk cartons
- ◆ Juice boxes
- ◆ Soy milk cartons
- ◆ Frozen food boxes
- ◆ Plastic bottles, jars, and jugs (remove and discard caps)
- ◆ Plastic dairy tubs, such as yogurt and margarine tubs (remove and discard lids)
- ◆ All colors of glass jars, bottles, and jugs (remove and discard lids)

- ◆ Clean aluminum foil and foil baking pans
- ◆ Aluminum beverage and cat food cans
- ◆ Steel or tin food and beverage cans
- ◆ Tin boxes, such as tea or cookie tins
- ◆ Scrap metal (limit 2 feet by 2 feet and/or 35 pounds; NO wood, plastic, or rubber attachments)



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If you have curbside recycling, there is no charge for extra recyclables. Simply place the recycling into a bag and mark it "Recycle." Set the bag next to your recycling cart.

### Summer Picnics

*Continued from page 1*

#### A Few Words on Food Safety

Carrying our food outdoors creates more risks than just eating too many ribs or too much homemade ice cream. Summer temperatures combine with long hours outdoors, allowing foodborne bacteria to thrive. Food that sits out for more than two hours (or more than one hour when the temperature is above 90° F) should be thrown away.

To improve food safety and decrease food waste:

- ◆ Keep cold foods cold by placing them

into a cooler with ice or frozen gel packs. Cold food should be stored at 40° F or below to prevent bacterial growth. Meat, poultry, and seafood may be packed while still frozen so that they stay cold longer. Consider packing beverages in one cooler and perishable foods in another. That way, as the beverage cooler is opened again and again, the perishable foods won't be exposed to the warm outdoor air. Don't remove perishable cold foods from the cooler until you are ready to serve them.

- ◆ Don't cross-contaminate. Be sure to keep raw meat, poultry, and seafood securely wrapped so that their juices



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Are you a do-it-yourselfer? If you change your vehicle's oil, do you know how and where to recycle the used oil and filters? If not, you should! When motor oil is disposed improperly (whether dumped in the trash or poured on the ground), it puts our water supplies at risk. With water in short supply in California, we need to protect it. You can help do that by recycling your motor oil and filters!

If you have curbside trash and recycling service with El Dorado Disposal, you can call to request a free oil collection jug. After it is delivered, you simply fill the jug and call Customer Service at 530-626-4141 or email [OLPEIDoradoDisposal@WasteConnections.com](mailto:OLPEIDoradoDisposal@WasteConnections.com) to schedule a pickup. The oil jug will be picked up on your regular collection day, but do NOT place it inside your carts!

You can also place oil in a clean jug and deliver it to a Used Oil Certified Collection Center. Most centers also accept drained oil filters, which you can place into a clean, sealed plastic bag. To find a collection center near you, visit [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/usedoil](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/usedoil).

Used oil and filters are also accepted as hazardous waste at the Transfer Station in Placerville. Hazardous waste is accepted from residents between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays only.

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<http://www.facebook.com/ED.Disposal>

On your mobile device at:  
<http://m.facebook.com/ED.Disposal>

**We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!**

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**Diamond Springs, CA 95619**  
**Customer Service:**  
**530-626-4141 or 916-985-1162**  
**Ombudsman: 530-295-2818**  
**www.eldoradodisposal.com**

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