



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

Winter 2014



Sharing exciting new skills with local students

Last summer, El Dorado Disposal partnered with MORE and the Master Gardeners to create a garden and composting demonstration area at our main office, which is located at 580 Truck Street in Placerville. Rainbow Orchards donated the wooden apple box that was used to create the worm composting bin. The goal was to provide a location where residents and students could see composting in action and learn how to use compost in gardens at home. The raised beds show how little space is needed to create a lovely garden that will grow food and flowers.



This whimsical chair was made from old pallets, while the pink planter was made from an old tire.

El Dorado Disposal offers free presentations and tours. Tours are available at the MRF (Material Recovery Facility), as well as at the new garden and composting area. In our sessions, students learn about reducing, reusing, and recycling, plus composting and more. Sessions include fun teaching tools from "Closing the Loop: Exploring Integrated Waste Management and Resource Conservation," which is approved by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

To schedule a presentation, please call Debi Harlow at 530-295-2818.



You don't have to have a large area available to create a garden that will produce food and flowers!

Mark Your Calendar for Community Cleanups

During the spring of 2014, El Dorado Disposal will be holding Community Cleanup events for residents of these communities:

- Cameron Park – Saturday, April 26
- Camino – Saturday, May 10
- El Dorado Hills – Saturday, May 17
- City of Placerville – Saturday, June 7

At these events, residents can drop off trash, bulky items, green waste, and recyclables, as well as reusable items for donation.

During our nine Community Cleanup events in 2013, we



collected 285.92 tons of trash, 44.85 tons of green waste, and 22.06 tons of recyclables.

For more information about these events, call 530-626-4141 or 916-985-1162, or visit www.eldoradodisposal.com.

Cleaning up after the holidays

Soon, you will be packing up your holiday decorations, taking down the tree, and finding space for all of your new treasures. Here are several ideas and suggestions to help you clean up after the holidays.

Holiday Trees

The tree that spruced up your home is probably drying out. After you pack away your keepsake decorations, you can recycle your tree. Please remove all decorations, ornaments, lights, garland, and tinsel, as well as the stand. Your tree should be bare for recycling!

All residents of El Dorado County can drop off bare Christmas trees at the Material Recovery Facility, which is located at 4100 Throwita Way, Placerville. Bare trees will be accepted for free from January 4 through January 19 during normal business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

All residents of El Dorado County who have El Dorado Disposal curbside service may place trees at the curb. The trees will be picked up on regular green waste collection days. Please cut the tree into small pieces (less than 3 feet long) and bundle the sections with string or twine. Bundles should be no longer than 3 feet and no more than 18 inches in diameter.

Residents of El Dorado Hills Community Services District can drop off bare Christmas trees for chipping on Saturday, January 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at 1021 Harvard Way in El Dorado Hills. This drop-off event is for El Dorado Hills CSD residents only!

Residents of Cameron Park Community Services District may drop off Christmas trees from December 26 through Feb. 1, at Cameron Park Lake, 2989 Cambridge Road, in the lower paved parking lot (look for signs). The park is open every day from 7 a.m. to dusk.

Wrapping Paper and More

The boxes that carried deliveries to your house or held gifts under the tree can be reused or recycled. If you recycle boxes, remember to break them down and flatten them before recycling them.

Most wrapping paper is also recyclable.



© iStockphoto.com | Maica

The only wrapping paper that is not accepted and will need to go into the trash is metallic or metal-flecked paper.

Holiday cards, like other greeting cards and mail, are generally recyclable. However, please do NOT place battery-operated musical cards, cards trimmed with metal, plastic, or ribbon, or photo paper into recycling bins. As with wrapping paper, only plain paper cards go into the recycling bin.

If you have curbside recycling, boxes, wrapping paper, and cards can be recycled in your curbside cart or bin. If you don't have curbside recycling, these items can be dropped off at the Material Recovery Facility or one of these recycling centers: 4421 Latrobe Road, El Dorado Hills; 580 Truck Street, Placerville; and behind Bel Air Market at 3510 Palmer Drive, Cameron Park.

Ribbon and bows are not recyclable. You could keep these for reuse or place them into your trash container.

Batteries

About 40% of household battery purchases occur during the holiday season. One of the best ways to reduce battery waste is by choosing rechargeables. Any battery that can be put into a charger or plugged into the outlet with a cord is a rechargeable battery. These can be used from 50 to thousands of times, creating less waste and requiring less energy per use than disposable batteries.

Even rechargeable batteries eventually die. Rechargeable batteries are "dead" when you can't recharge them anymore or when they don't stay charged as long as they did at first. When rechargeable batteries die, you should recycle them because they contain metals and chemicals that don't belong in landfills. Plus, the components can be reused to make new batteries!

El Dorado Disposal provides convenient battery recycling containers for curbside trash and recycling customers. These battery containers are an environmentally friendly way to recycle a multitude of household batteries at curbside—without contaminating your other recyclables. When you call to request a battery container, it will be delivered on your regular service

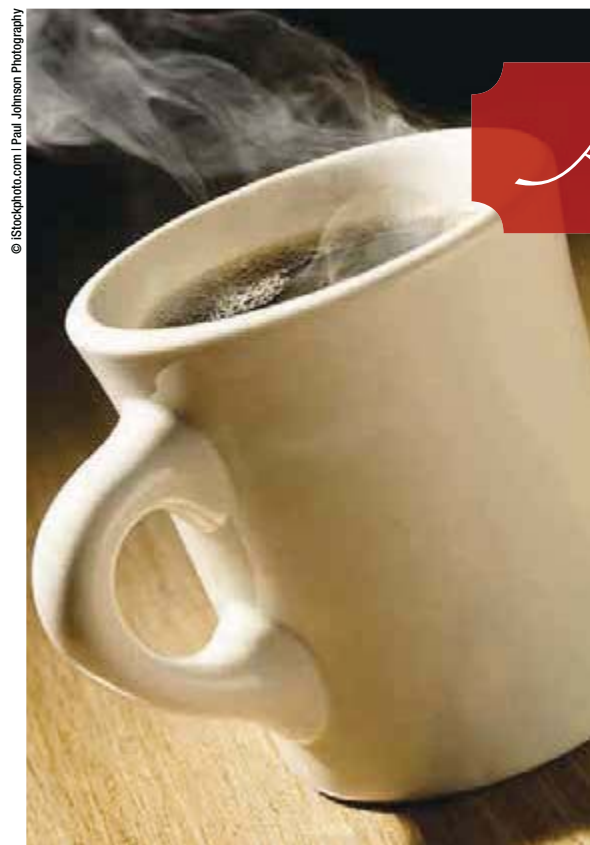
Will travel for trash

A young couple, Phil Corrigan and Margaret Morales, set off on a cross-continent trip to answer the question: "Where is 'away'?" They planned to spend a few months checking out the places where trash goes when it goes away. But spring turned into summer and summer into fall, and they are still on the road and on the trail of trash. Phil and Margaret have visited landfills, recycling facilities, and composting sites. They've seen what happens to electronics, batteries, and aluminum cans. And they've discovered artists and designers who find inspiration – and raw materials – in the trash heap.

Along the way, they've been "trashblogging" about all of the many places that are the "away" for our trash. You can read about Margaret and Phil's travels at <http://thetrashblog.com>. If you like what you see, sign up to receive email updates. You never know what the trashbloggers will find next!



Photo courtesy of The Trash Blog



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A single cup of joe

According to the National Coffee Association, 12% of Americans now own a single-cup coffee brewing system. Generally, the people using these systems purchase packaged and pre-measured coffee. Depending on the system, the ground coffee comes in a cup or pod that may contain multiple layers of material. As a result, most of the cups or pods end up in the trash.

Not only are cups and pods nearly impossible to recycle, but the coffee in them is also much more expensive. On a per-pound basis, the coffee in the pods or cups costs at least three times as much as a comparable coffee purchased in a large bag or can.

If you already own a single-cup brewing system, consider purchasing a refillable filter cup. You can use your own ground coffee and then empty and wash the filter for the next use. You'll reduce your waste and save money on your coffee purchases.

If you don't own a brewing system but like the idea of making one cup of coffee at a time, consider a single-cup French press or a pour-over coffee dripper. With these options, you'll save money on coffee, create less waste, and also avoid the purchase of an expensive appliance that takes up counter space.



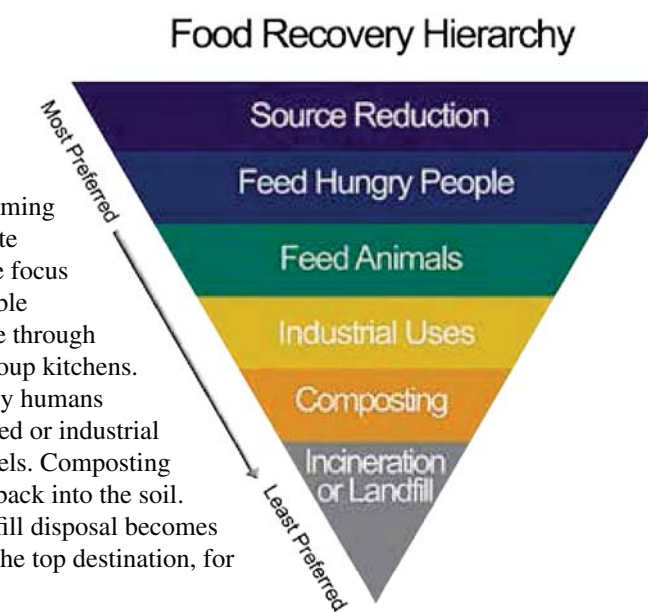
Food waste isn't a new issue. This poster was produced by the U.S. Food Administration during World War I. (Created by Frederic G. Cooper, The W. F. Powers Co. Litho., N.Y., 1917; Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.)

The food recovery hierarchy

In 2011, more than 36 million tons of food waste were generated in the U.S. Of this, a whopping 96% went to landfills or incinerators. The goal of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's food recovery hierarchy is to maximize food use and minimize food waste. The hierarchy has been integrated into the Food Recovery Challenge, part of EPA's Sustainable Materials Management Program.

Preventing food waste is the top priority. Purchasing the correct amount of food, using it while it is fresh, and consuming leftovers reduces food waste and saves money. Next, the focus moves to ensuring that edible food goes to hungry people through shelters, food banks, and soup kitchens. Food that cannot be used by humans may be useful in animal feed or industrial applications, such as biofuels. Composting food scraps puts nutrients back into the soil. With these strategies, landfill disposal becomes the last resort, rather than the top destination, for food waste.

For more information about food waste and EPA's Food Recovery Challenge, visit www.epa.gov/smm/foodrecovery.



Dizzying date formats lead to losses

A dumpster of hummus that hadn't even reached its expiration date



© www.foodstrepreneur.com

A study by the Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic investigates the impact of consumer confusion over the dates on food labels. Produced in cooperation with the Natural Resources Defense Council, "The Dating Game: How Confusing Food Date Labels Lead to Food Waste in America" was released in September 2013.

Label dating began with the good intention of quantifying a product's freshness. However, lacking any coordinated oversight and with little regulation, dates on food labels frequently lead to confusion and unnecessary waste. A simple date stamp or a date preceded by "expires," "sell by," "use by," or "best before" are among the many commonly used phrases. But, regardless of which phrase is used, there is no uniform meaning.

Current federal oversight of food labels falls under the authority of 11 acts of Congress and is the responsibility of three different agencies: Food and Drug Administration, Federal Trade Commission, and U.S. Department of Agriculture. In addition, 41 states require date labels on at least some food products and 20 states regulate certain food sales past label dates. A handful of local governments even regulate the use of food labels. The more confusion, the more likely it is that the consumer will simply throw out any food at or near whatever date appears on the package.

Some dates aren't even meant for consumers. "Sell by" dates are simply a way of saying the producer wants that stock rotated off the shelf for maximum freshness. These "sell by" dates don't mean that a product is unsafe to eat.

By the same token, a "use by" date provides no indication of whether a product is safe to eat. As the report states, "Overreliance on label dates results in food being wasted because of safety concerns that are not founded on actual risk. At the same time, such overreliance can also cause consumers to ignore more relevant factors affecting food safety." The report cites processing failures, contamination after processing, and abuses in stor-

age and handling as the main causes of microbiological hazards in food—factors that are largely independent of the age of the product. In most cases, food will look or smell bad enough to keep you from eating it before it is actually unsafe to eat.

Meanwhile, these dates might create a false sense of security and cause consumers to ignore basic food safety. More relevant than a product date is the amount of time food spends at temperatures between 40 and 120 degrees Fahrenheit. This is the danger zone where most microbes grow.

Food losses total an estimated 160 billion pounds per year in the United States. Food loss results when food is grown, processed, or made available for human consumption but never eaten. Food losses cost the average American family \$2,275 per year. Per capita food loss has increased 50% in this country since 1974. Recent studies in the United Kingdom suggest that as much as 20% of avoidable food waste could be due to confusion about label dates. The most recent study for the U.S., which was conducted in 1987, suggested a comparable figure of 17%.

The report makes a series of recommendations for improvements to the existing food labeling system. These recommendations include:

- Make "sell by" dates invisible to the consumer.
- Establish a reliable, coherent, and uniform dating system for use by consumers. Such a system should include clear language regarding both quality and safety.
- Provide clear and pertinent safe handling instructions on labels and access to additional information through QR codes, apps, websites, or hotlines.

The report has specific strategies to help the food industry, government, and consumer organizations create a more meaningful dating system. To read the full report, visit www.nrdc.org/food/expiration-dates.asp.

QUOTES REQUOTED



Photo by Stan Waxman/Time & Life Pictures/Getty Images

For, in the final analysis, our most common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal.

John F. Kennedy, 1917–1963

The Greener generation

Since 1975, DDB's Life Style Study has taken an annual look at American attitudes and behaviors. Recently, DDB set out to answer the question, "Are Millennials greener than Boomers?" The answers may surprise you.

Millennials, who were born in the 1980s and 1990s, are more likely to carry and use a refillable water bottle outside their home and to own a hybrid or electric vehicle.

Boomers, who were born from 1946 to 1964, are more likely to recycle everything they possibly can and to make a strong effort to separate recyclables from the rest of the trash. They are also more likely to use reusable grocery bags as much as possible. They edged Millennials slightly in acknowledging the importance of recycling, composting, reducing packaging waste, energy efficiency, and protecting the world's ecosystems.

For both generations, there was a reluctance to pay more for the environmentally safe version of a product or to accept a lower standard of living to conserve energy. However, Millennials were somewhat more willing to do so than Boomers.

To learn more about the study, visit www.ddb.com/blog/community/are-millennials-really-greener-than-boomers.



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Outline: © iStockphoto.com | Cheryl Graham, FreeTransform

CORRUGATED RECYCLES

According to the Corrugated Packaging Alliance, 91% of corrugated cardboard was recycled in 2012, a total of more than 29.1 million tons. In 1993, the nationwide corrugated recycling rate was 54.5%. To encourage retailers and consumers to recycle more cardboard, industry officials introduced the "Corrugated Recycles" symbol and educational campaign the following year.

Today, more than half of recovered corrugated is used to make new containerboard and another 12% becomes paperboard, which is used to make items such as cereal and gift boxes. About one-third is exported. The remainder is transformed into packaging, tissue, and other products.

Learn more at www.corrugated.org.

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

582 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, Electronics, Household Batteries, and Fluorescent Bulbs.

3510 Palmer Drive, Cameron Park

(Located behind CVS)
 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, 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, Electronics, Household Batteries, Fluorescent Bulbs, and Yard Waste.



Need more info? Visit:
www.ElDoradoDisposal.com

We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!

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Funded by El Dorado Disposal



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Printed on Recycled Paper
 70% Post-Consumer News Content, Using Soy Inks.

Cleaning Up

Continued from page 1

day. You simply fill it up with your dead household batteries. When it is full, you call us and we'll pick it up. The battery containers may not currently be available in all areas. Please contact El Dorado Disposal Customer Service for more details at 530-626-4141 or 916-985-1162.

If you have corroded, lead acid, wet cell, or automotive batteries, they can be dropped off as household hazardous waste at the Material Recovery Facility on Fridays and Saturdays, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Appliances and Electronics

After the holidays, you may need to make room for new items by getting rid of things that are broken or unneeded. If you have replaced furniture, appliances, or other items, you may have items you no longer need. Large appliances can be recycled and bulky items can be disposed at the Material Recovery Facility. There is a fee.

Old and broken electronics should not go into your household trash. The chemicals and metals used to make electronics can cause pollution when mixed with trash in a regular landfill. Recycle your old electronic gadgets and equipment at the Material Recovery Facility or one of the recycling centers. Electronics include TVs,



© iStockphoto.com | Don Nichols

computers, tablets, e-readers, printers, CD players, radios, DVD players, cell phones, or iPods/MP3 players. There is no charge for electronic waste recycling.

What do I do with household hazardous waste?

At El Dorado Disposal, our customer service representatives hear this question often. Household hazardous waste, such as lawn chemicals, automotive fluids, fuel, toilet bowl cleaners, and paint thinner, as well as many other common household chemicals, requires careful handling and cannot be mixed with household trash. But if household hazardous waste can't go into your trash, where can it go?

The Household Hazardous Waste Facility at the Transfer Station accepts household, lawn and garden, and automotive fluids. You can also drop off fluorescent tubes and bulbs, cooking oil, mercury-containing items (thermometers and thermostats), old cosmetics, non-controlled medications, used oil filters, and syringes and other medical sharps. These



© iStockphoto.com | Peter Burnett

items are accepted on Fridays and Saturdays only, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Please keep chemicals in their original, labeled containers. Do not mix chemicals together. Pack items carefully into a cardboard

box so that they will not spill as you are driving. Place the box in the trunk or as far away from passengers as possible. To ensure safety on our highways, there is a limit of 15 gallons or 125 pounds of household hazardous waste per trip. There is no charge to residents who drop off household hazardous waste.

For more information, please call El Dorado Disposal Customer Service for more details at 530-626-4141 or 916-985-1162, or visit our website, www.eldoradodisposal.com.

Prevent produce from perishing

Before you head to the grocery, look inside your refrigerator. Plan your meals for the period between shopping trips, taking into account what you already have on hand. If you know some, or all, of your household will be eating dinner out on a given day, that is one less meal to plan. Write a shopping list based on recipes for the meals in your plan. For produce that ripens quickly, like avocados and bananas, buy some that are soft and ripe for immediate use that day and some that are still green and firm for use later in the week.

Resist impulse purchases based on sales. With perishables, you don't save money by stocking up when they're cheap. You'll just end up throwing more unused produce into the garbage or compost heap.

Keep track of your leftovers. After eating your carefully planned meals, be sure and jot down how much of each item is left over. If the usual members of your household are at the table, you will develop a better understanding of how much you really need to buy next time.

Shopping more frequently will help preserve produce. Instead of loading up the cart every week or so, make a commitment to shop for groceries at least two times each week. That way, your forecasts regarding what meals will be eaten at home will be more accurate. In addition,

you'll be able to choose the freshest produce and use it all before it goes bad.

Despite the best intentions and planning, you will still find yourself with something in the crisper that will spoil before you need it. If a perishable food is still good, and you know there is no way you will use it in time, freeze it. You can even freeze veggies that have become limp but are not yet rotten. Later, they can be used in soups and casseroles. Be sure to develop some favorite recipes based on using up these frozen treasures.

If you have a summer and/or winter garden, you can enjoy picking what you need. Canning or freezing your surplus fruits and vegetables provides healthy food for your family and saves you money. Plus, you will have the pleasure of picking and eating what you have grown.



© iStockphoto.com | Juan Manzano

Turn your recyclables into rewards!

With Recyclebank, you can earn points every time you recycle. Use those points to shop at www.Recyclebank.com to select rewards like discounts and deals from national and local businesses, including restaurants, movie theaters, clothing and gift shops, and more.

At this time, Recyclebank is only available to residents of El Dorado Hills, the City of Placerville, and Cameron Park. If you live in one of those communities, join today! Register at www.Recyclebank.com and then watch for an email that will ask you to verify your address to start earning points.

If you don't have access to a computer, you can still join. Just call 888-727-2978.



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Did you know?

All of these items are accepted in your recycling bin, at the Material Recovery Facility, and at the recycling centers:

- ◆ Newspaper, inserts, coupons, advertisements, and other paper
- ◆ Corrugated cardboard and paperboard, such as shoe and tissue boxes
- ◆ Colored paper and construction paper
- ◆ Office and computer paper, junk mail, envelopes, and legal pads
- ◆ Paper shipping and packing material
- ◆ Magazines, catalogs, and phone books
- ◆ Clear and colored glass bottles, jugs, and beverage containers
- ◆ Aluminum cans and clean tin foil
- ◆ Steel, tin, and bi-metal cans
- ◆ Clear and colored plastic bottles and beverage containers
- ◆ Plastic utensils
- ◆ Styrofoam (bagged)
- ◆ Plastic grocery bags (bagged together)
- ◆ CDs and DVDs