

A Quarterly Newsletter of



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 2012



Snow and Adverse Weather Policy

El Dorado Disposal makes every effort to collect trash, recyclables, and yard waste in an efficient and timely manner while keeping our drivers and customers safe during severe winter weather. To ensure safety, we will follow this policy:

As long as the weather and road conditions are safe, service will not be interrupted. Safety is our #1 operating value, and we strive to assure complete safety of our employees, our customers, and the public in all of our operations. Protection from accident or injury is paramount in all we do. If the driver feels



that the road conditions are unsafe (low visibility, unplowed snow, icy conditions, drifting, etc.) or that a particular road is unsafe for travel, we turn the driver back.

If we are unable to service a street because of ice and/or snow, the driver will report to our dispatch office. At that time, our dispatch office will update our main office. If we are unable to service an area on its regular collection day, we will make another attempt the next day. If we are still unable to service the area, we will take extra trash on the next collection day, free of charge, up to the combined service level of the missed and current weeks. We urge our customers to try to keep their bins clear so the drivers are able to access them. This will help limit service delays.

While we understand some customers may have frustration with a service interruption, we must balance safety with service. We will do our best to ensure that collection is provided as quickly as possible following a weather or snow interruption.

To help ensure timely and safe collections during winter weather, please follow these guidelines:

- If possible, please avoid parking on the street.
- Please make sure that your address is on your container.
- Keep snow clear from the top of and around your container.
- Containers should be out the night before your collection day.
- Please keep yard waste dry to prevent the contents from freezing.

Treecycle!

By the time you ring in the new year, the tree that has been sprucing up your home during the holidays will look old and tired. Give it a second life by recycling it, or as we like to say, "treecycling" it!

Before you recycle your tree, please make sure that it is totally bare. Remove all decorations, ornaments, lights, tinsel, and garland, as well as the stand. These are the treecycling programs that will be available to residents:

- ◆ All El Dorado County residents may drop off Christmas trees at the Waste Connections Material Recovery Facility (MRF), which is located at 4100 Throwita Way, Placerville. There is no charge to drop off trees, but there is a limit of two trees per vehicle. Trees will be accepted from January 2 through January 15 during normal business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.



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- ◆ 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 collection days. Please cut the tree into small pieces (less than 3' long) and bundle the sections with string or twine.
- ◆ El Dorado Hills residents may take part in a free tree-chipping event at the Community Park, north entrance, on Saturday, January 7 and Sunday, January 8, between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. The El Dorado Hills Community Services District and El Dorado Disposal sponsor this event. It is free, but is open to El Dorado Hills residents only.
- ◆ Cameron Park Community Services District residents may drop off Christmas trees between December 26 and January 31 at Cameron Park Lake, 2989 Cambridge Road, in the lower gravel parking lot (look for the signs). The park is open every day from 7 a.m. to dusk. Trees may be dropped off free of charge. These trees will be chipped and used in Rasmussen Park.

These collections are for "real" Christmas trees only.

More holiday recycling!

You can also recycle your non-foil wrapping paper. Wrapping paper can be dropped off at these recycling centers: 4421 Latrobe Road, El Dorado Hills; 580 Truck Street, Placerville; and behind Bel Air Market at 3510 Palmer Drive, Cameron Park.

Did you see us?

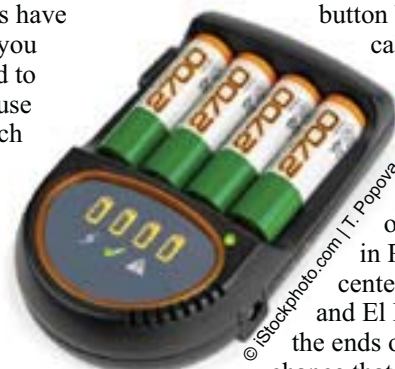


El Dorado Disposal makes every effort to be an active participant in the communities we serve. This year, we participated in events such as Kids Expo, Home & Garden Show, Summer Spectacular, and Saturday in the Park. The next time you see our booth, please stop by and say hello.

Powered by batteries

Americans purchase nearly 3 billion batteries every year for toys, remote controls, cell phones, laptop computers, and tools. That's about 10 batteries for every person in the United States. Look around. Have you used your cell phone today? It uses a battery. What about a remote control? Yes, it's battery-powered, too. Have you used a laptop, tablet, or e-reader? All of those use batteries. As you can see, many of the things you enjoy every day rely on the electrical energy provided by batteries.

Many of these items have "built-in" batteries, so you just attach a power cord to recharge them. Others use household batteries, such as AA, AAA, C, D, and 9-volt. You can buy rechargeable household batteries, which are removed from the item when they are "dead" and charged in a recharging unit, which you purchase



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where the batteries are sold.

According to the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation, rechargeable batteries can be recharged up to 1,000 times and last from two to five years. To ensure a long life, follow recharging instructions carefully.

Whether you have "spent" rechargeables (those that can no longer be recharged) or "dead" single-use batteries, remember to recycle them. We accept AA, AAA, C, D, and 9-volt alkaline batteries;

button batteries, such as those from calculators and watches; and nickel-cadmium, nickel metal hydride, lithium ion, and small sealed lead rechargeable batteries. You can drop them off free of charge at our Material Recovery Facility in Placerville or at the recycling centers in Placerville, Cameron Park, and El Dorado Hills. Please tape over the ends of the batteries to reduce the chance that batteries will make contact with each other and produce a charge, generating



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electricity and heat and thus creating a fire hazard.

Please don't put any batteries into your curbside recycling cart or your trash cart!



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Fleece season

This time of year, fleece is everywhere—sweatpants, pullovers, jackets, vests, gloves, scarves, blankets, and more. We are so used to seeing fleece during the cool weather that you might be surprised to know that the first fleece product wasn't sold until the early 1980s. By 1993, some of that fleece was being made with post-consumer recycled plastic bottles. Today, many plastic bottles become fleece and other polyester products.

To turn bottles into fleece, used bottles are sorted by color, cleaned, chopped, and ground. The flake plastic is then melted, reformulated, and turned into chips. The chips are heated and sent through a machine called a spinneret (much like a showerhead) to become yarn. A knitting machine turns the yarn into cloth that can be dyed, textured, and finished. A process called napping gives fleece its famously soft, fuzzy feel.

"How It's Made" on Discovery Science Channel has a feature on how fleece is made. Watch it on YouTube: <http://youtu.be/YHHqFwDhGTM>.

FAST FACTS

From holiday to home

The 74-foot Norway Spruce decorating New York's Rockefeller Center will come down on January 7. When it does, it will be turned into lumber which will be donated to Habitat for Humanity. Since 2007, the lumber from the Rockefeller Center tree has been donated each year to Habitat's home-building efforts. Read more and watch a video at "From Shade to Shelter" in *Habitat World* online: <http://magazine.habitat.org/stories/shade-shelter>.



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As simple as soap

Derreck Kayongo, a humanitarian relief expert and former refugee, knows firsthand about the challenges faced by displaced

persons—the daily struggle for food and fresh water, and the diseases that result from lack of soap and clean water. When he learned that American hotels discard about 2.6 million bars of soap a day, Derreck and his wife and father began the Global Soap Project. The project accepts donated bars of soap from hotels, reprocesses and remolds it, and then donates the soap to existing relief organizations that serve refugees, orphans, and disaster victims. Learn more about the Global Soap Project at www.globalsoap.org.



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Constant connection

If it seems like you are always online, it may be true. CTIA—The Wireless Association conducts a semi-annual survey of wireless subscriber connections, which is the total number of devices, such as cell phones, smartphones, tablets, and laptops, that people have connected on cellular networks. In 2011, for the first time, the number of connections at 322.9 million exceeded the population of the U.S., which is about 312.7 million.

WellHome has created an infographic about electronic waste — where it comes from and what happens to it. Check it out at www.wellhome.com/blog/2011/05/electronic-waste-where-does-it-all-end-up.



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The tower that books built

Photo by Juan Mabromata | Getty Images



During May 2011, Argentinean artist Marta Minujín created a seven-story tower of books in Buenos Aires. Entitled "The Tower of Babel," the display included 30,000 books in hundreds of languages. The books were donated by embassies, libraries, and others around the world and ranged from children's books to comics to poetry to philosophy. A metal ramp allowed visitors to climb the tower, examining the books and enjoying the city's skyline. A soundtrack featured Minujín repeating the word, "book," over and over in many different languages. At the end of the installation, some books were given to visitors, but the majority were donated to create the city's first multilingual library.



Renew your commitment to the 3R's

It's the time of year when we're thinking about making things better—ourselves, our families, our homes, and our budgets. As you're making your resolutions, give some thought to the 3R's:

Reduce

- Before you buy, ask yourself these questions: Do I need this? Do I already have something like this? Do I need something new right now? Does it have too much packaging? What will I do with this when I no longer need it?
- Stop making "wish lists." Oftentimes, the items on a wish list are things you want but don't necessarily need. Whether you make them online, write them on a scrap of paper, or keep them in your head, wish lists keep you thinking about what you don't have—often creating dissatisfaction with the things you do have.

Reuse

- Start your exercise, weight-loss, or other self-improvement program on borrowed or shared equipment. If you stick with the program or hobby, you can purchase your own supplies and equipment later, if you need them. If and when that time comes, remember to look for secondhand equipment.
- "Shop" at home. You probably have books you haven't read, movies you haven't watched, games you haven't played, kitchen gadgets you haven't tried, and supplies for hobbies you haven't started. Put them to use now.
- Find your library card. The library is a great resource for no-cost entertainment. Look for books, magazines, music, movies, and more. Ask your library about downloads for e-readers and MP3 players, too.
- Scan your pantry shelves. We all have canned and boxed goods that we purchased but never got around to using. Find recipes for the supplies you already have on hand. Also, pull out food that your family won't eat. Check the "use by" or "best by" dates and donate unexpired items to a local food pantry or other non-profit organization.

Recycle

- Pre-cycle. You do this by shopping for groceries and other products with recycling in mind. Know what you can recycle and choose products packaged in those materials.
- Collect recyclables and recycle them!
- Commit to recycled-content products.

Successful recycling programs depend on having manufacturers use your recyclables. If you need a new fleece vest or jacket, look for fleece made from recycled soft drink bottles. If you need printer paper, select post-consumer recycled-content paper.



Recycling means jobs

In 2008, with the nation recycling and composting about one-third of its discards, nearly 732,000 Americans worked in jobs directly related to recycling and composting of municipal solid waste and construction and demolition debris. A recent study by the Tellus Institute and Sound Resource Management concludes that increasing the nationwide recycling rate to 75% by 2030 could add as many as 1.5 million more recycling and composting jobs to the U.S. economy. In other words, every percentage point of improvement in our national recycling rate could lead to 30,000-35,000 new jobs.

In addition to job creation, the report also explores potential reductions in harmful emissions, such as carbon dioxide. Increasing the national recycling rate to 75% would be equivalent to removing 50 million cars from our roadways.

The final report, "More Jobs, Less Pollution: Growing the Recycling Economy in the U.S.," is available online at www.recyclingworkscampaign.org.



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Gift cards GALORE



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Gift cards are big business. In fact, by most estimates, gift card sales for 2011 will top out at around \$91 billion in the U.S. At \$25 per card, which is the most common gift card value sold, that is a whopping 3.64

billion cards.

While 95% of American adults have given or received a gift card, only about 20% choose to refill cards after the value has been expended. This leaves a lot of depleted cards headed to the trash. How often have you had a clerk ask, "Since this is empty, do you want me to throw it away?"

Gift cards are just one type of wallet-sized plastic card. About 17 billion total cards are produced to be used by American consumers each year, including gift, loyalty, discount, membership, debit, store charge, and credit cards. As a result, as much as 75 million pounds of plastic cards, most of it PVC, are discarded each year.

At least one company, Earthworks in Ohio, has begun to accept used plastic cards for recycling. The cards are recycled in a closed-loop process, with old cards melted and turned into the plastic sheets used to make new cards. Individuals can mail in empty or expired cards. However, Earthworks hopes to work with stores, hotels, and other businesses that would collect customer cards and send in larger quantities for recycling. To learn more about Earthworks, visit www.earthworkssystem.com.

Ask retailers whether they will accept your depleted cards for recycling. Other waste-reducing ideas include refilling existing gift cards and giving virtual or electronic gift certificates instead. Also, be sure to use up the funds on your gift cards. The average amount left on cards is \$2.30, which adds up to about \$5 billion in unspent value each year!

QUOTES REQUOTED

We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference, ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time, add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.

Marian Wright Edelman, 1939-



1ST AND GREEN AT SUPER BOWL XLVI

When you think of the Super Bowl, you probably think of football, commercials, and "tailgating" food. However, look behind the scenes at any Super Bowl since 1994 and you'd see a growing list of environmental initiatives. The 2012 Super Bowl to be held in February is no different. Working with the NFL, the local host committee has planned recycling, food recovery, donating supplies and equipment after the event, planting trees, and a sports equipment/book donation project involving local kids. Learn more at www.1standgreen.com.



Hours of Operation

Material Recovery Facility

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

Electronic Waste, Cell Phones, Batteries, and Inkjet/Laser Cartridges Drop-Off

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

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 will apply.

Business Hazardous Waste Drop-Off

Hours: By appointment between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Friday and Saturday only
Fees apply.

Home-Generated Sharps

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



Off-Site Recycling Centers

580 Truck Street, Placerville

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday (Closed for lunch, usually noon to 12:30 p.m. daily, but lunch time may vary)
Accepts Recyclables & Electronics

3510 Palmer Drive, Cameron Park

Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday (Closed for lunch, usually 12:30 to 1 p.m. daily, but lunch time may vary)
Accepts Recyclables & Electronics

4421 Latrobe Road, El Dorado Hills

Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday (Closed for lunch, usually 12:30 to 1 p.m. daily, but lunch time may vary)
Accepts Recyclables, Electronics & Yard Waste



Need more info? Visit:
www.ElDoradoDisposal.com

We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!

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Keep electronics OUT of the trash!

Did you find a new computer under your holiday tree? Did you celebrate the holidays with a new TV for the family? Or did you buy your teen a new cell phone? Now what are you going to do with the old computer, television, or cell phone that has been replaced?

Many folks put old electronics into a drawer or closet, thinking, "I'll take care of that later," or "I am sure someone will need this." Once stored away, old electronics are often forgotten, living out the remainder of their working lives in solitude. Don't put your old electronics in storage. If they are in working order and you will no longer be using them, pass them on, sell them, or give them away. Your old TV or computer may be the "new" TV or computer that another person could use!

If you can't find someone to take your old electronics or if they no longer work, DON'T throw them into the trash. Electronics cannot be mixed with household trash in California. Instead, recycle old electronics. When you recycle electronics, the metals, plastics, and chemicals are captured for reuse. Many of



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the raw materials for electronics are mined in far-flung countries. When you recycle electronics, you are "mining" for resources right here in the U.S. and helping to create jobs.

You can recycle your old electronics at the Electronic Waste Drop-Off site, which is located with the Material Recovery Facility

and Transfer Station at 4100 Throwita Way, Placerville. The Electronic Waste Drop-Off is open daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed New Year's Day).

These electronics are accepted at no charge:

- ❖ Televisions
- ❖ Computer monitors
- ❖ Computer processing units (CPUs, hard drives, etc.)
- ❖ Copiers
- ❖ Radios and stereos
- ❖ VCRs and DVD players
- ❖ Cordless phones, cell phones, and smart phones
- ❖ Fax machines
- ❖ CD players, MP3 players, and iPods
- ❖ Laptops, tablets, and e-readers
- ❖ Satellite receivers (box only, not the dish)



Trash Q&A

What time should I have my trash out at the curb?

Your trash must be placed out at your pickup location on the evening before your trash day in order for our driver to guarantee your containers will be serviced.

How should my bins be placed out?

Trash containers should be placed 3' apart and 6' from any obstacles. Carts should not be placed on the sidewalks, but placed on the street in front of the sidewalk.

What is Extra Residential?

Extra residential is a charge that is assessed if your trash exceeds the amount you pay per week for service. If the lid will not close due to trash sticking out of your bin or if bags are on the ground, the extra residential charge may be assessed.

What would be the weight limit on my 45-gallon or 32-gallon can?

Customer-provided cans, such as 32- or 45-gallon bins, may not exceed 50 pounds.

If I have more recyclables than will fit into my cart, how should I handle them?

Excess cardboard may be bundled and placed next to your recycling cart for curb disposal. Please make sure all boxes are flattened and bundled together using rope, tape, twine, or string. The bundles must not exceed 3' by 3' by 18". If you must place

out more than two bundles, please contact our office to inform the driver prior to your service day.

What if my service day falls on or after a holiday?

Collection service will continue through all holidays as normal unless your service day falls on or after Christmas or New Year's Day. Normally during these holidays, service is delayed by one day for the remainder of the week. However, this year, these holidays fall on the weekend and will not affect the schedule.

Why do I need to have my address painted on my bins?

The address is required on your containers so that the driver can provide the proper level of service for which you are paying. The address is also helpful if your container rolls down the street or is otherwise misplaced.

I placed a large item out with my trash. Why didn't the driver take it?

Large items, such as a grill or dishwasher, are too large to be thrown away using a disposal truck. For items such as these, please contact El Dorado Disposal Customer Service at 530-626-4141 or 916-985-1162 so that we may assist with scheduling a special pickup.

Free Tire Disposal



On the third Saturday of each month from now until grant funds run out, residents will be able to dispose of used tires free of charge at the El Dorado Disposal Service Material Recovery Facility, located at 4100 Throwita Way in Placerville.

Tires are accepted at this facility during all open hours. However, this free drop-off offer is ONLY for the third Saturday of the month. Only residents delivering tires used on personal vehicles are eligible for free drop-off. Please remember that state law limits the transportation of tires to nine per vehicle per trip. No loads with more than nine tires will be accepted (no exceptions!). Absolutely no tires on rims and no large equipment tires will be accepted in this program.

If you have questions, call El Dorado Disposal Customer Service at 530-626-4141 or 916-985-1162.

This program began in October and is being funded by a grant from the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle). These free, third-Saturday collections will continue until the grant funds have been expended.

Did you know?

Businesses: Recycling isn't just for cardboard anymore! We have a recycling coordinator who is available to come to your commercial business and assist you with your recycling needs. Please call our recycling coordinator at 530-313-8322 to set up a site visit.

Youth: We also offer a free workshop and tours of our MRF (Material Recovery Facility) for children of all ages, including classes, clubs, and scout troops. Please call our recycling educator at 530-295-2805 for details or to schedule.