



WASTE CONNECTIONS INC.
Caring with the Future™

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

Spring 2009



Make an Earth Day difference!

Think a child or a family can't make a difference? Think again! Little things—like using a colorful cloth shopping bag or tossing potato peels and eggshells into the compost heap—can help the environment. Plus, if a child develops good habits now, those habits will endure as he or she grows.

Reduce Electricity

Explain to your children that lights, computers, televisions, and furnaces use energy, and that energy is in short supply. Jessica Altman of Buffalo, NY, encourages her 3-year-old to always flip off the light when she leaves a room and shut off the TV when she's no longer watching. Now the preschooler even reminds others: "Turn off the light!"

Appliances, such as DVD players, use energy even when they are turned off, so cutting the power totally is the only way to conserve. Go shopping together to buy power strips and plug your electronics into them (watch little ones closely so there are no shocks). When you're done watching, flip the strip off to eliminate phantom energy use.

Take Small Steps

There are dozens of small things your kids can do every day to save energy and keep the world cleaner and greener. Your kids can:

- ◆ Shut off the water when they brush their teeth.
- ◆ Walk, ride a bike, or take the bus instead of traveling by car.

- ◆ Take faster showers or baths with just a small amount of water.
- ◆ Help hang clothes on the line instead of putting them in the dryer.
- ◆ Choose products that are not overpackaged.

Recycle

Explain to your kids that every bottle and can they use is "waste" that just sits in a big pile at the local dump if we don't recycle.

Get them involved by making it one of their jobs to sort recyclables and take them out for pickup. (Remind them to watch out for broken glass and ask for help if they see any.) If there's no recycling collection in your area, find out where you can drop off items.

Consider recycled crafts, too.

Compost

It's easy to collect your own food scraps and garden waste and turn them into healthy compost in your own yard. Children can help choose the right composter for your family. Composters are sold at home renovation stores. Once you have a compost bin, your child can fill it with kitchen scraps and garden waste on a daily basis and even help stir it to get the organic material to break down more quickly. In a few months when you've got compost, the kids can take part in spreading it over the garden and seeing how "garbage" can become rich, dark dirt to make a garden grow.

Do a Donation Tour

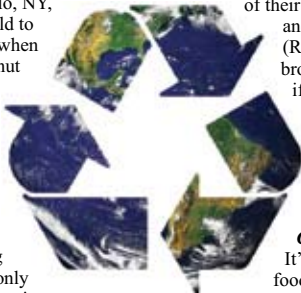
A great way to get across the message of

"reuse" and "recycle" is to take kids on a trip to your local thrift store, recycling center, or church. If your children have old clothing, toys, shoes, or other unneeded items in good condition, make a family trip down to the donation center so they can see how their trash can become someone else's treasure.

Teach kids how items can be reused for different purposes—for example, old towels, blankets, and comforters can often be donated to local animal shelters for bedding. These real-life examples will teach kids that many items they would normally throw away can actually have a second life.



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Introducing...

We'd like to introduce our newest customer service representatives, **Jennifer Gates** (left) and **Birdie Galluchy** (right). They started with El Dorado Disposal Services recently and are willing and ready to assist you with all of your disposal needs.



Thanks, Ed!



We would like to send a shout-out with our congratulations and best wishes to Edward Zimbelman. Ed, who joined us in June 2006, has been helping our customers take care of their trash needs. In early January, Ed left El Dorado Disposal Services to begin his training with the U.S. Army. If Ed ever assisted you, we're sure you'll miss him because he was always friendly and helpful. His fellow employees here at El Dorado Disposal will miss him, as well.

Thanks, Ed, for all that you did for us and for choosing to offer your service to our nation. We send you our greetings and wish you good luck. Way to go, Ed!

A great time to "grasscycle"

When you "grasscycle," you simply let your clippings drop back onto your lawn instead of bagging them. Grass clippings are mostly made up of nitrogen and water—both of which your lawn needs. Because each mowing will take about one-third less time, grasscycling saves your family time, too. So, grasscycling is better for the lawn and easier for your family. What's not to like?

You don't have to have a special mower to grasscycle. You can use a mulching mower, which will chop the clippings very small. But, you can also use a regular mower by taking off the bagger attachment. If you remove the bag, be sure that you insert the "chute cover," which is a safety device to cover the hole where the bag would go.

If you do want to collect your grass and have it picked up, you can dispose it with your other yard waste. Green waste collection services are provided every other week, alternating with recycling collection, on the same day of the week as trash collection.

Green waste must be free of contaminants, bagged or bundled, and weigh less than 50 pounds per set-out bag or container. If you choose to use bags, you must purchase them yourself. If you would like to have a green



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waste cart instead, please call El Dorado Disposal Customer Service at 530-626-4141.

Curbside service guidelines

El Dorado Disposal strives to provide the best service possible. To ensure the best service, we are providing some guidelines to help make your service day as safe and efficient as possible:

- ◆ Please place carts out the evening before your service day to ensure they are out when the driver comes by.
- ◆ Check to make sure that your carts are 3 feet apart and at least 3 to 6 feet from any obstacles, such as mailboxes, cars, and portable basketball goals.
- ◆ Carts must be under the allotted weight limit:
 - 32-gallon cart: 50 lbs.
 - 45-gallon cart: 50 lbs.
 - 64-gallon cart: 150 lbs.
 - 96-gallon cart: 200 lbs.
- ◆ Materials must fit inside your trash cart. No materials may be above the level of

the lid. The lid must close. If materials are sticking out the top or the lid will not close, your account may be charged for extra residential garbage.

- ◆ Please make sure that trash is bagged and able to fall freely from the cart when dumped.
- ◆ Ashes must be cold and bagged before being placed into your trash cart.
- ◆ Additional cardboard must be bundled in 3' by 3' by 18" bundles and placed next to your recycling cart.
- ◆ Hazardous waste (paint, cleaners, pesticides, oil, etc.) is prohibited from being placed in curbside carts and must be disposed of at a hazardous waste collection center.
- ◆ Cans/carts/bags must have your address clearly marked on them.

Tips for Greener Cleaning



Are you ready for spring cleaning? Here are some tips to make your spring cleaning greener and healthier.

1. When the windows after the house has been closed up for most of the winter, the best thing to do is to give it a good airing out. On a pleasant spring day, throw open the windows and give the house a few hours to breathe in the fresh air.
2. Think mechanical first. A scrub brush, a dish scrubber, and a retired toothbrush can provide a lot of cleaning power with no chemicals at all.
3. Drain baskets keep drains free of debris that can lead to clogs.
4. Use up chemicals that you have on hand before purchasing replacement products. Clean the laundry room others under the kitchen sink, and a few in the garage), find them and inventory what you have available.
5. Consider creating your own cleaners from common household products, such as vinegar, baking soda, salt, lemon juice, and mineral oil. Many of these cleaners are easy to make, effective, and less expensive than pre-mixed chemical solutions. (Remember that even homemade cleaners can be irritating to skin and eyes. Always use caution in mixing, storing, and using homemade cleaners.)

6. When you purchase products or containers, choose the mildest and most benign product possible. Many manufacturers do voluntarily provide a complete list of ingredients. Try to select products that provide you complete information on ingredients, offer the most clear instructions on use, and don't require extraordinary safety measures for use or disposal.
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10. Make sure everyone in your family knows about your new "greener cleaning" habits.



Read more about it!

- 485 Ways to Clean, Polish, Disinfect, Deodorize, and Remove Stains *Clean and Green: The Complete Guide to Eco-Friendly Housekeeping* by Annie Berthold-Bond (Ceres Press, 1994)
- All-Purpose Cleaners Buying Guide all-purpose-cleaners.buying-guide/the-planet
- Clean Your House Without Hurting the Planet www.grist.org/slvce/possessions/2003/03/18/possessions-cleaning/
- Greener Cleaning www.thegreenguide.com/home-garden/cleaning
- How to Go Green: Cleaning www.thegreenguide.com/cleaning/
- How to Make a Non-Toxic Cleaning Kit www.care2.com/greenliving/make-your-own-non-toxic-cleaning-kit.html
- Non-Toxic Home Cleaning www.eartheasy.com/live_nontoxic_solutions.htm
- A Test of Green Cleaners www.grist.org/slvce/products/2008/03/25/

On the GO

If you're trying to trim your expenses, you may be walking or biking to work and buying a good pair of shoes for your health and environment because walking and biking don't require fuel or spew out emissions.

However, if you like to take a cup of coffee with you when you leave the house, what are you supposed to do? Reusable travel mugs are fine if you are walking, but may not be fully leak-proof when you bike. There's a simple, waste-free solution—thermal or canteen bottles. The thermal-style bottles keep so cold that they could be used for beer, but they can't be sealed, so you can't throw a backpack or bag without them spilling about leaks and spills. Many have a built-in loop to allow you to hang the bottle from your handle bars. Others have insulated pouches with handles or straps. Still others will fit right into your bike's water bottle holder.

If your drink of choice is water or a sports drink, you can use the same style bottles. Simply fill the clean bottle with tap water or sports drink from your gallon jug.

For more information on thermal and steel stores, Many carry these bottles and accessories. Or go online and search for "thermo bottles."



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CLIP AND SAVE

Each year in the U.S., gas-powered lawn mowers and trimmers are more than 720 million gallons of gasoline. At the same time, they emit 10 million tons of harmful air pollutants and disturb the peace and quiet of our spring and summer days.

However, gas-powered mowers aren't the only way to keep your lawn looking good. Electric mowers are quieter and exhaust-free. Some electric mowers need an extension cord, but many of the newer ones contain a rechargeable battery. Battery-powered mowers are a little more expensive, but they don't need an outlet while you cut the grass. These cordless mowers are heavier and a bit more difficult to maneuver than the corded models. Neither type requires oil changes or gasoline. You do have the cost for electricity, but that may be as little as \$5-10 per hour.

Another—and even more environmentally friendly—option is to use a manual push mower. Here are just a few of the great reasons to use a reel mower.

- Reel mowers leave behind healthier grass plants because they "snip" the grass just above the soil line, whereas gas mowers would.
- Gas-powered mowers actually tear the grass blades, so an empty gas can will never change your plans. They also don't require an electrical charge, so you don't have to remember to plug them in.
- Push reel mowers produce no harmful emissions and emit no exhaust into your face and your neighborhood's air.
- Manual mowers are whisper-quiet, allowing you to hear your children playing and to enjoy the birds chirping. You can still listen to your favorite music while you mow.
- You'll enjoy a brisk walk and some resistance training while you mow. Reel mowers are virtually maintenance-free. Occasionally, the bearings and cutting edges may need a little lubricant and a slight adjustment.
- The cutters will need to be sharpened every couple of years.
- You'll never struggle with the pull cord on a manual mower. Simply start walking and the mower starts, too.
- Push reel mowers are the cheapest to purchase, operate, and maintain.

A manual reel mower isn't right for every yard. The mowers are best suited to smaller yards, such as those that are 10,000 square feet (about one-quarter acre) or less. However, many of today's yards are no bigger than this. If you'd like more information about reel mowers or more about electric mowers, you can also learn more at www.cleangardening.com, www.planetnatural.com, www.gardeners.com, www.reefmower.com, or www.reelmowerguide.com/.

Hope for harried readers

“Like money, books must be kept in constant circulation. Lend and borrow to the maximum.”

books. If you want to release a book or are hunting for one, visit www.bookcrossing.com.

- Several sites offer readers the chance to trade one or more books with other readers, usually for just the cost of shipping. For more information about book swaps by mail, visit www.bookcrossing.com, www.ragabookswap.com, or www.swaptrac.com.

If you've ever wondered why there is a "Netflix" for books, your wait is over. BookSwim allows readers to rent books. This concept is not new. Before the age of downloadable audiobooks, readers could rent books from libraries or later on CD by mail. Now, readers can rent bestsellers at a fraction of the purchase price. For more information, go to www.bookswim.com.

Books aren't the only media that can be borrowed, shared, swapped, or purchased used, of course. The same applies to DVDs and CDs, as well as many magazines.

You don't have to give up at-home reading and borrowing to the maximum.



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Greening your year

Looking for small steps that will make a big difference? Check out *The Green Year: 365 Small Things You Can Do to Make a Big Difference* by Jodi Halmer (Penguin Group, 2008). This book has one simple idea for each day of the year.

- Each page also has a spot for you to check off that you've done the activity or to write your own alternative that will work. The ideas include reducing waste, saving energy, and much more. Some days suggest things that you probably already do—or have thought about doing—such as replacing incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents and sharing magazines. Other days give you new and fun ideas. For instance, when you stop at your favorite ice cream shop, don't get ice cream in a cup. Instead, order your ice cream in an edible and waste-free cone. Here's another one: Clean out your car. According to Halmer, an extra 100 pounds in the trunk can reduce your fuel efficiency by 2 percent.



QUOTES REQUESTED

The care of the Earth is our most ancient and most worthy and, after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it, and to foster its renewal, is our only legitimate hope.

Wendell Berry, 1934—American farmer and poet



Planet Green

If you have a pay-TV service, such as cable or satellite, you may be getting the Planet Green network. If you enjoy the Discovery channel, you'll like Planet Green.

Planet Green offers a variety of original programs. If you love home renovation programs, you'll like *Home Reno-Restoration*. If you're interested in cars, you'll like *Auto Restoration Nation*. Total *Workclamation*, *Wasted!*, *World's Greenest Homes*, *Focus Earth*, and *Greenovate*. Maybe you're more interested in food. Check out *Emeril Green* or *Supper Club*. If you're wondering what is new in transportation, catch *Planet Green*. If you're interested in what you love entertainment news, watch *Hollywood Green*. How about a game show? Play along with *Go for the Green*.

In addition to the programming, you'll find "Go Green" tips at the website, <http://planetgreen.discovery.com>, along with games and video clips. There is even a convenient "channel finder" — a zip code and your pay-TV service provider.



Spring Cleanup Days

Cameron Park – April 4
Pollock Pines – April 25
El Dorado Hills – May 2
Camino – May 9

Please contact El Dorado Disposal Customer Service at 530-626-4141 or 916-985-1162 for more detailed information.

Free Workshop and Tours

El Dorado Disposal offers a free workshop and tours of our MRF (Material Recovery Facility) for children of all ages. Both our workshop and tours focus on:

- ❖ The 3R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
- ❖ Composting, including creating worm bins for vermicomposting
- ❖ Litter and environmental cleanup

We include fun, action-oriented, hands-on activities from "Closing the Loop: Exploring Integrated Waste Management and Resource Conservation," a curriculum approved by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

We would love to have the opportunity to teach your students how they can help reduce, reuse, and recycle! Please call Jessica at 530-295-2805 to schedule a workshop or tour.

No time for a tour or a classroom workshop this year? Please keep us in mind for next year.

Recycle your old electronics



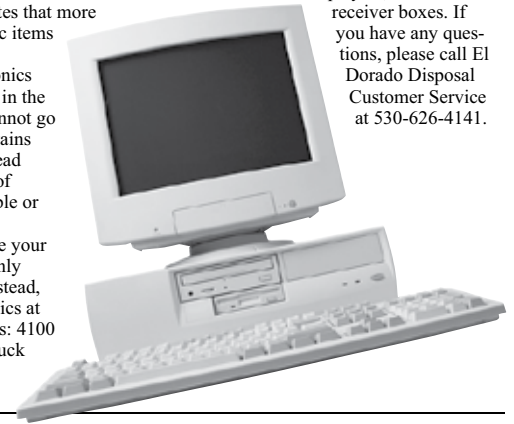
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Each year, Americans have about 2.25 million tons of outdated and unwanted electronics, including desktop and notebook computers, monitors, printers, televisions, VCRs, DVD players, and more. Only about 20% of these are being recycled. Of the remainder, about half are reused or placed in storage. In fact, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that more than 235 million electronic items are currently in storage.

If you have old electronics in storage, don't put them in the trash! Electronic waste cannot go to landfills because it contains potential toxins, such as lead and mercury. Plus, many of the components are reusable or recyclable.

You don't need to store your electronics and you certainly can't be trashing them. Instead, recycle unneeded electronics at one of these three facilities: 4100 Throwita Way and 580 Truck Street in Placerville and

4421 Latrobe Road in El Dorado Hills. We accept electronics from residents at no charge. You can drop off televisions, computer monitors and CPUs, laptops, microwave ovens, copiers, radios, stereos, DVD players, cordless and cellular phones, fax machines, CD players, iPods/MP3 players, and satellite receiver boxes. If you have any questions, please call El Dorado Disposal Customer Service at 530-626-4141.



Why YOU should care about litter

Litter looks bad. But did you know that it makes people feel bad, too? That's right! When people see litter, they think that residents don't care about their community or each other. When businesses see litter, they wonder what kind of employees or customers they will find.

In addition, litter can be dangerous to humans and animals. Whether the litter

is in the street or on the sidewalk, swerving to avoid it in a car or on a bike can be dangerous to oncoming traffic. When litter is thrown from moving vehicles, it creates a hazard for the cars behind. Broken glass on the sidewalk or edge of the roadway can cut you or your dog's feet. Plus, animals sometimes try to eat litter, thinking that it is food.

Here's one more reason you should care—litter is expensive. Road and highway departments, parks departments, and businesses pick up and dispose of litter that was accidentally or carelessly tossed by others. In doing so, they spend time and money on someone else's trash. We all have to pay for litter, whether through taxes for government agencies to pick it up or in the price of products to businesses which must charge

more to cover the costs of disposal.

Here are some of the things that you can do to put an end to litter:

- ❖ Don't litter! This one should be obvious, but we just wanted to remind you. When you look for the proper bin for trash or recyclables, you set a good example, too.



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Hours of Operation

Transfer Station Facilities and Services

4100 Throwita Way, Placerville
530-626-4141

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

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

Oil Recycling Drop-Off

Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday and Saturday

Oil Recycling Redemption

\$0.16 per gallon, up to 55 gallons (in 5-gallon or less containers)
Hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday

Off-Site Recycling Centers

580 Truck Street, Placerville

Hours: 9:30 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, Yard Waste

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 only

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!

El Dorado Disposal Services
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70% Post-Consumer News Content, Using Soy Inks.

- ❖ Pick up litter. After a ball game, leave the field and sidelines as clean as—or cleaner than—you found them.
- ❖ Make a litterbag for your car. A plastic grocery bag or small canvas bag is all you need.
- ❖ When you take your trash or recyclables to the curb, make sure the lids are closed on the carts.
- ❖ Organize a litter cleanup at a park, at your child's school, around your business, or in your neighborhood. Pick a day and invite your friends to volunteer. Remind everyone to bring a pair of gloves so their hands don't get cut or too sticky. If you'll be near a road or parking lot, wear bright or light colors or safety vests so that drivers will be able to see and avoid you. Provide bags for trash and recyclables. Remember to properly recycle or dispose of everything when you are done. Thank your volunteers!