

"TRASH TALK"

El Dorado Disposal Newsletter - Spring '26 Edition



Fresh Strategies for a New Season

As spring arrives, it's a perfect time to refresh solid waste habits and prepare for seasonal cleanups. Proper organics disposal such as separating food scraps, yard trimmings, and other compostable materials help reduce landfill volume while supporting healthier soils through composting programs. This season also brings unique items like old outdoor furniture, pool chemicals, and other various items that may have been kicking around the yard for a while, that require correct disposal or recycling. Knowing in advance what items are and aren't recyclable saves time at the disposal facility, reduces contamination in recycling loads, and ensures more materials are successfully recovered. A little preparation goes a long way toward a cleaner community and a more efficient waste management system.



From Your Curb to Our Community

Everything you place in your organics waste cart, from food scraps and coffee grounds to grass clippings and leaves, starts the process of creating organic compost. The organic waste that is collected from residents and businesses alike in El Dorado County is transferred, processed, and ultimately brought full circle back into the County as certified organic compost. The compost is then used by local farmers and even personal home gardeners, representing a sustainable, circular cycle.

Throughout the 2025 calendar year, we were able to deliver organic compost to local vineyards, schools, and residents, including Barsotti Inc., Madrona Vineyards, and Garden Valley High School to name a few. In total, over 3,000 tons of organic compost was brought back to the community over the course of the year. By using your organics cart correctly, you can help decrease landfill use and create valuable, nutritional compost for our community.

Customer Reviews:

"The El Dorado Disposal compost program has made it possible for us to get organic compost on all of our farm soil, including our fruit trees and strawberries, this year. Communication, site visits, and delivery have been easy and consistent. We've used compost from several large suppliers over the years and I'm happy with the quality of compost coming out of the El Dorado Disposal Program. I'm seeing good plant growth already." - Ben Woods, Mama Earth Farm

"We are so grateful for the compost donation to our FFA/Farm to Fork program. It's very difficult to find funding for garden maintenance and El Dorado Disposal's support is highly appreciated! The fact that it was delivered to us is also amazing! The compost is helping us amend our soil and we are looking forward to a productive growing season!" - Amara, Golden Sierra JSHS



Clean Smarter This Spring: Safe & Responsible Disposal Tips

As you clean out garages, sheds, and storage areas this spring, it's important to remember that although it's tempting, not everything should be tossed in the trash container. Items such as pool chemicals, pesticides, insecticides, old cleaners, paints, batteries, and automotive fluids should immediately be set aside from regular household waste. The listed items and products are considered hazardous materials and should be disposed of in a specific manner. Residential household hazardous wastes can be brought to our Material Recovery Facility located at 4100 Throwita Way, Placerville and disposed of for FREE on Friday through Sunday. Our Household hazardous waste facility accepts a wide range of materials from florescent bulbs to everyday cleaning products, and proper disposal is crucial.



Why Organics Can Be Confusing: What's Commonly Misunderstood

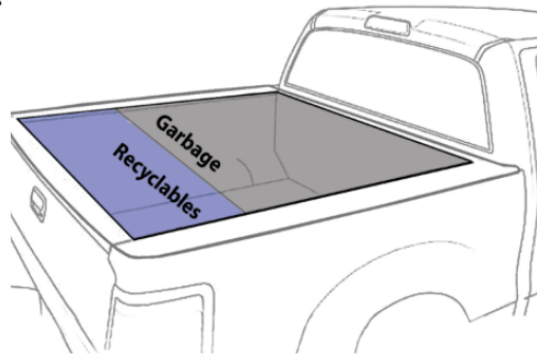
Many people want to "do the right thing" when it comes to organics recycling, but confusion remains common. So why does confusion happen in the first place? The three main reasons we have found are 1. "Natural-Looking" Doesn't Always Mean Compostable, 2. Packaging Labels Can Be Misleading, and 3. Paper Rules Change When Food Is Involved. Items made from plastic or synthetic materials like plant pots, netting, or gardening fabric are common contaminants found in the organics cart that belong in the trash cart. Words like biodegradable, eco, or compostable do not always mean an item should be placed in the curbside organics cart. Many compost facilities cannot process compostable plastics or specialty materials regardless of what the packaging states. Lastly, people are often taught that cardboard and paper go in the recycling, so when paper gets greasy or wet, they assume it must be trash. In reality, food-soiled paper belongs in the organics cart, not recycling or trash. Food residue disqualifies items like pizza boxes, napkins, paper towels, paper plates and paper bags from recycling but makes them perfect for composting. A simple way to think about it is, did this come from food or plants and is it free of plastic? If yes, toss it in the organics cart. If plastic, synthetic, or treated, keep it out.

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU THROW

If you are planning to a trip to the Material Recovery Facility, whether for spring cleaning or to utilize the various other services that are offered, there are some important things to know. Many materials can be recycled at no cost or at a reduced rate when kept separate from regular household garbage. By sorting recyclable and reusable materials before you arrive, you can lower disposal costs, streamline your visit, and help keep valuable resources out of the landfill.

What Does this Look Like?

To make unloading simple and efficient, place recyclables and organic waste at the back of your truck or trailer as these items will be dropped off first. Load garbage near the front, so it can be offloaded last. Keep each type of material clearly separated to ensure proper processing and correct pricing.



Materials You Can Dispose of for FREE

✓ Scrap Metals – Free

Metal items that contain at least 75% metal may be recycled at no charge when separated from other waste.

✓ Electronic Waste (E-Waste) – Free

Household electronics should never be thrown into curbside containers. Items like computers, laptops, phones, tablets and TVs are all accepted for free. Items with embedded batteries must be handled properly for safe disposal and recycling.

✓ Mattresses & Box Springs – Free

Clean, gently used mattresses and box springs may be recycled at no cost. Recycling keeps bulky, long-lasting waste out of the landfill.

✓ Carpet – Reduced Rate

Rolled carpet can be recycled at a significantly discounted rate.

(Some limitations may apply.)

✓ Household Hazardous Waste – Free

Hazardous materials—such as chemicals, paints, cleaning products and fluorescent bulbs can be dropped off at no charge during HHW hours; Friday – Sunday; 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (Closed daily from 12:00 – 12:30 PM for lunch)

Small Battery, Big Fire: Why Proper Disposal Matters More Than Ever



Improperly discarded batteries are now one of the most serious and rapidly growing threats to the solid waste and recycling industry. More than ever, we are seeing batteries used in an increasing amount of consumer products, from devices such as phones, power tools, greeting cards and vape pens, to e-bikes and everyday children's toys. Various types of batteries are entering the waste streams hidden inside things we use on a daily basis, and are creating risks at every stage of waste handling from collection and transport, to post-collection processing and recycling preparation. Fire incidents can be triggered by damaged, crushed, or overheated batteries as they move through compactors, trucks, or sorting lines. Fires spread quickly due to large volumes of combustible material, putting workers, equipment, and communities at risk.

The good news is that we can help, and we have a solution with our free curbside battery pick-up program. Residential customers can request a "battery bag" to dispose of batteries properly. Our collection drivers will deliver the bag on your service day, and we will collect the bag once you have filled it and contacted customer service to schedule a pick-up. In addition, each of our recycling centers located in El Dorado Hills, Cameron Park, and Placerville, all accept household batteries. With risks accelerating faster than our ability to mitigate the hazards, we need your help!

Save Time – Use the APP!

Our App can be a useful tool if you're pressed for time and can't talk to one of our office personnel, or you just appreciate the convenience of being able to gather information directly from your mobile device. Via the El Dorado Disposal App, you can view your service schedule which can be a helpful reminder during the holiday seasons, access your billing information, and schedule a specific type of service such as bulky item removal, pick-up of household batteries, or disposal of used motor oil/filters all done at your curb for your convenience. Lastly, if you're ever scratching your head on where to toss a certain item, our App has a "Waste Wizard" tool that can guide you on how to properly dispose of some of those confusing items.



Come Say Hello! Find Us Events Near You

We're excited to be out in the community this season, and we always enjoy talking with the people we serve. Come say hello at one of our upcoming events! You'll find us at community clean-up events across El Dorado County, the El Dorado Hills Summer Concert Series, and local farmers' markets, where we'll be sharing helpful tips, answering questions, and connecting with residents. Stop by to learn more about proper disposal tips, and the various programs we have to keep our community clean and thriving.



www.ElDoradoDisposal.com



530-626-4141



580 Truck St, Placerville, CA 95667