“TRASH TALK”

EL DORADO DISPOSAL NEWSLETTER - FALL 2026 EDITION



Myth vs. Fact: What Really Happens After Collection?

Once your recyclables, organics, and trash leave the curb, their journey is just beginning. Yet there are many common misconceptions about what happens next. Do all materials end up in the same place? Is recycling really recycled? What becomes of food scraps and yard waste? There are many common misconceptions about where materials end up and how they are processed, so separating myth from fact is important. From turning organics into compost to sorting recyclables and responsibly managing waste, your everyday disposal decisions make a difference for our community and the environment.

Myth: All recyclables are sorted.
Fact: All recyclables that you put in your recycle cart are sorted but all materials that are put in the cart are not able to be recycled. In order for them to be recycled there must be and end market for the material and the material needs to be clean and dry.

Myth: All materials are collected in one truck.
Fact: Each material type, trash, recyclables, and mixed organics are collected separately by different trucks. In some service areas, we utilize ‘split-body’ trucks that have separate chambers that allow us to collect two materials types at the same time.

Myth: El Dorado Disposal determines what can and can't go in the recycling or organics carts.
Fact: Acceptable materials follow state regulations outlined by CalRecycle and also vary depending on the facility that processes the materials. Acceptable material types change occasionally depending on state initiatives. Our team continually updates recycling education materials to reflect changing market conditions, accepted materials, and industry best practices.

Myth: Everything gets mixed together and ends up in the landfill anyway.
Fact: While collection vehicles may look similar, recyclables, organics, and trash are managed through separate processes and sent to different facilities. Recyclable materials are made into new products, organic materials become compost for farms and gardens, and and trash is managed separately. From composting food scraps to recycling paper, plastic, and metal into new products, properly sorted materials can have a second life instead of ending up in a landfill. Your efforts to sort materials properly truly make a difference.



What Customers Say About Us

“Always so friendly!! My kids love trash day and to wave at the drivers!!! A huge part of our community! Thank you all!” — El Dorado Hills Resident

“Humans!! And very nice, incredibly patient ones at that. I had the darndest time finding this bill and then figuring out how to pay it. The lovely lady answering the phone in the office made all the difference in the world. You people are incredible. It’s like being back in the ‘50s, ’60s, when customers mattered and people honestly cared.” — Placerville Resident

Sustainability Spotlight: Rethink Your Waste

Small changes in daily habits can have meaningful impact on reducing waste and conserving natural resources. Many items we throw away every day can be recycled, reused, repaired, donated, or composted instead of being sent to the landfill. Even small changes, can make a significant difference over time.

From January to July in 2026, El Dorado Disposal collected:

- **8,878 tons of Recyclables**
- **12,709 tons of Organic Waste**
- **169 tons of Batteries & E-Waste**
- **114 tons of Hazardous Waste**
- **1,196 tons of Scrap Metal**
- **1,102 tons of Construction & Demoliton Waste**
- **334 tons of Concrete & Asphalt**
- **113 tons of Tires, Mattresses & Carpet**

Thanks to the participation of our customers and community partners, El Dorado Disposal successfully diverted more than 24,000 tons of material through recycling, organics collection, and special recovery programs, reducing landfill disposal and supporting a healthier, more sustainable environment for El Dorado County.



Quick Updates

Sustainability Initiative:
Compost is available for self-serve pick-up at Placerville Recycling Center! Tues-Sat; 9am-3:30pm

Voucher Program Reminder:
Don't forget to take advantage of your annual voucher program for select curbside & self-haul disposal services.

Events:

- Trunk or Treat (Oct. 16th: Cameron Park CSD & Oct. 30: El Dorado Hills CSD)
- Bike Build (El Dorado Disposal Truck Yard - Placerville)

Don't Let Halloween Become a Waste Nightmare

Halloween may only last a night, but your decorations, costumes, and pumpkins don't have to become waste. When your jack-o'-lantern starts to droop, give it a second life by placing it in your organics cart. Pumpkins, seeds, and pumpkin guts can be composted and transformed into nutrient-rich soil products. Just remember to remove candles, lights, paint, stickers, and other non-organic decorations first. Costumes and decorations can be packed away for next year, shared with friends, or donated to local organizations. If it's time to part with old electronic decorations such as string lights, inflatables, animatronics, or battery-powered props, please keep them out of your curbside carts. Batteries and electronics can cause fires in collection vehicles and processing facilities. Instead, bring these items to the Material Recovery Facility for proper recycling.

Quick Halloween Disposal Guide

- 🎃 Pumpkins & pumpkin scraps → Organics cart
- 👕 Gently used costumes → Reuse or donate
- 🔋 Batteries, lights & electronic decorations → Recycle at our Material Recovery Facility
- 🚮 Broken, non-recyclable items → Trash cart



After the festivities are over, don't forget that pumpkins, squash, and other natural decorations belong in your organics cart, not the landfill. When organic materials are buried in a landfill, they break down without enough oxygen and produce methane, a potent greenhouse gas. By placing pumpkins and other organic materials in the organics cart, they can be processed into compost instead. In fact, the compost produced from local organics recycling programs is certified for organic growing and is available for El Dorado County residents to self-haul from the El Dorado Disposal Placerville Recycling Center. Remember, only natural pumpkins, squash, gourds, and other organic materials are accepted in the organics cart. Decorative pumpkins made of plastic, foam, ceramic, or other non-organic materials should be disposed of separately.

Tips & Tricks: Fall Yard Clean-up



- Place leaves, plant trimmings, & sticks in organics cart with your food scraps & food-soiled paper.
- Keep rocks, soil, sand, construction debris & treated lumber out of any curbside cart.
- Cameron Park CSD & El Dorado Hills CSD residents are welcome to dispose of excess yard waste for free at their respective El Dorado Disposal Recycling Center.
- Pick-up of extra yard waste on service day - Required to use paper compostable bags & call Customer Service to schedule (limitations apply).

Follow us

@ElDoradoDisposal on Facebook/Instagram

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530-626-4141

Material Recovery Facility
4100 Throwita Way, Placerville, CA, 95667
Placerville Recycling Center
580 Truck St, Placerville, CA, 95667
Cameron Park Recycling Center
3350 Saratoga Ln, Cameron Park, CA, 95682
El Dorado Hills Recycling Center
4421 Latrobe Rd, El Dorado Hills, CA, 95762

Know Before You Throw: The Fire Hazard Hiding in Your Trash

Did you know that in the first half of 2026, we have experienced 18 fires between our collection vehicles and the processing of materials at our Material Recovery Facility!?

Batteries power many of the devices we use every day, but when they're tossed into the trash or recycling cart, they can create serious safety hazards. Many batteries, especially rechargeable lithium-ion batteries found in phones, tablets, power tools, e-bikes, and other electronics, can become damaged during collection and processing. When this happens, they can spark fires in collection trucks, transfer stations, recycling facilities, and landfills. These fires put employees, equipment, emergency responders, and the community at risk. A common misconception is that small household batteries are harmless in the trash. In reality, even a single improperly disposed battery can cause extensive damage if it is crushed, punctured, or exposed to heat.

So what should you do with batteries? Contact our customer service department to request a FREE battery disposal bag or bring batteries to our household hazardous waste collection facility at the Material Recovery Facility. Remember: If it powers a device, think twice before you throw it away. Taking a few extra minutes to recycle batteries properly helps protect workers, prevent fires, and keep our community safe. When in doubt, keep it out of the trash.

Building Bikes, Delivering Smiles

For 25 years, the Waste Connections Annual Holiday Bike Build has united employees, vendors, and community partners in a shared mission: bringing joy to children during the holiday season. Through donations and community support, bikes and helmets are provided to deserving children, creating lasting memories and brighter holidays. In 2025, with the help of our community, El Dorado Disposal was able to build and deliver 244 amount of bikes to children in El Dorado County. The Bike Build is more than a charitable event; it's a reflection of the generosity, compassion, and community spirit that make our local communities stronger. Whether through a donation, volunteering, or simply spreading the word, everyone can play a part in helping keep the wheels turning and making a difference in a child's holiday season.



"Together, small steps create big changes."