



# AVI News

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## SPRING CLEANING



Please be on the lookout for toxic items that don't belong in the trash, recycling or greenwaste cart. For example, all types of batteries (household or lithium-ion), chemicals from weed killer to paint thinners, sharps or medical waste and fluorescent light bulbs. Non-toxic items that are great to divert from trash to recycling cart: Paper, cardboard, aluminum containers and foil, steel or tin cans, glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles and tubs (such as yogurt, margarine and cottage cheese, numbers 1 - 7.) Environmentally great things to divert from trash to greenwaste cart: Grass and weed clippings, shrubs and tree prunings, leaves, plants and flowers, food scraps and food soiled paper products.

To avoid toxic chemicals breaking open and combining to create toxic gasses and lithium-ion batteries creating fires in

carts at homes and service trucks, please take your household hazardous waste to the HHW drop off location in Livermore at 5584 La Ribera Street. Visit StopWaste.org for directions, schedules and information.

We must be vigilant! If we prevent just one person suffering inhalation of toxic gasses, one firefighter battling a lithium-ion battery fire and preventing harm to one of our PGS employees that help us move our wastestream along it will be well worth it.

So please, anytime something is about to leave your hand into a trash receptacle, remember our mantra... **Stop, Think, Recycle.** Help us keep toxic chemicals and heavy metals out of our landfills and divert as much recyclable or compostable materials into recycling and greenwaste carts.



### *A Really Good Non-Toxic Rodent Repellent*

Rodents are not only germ carriers they can cause much damage around your house, especially if they nest in your appliances or vehicles causing thousands of dollars of damage if they chew the electrical wiring (wire coating contains soy which they like). A good all-purpose recipe for rodents and some insects is to boil water, add lots of Cayenne pepper, hot sauce, horseradish and garlic powder. Once the mix is thoroughly mixed remove from heat and as an option steep several bags of mint tea in the mix. Once cool, pour into spray bottles and spray around the outside of your house to create a barrier and under the hood of your car on wires and thoroughly spray the underside of your car. **WARNING** — Please use waterproof gloves and a mask when pouring or spraying this concoction because if you get some on your fingers and then wipe your eye it will burn like crazy! That is why the critters don't like it. Source matsecooks.com

### We Want Our Service to Be The Best and You Can Help



Please place your carts at the curb edge with at least 3 feet of clearance from other objects, including other carts, basketball hoops and motor vehicles.



### What Do I Put Into the Organics Cart?

The reason Organics Carts are so important is that using them helps divert materials away from our landfills which is better for the environment. Here is a list to help you use your cart efficiently. Thank you for helping us provide you with the best possible service.

#### Organics Acceptable List

- Grass and weed clippings
- Shrubs and tree prunings (less than 4" in diameter)
- Leaves, plants and flowers
- Food scraps and food soiled paper products

#### Non-acceptable Organics List

- No household garbage
- No plastic bags
- No dirt or rocks
- No overloading - lid must be closed

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# Citrus Recycling

*Citrus nearing its end? Before composting the rinds, save the juice for later by making frozen juice cubes!*



Don't let the extra citrus in your refrigerator go to waste. If you know you won't be able to use those oranges, lemons, limes, or grapefruits in time, prepare them for future use

by making them into juice cubes. These are perfect for cooling down drinks on hot days, or for adding to soups and other recipes that call for fresh citrus juice.

Ingredients: leftover citrus (lemons, oranges, limes, grapefruit, etc.), sweetener (optional)

1. If the fruit is hard, prepare it for juicing by rolling it between your hands or on the counter top with slight pressure. This will make the juice easier to squeeze out,
2. Cut the fruit in half and squeeze the juice from the fruit using a citrus juicer, or by using a fork to puncture the membranes,
3. Make sure to remove all seeds,
4. Add a little bit of sweetener if you plan to use the cubes to cool down drinks (optional),
5. Pour the juice into ice cube trays, filling each cell about  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.

An alternative for Immune Boosting Lemon Ice Cubes is to use the whole lemon for extra vitamin C. Wash then chop 2 – 3 lemons. Put in a high-speed blender with a small amount of water. Blend until the consistency is smooth, adding more water if needed, sweetener (optional). Pour the lemon mixture into the ice cube trays. Freeze until solid. As the days get warmer, it is the ideal time to enjoy a frozen lemon ice cube in a glass of water



**Source:** [StopFoodWaste.org](http://StopFoodWaste.org)

## *Non-Toxic Citrus Peel Cleaner*

Before composting the peel, consider alternative uses for kitchen and household clean-up.

When life gives you lemons, or any other citrus peels, use the rinds to...

- Deodorize your garbage disposal,
- Remove coffee or tea stains from a mug,
- Clean a wooden cutting board or wooden counter with an additional sprinkling of coarse salt,
- Polish a stainless-steel sink or chrome faucet,
- Make a non-toxic child and pet friendly cleaner, recipe below.

Materials: air-tight glass container, citrus peels, distilled white vinegar, water, strainer, spray bottle.

### Instructions:

1. Pack a glass container or wide-mouth jar full of your choice of citrus peels: lemons, oranges, mandarins, grapefruit, etc. Citrus peels contain a natural solvent that helps break down grease,
2. Pour in enough distilled vinegar to cover the peels
3. Seal the container, label it with a name and date, and leave it to sit for about 2 weeks. You will know the solution is ready when the vinegar takes on a yellowish color and has a strong citrus odor,
4. Strain the contents to separate the peel, and pour the liquid into a spray bottle,
5. Depending on your desired strength, dilute the vinegar/citrus infusion with water. For an effective all-purpose cleaner, a solution of 1:1, one part vinegar, one part water, should be sufficient.



## *How Long Does Citrus Stay Fresh?*

**Storing:** Oranges and other citrus fruits such as lemons, limes, and grapefruits can be stored short-term (up to one week) at room temperature. To prolong the shelf life (up to 3-4 weeks) of citrus fruits, keep them in a bag in the refrigerator.

**Freezing:** Citrus can be frozen in wedges, slices, zest, juice, or whole. By freezing citrus, you can use nearly every part of the fruit and always have it on hand to add to dishes and drinks.