



## SUMMERTIME TIPS

### Be Careful with Barbecue or Fireplace Ashes



Fire Departments often respond to fires in trash carts, garages and backyard sheds, which sometimes spread into the house. In many of these cases, we find that an improper container used to store ashes is the cause of the fire: grocery bags, plastic buckets, plastic trash cans. Sometimes all that is left is a little puddle of plastic the size of a silver dollar under the area of heaviest damage.

Cold ashes many times conceal hot embers within. These embers can smolder for days. When they come in contact with something flammable, fire results.

Using the correct container is a surefire cure for ash disposal fires. Grocery bags and aluminum foil will ignite in just a few hours after they have been filled with ashes. Plastic trash containers are absolutely no good for ash removal. Even if the plastic trash can is lidded, the hot embers touch the side of the container, melt through, let in air, and when the air mixes with the melted plastic, a very hot fire quickly results. In many cases, hot ashes dumped on a compost heap will start a fire with the first gust of wind.

Use a metal container with a lid that seals tightly. Place your ashes in the container, put the lid on tightly, and place it away from walls, papers, and other flammables. Let it sit for a week, at least, before you dispose of it. As an added precaution you may want to add some water to the ashes. Thoroughly wet ashes can be placed in aluminum foil and disposed of in the trash. Never put ashes that have not been cooled with water in foil and then put in the trash because the package can be torn open or create enough heat to cause a fire in your trash cart.

#### 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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# Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Danger

No batteries should ever be placed in any trash, recycling or green cart! Due to the presence of corrosive chemicals, toxins such as mercury and lead, and charged electrodes, ALL batteries pose hazards and risk of fire, but the biggest risk lies with rechargeable batteries.

Many rechargeable batteries fall under a specific category of battery known as Lithium-Ion (also referred to as Li-ion battery or LIB). The Li-ion battery found in your electronics such as cell phones, laptops, pads, tablets, iPods, hover boards and digital cameras are probably the most familiar to you.

It is especially risky when Li-ion batteries are mistakenly put into a recycling bin and end up bouncing



around in the back of a dry recycling truck. Pressure or heat (in the summer months our trucks can get quite hot) can cause them to spark, setting off a chain reaction which spells disaster when that battery is in the back of a full recycling truck, surrounded by dry paper and cardboard. In fact, Li-ion Batteries are one of the leading causes of recycling truck fires.

The rise of electronics being improperly disposed of in trash or recycling carts is troubling. We live in an age of technology where nearly everyone owns a cellphone, laptop, tablet, etc. and with updates and upgrades being required so often, we find the need to dispose of our older models, what seems like...all the time. However, properly disposing of your cellphones and anything containing batteries, especially the volatile Li-ion variety, is crucial to avoid dangerous truck fires and ensure safety.

A suggested cause for improper disposal of Li-ions is likely due to a common misconception and mixed messaging. When an item states it is "recyclable" many assume that you can recycle it with your Recycling cart; this is not the case. When an item is "recyclable", that simply means it can be recycled in some way; it doesn't mean it can be put in with your Recycling cart. Rechargeable, Li-ion can be recycled, but only at specified locations. Visit StopWaste.org or call 1-877-STOPWASTE (786-7927) for safe disposal options.

## Cart Placement on Collection Day

*Please keep your neighborhood bike friendly...*

Now that summertime is here there will be many more bicyclists using the bike lanes. The bike lanes are only about 5 feet wide which doesn't leave much room for error. On trash collection days please keep the wheels of your cart against the curb. It is important to keep carts out of the bike lane so children and adults don't have to swerve around the carts into the traffic lane where they could be struck by a passing car.

Additionally, to help our drivers, please place your carts with 3 feet of clearance to provide plenty of room for the automated arm of our trucks to attach to your cart, lift and replace your cart without disturbing the carts on either side. Thank you for your help.

