



AVI News

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The Battery Bunny Says "Please, Don't Put Your Batteries in the Trash! Expiration of the Temporary Disposal Exemptions for Universal Waste

How Has The Law Changed and What Are Universal Wastes?



Until February 8, 2006 households were allowed to put waste batteries, electronic devices and fluorescent light bulbs in the trash. Homeowners were also allowed to throw away mercury-containing thermostats until that date.

As of February 8, these items, called Universal Wastes, may no longer be placed in the trash.

Universal Wastes are hazardous wastes that are generated by households, and businesses. Hazardous wastes contain harmful chemicals, which, if put in the trash may harm people or the environment. Universal Wastes include:

Common Batteries - These may contain a corrosive chemical that can cause burns as well as toxic heavy metals like cadmium. For your convenience, AVI accepts household "dry cell" batteries in your black lid recycling cart. Please see inset for special disposal instructions.

Fluorescent Tubes and Bulbs and Other Mercury-Containing Lamps - These lights contain mercury vapor that may be released into the environment when they are broken. Mercury is a toxic metal that can cause harm to people and animals including nerve damage and birth defects. Other Mercury-Containing Devices are thermostats, switches, thermometers, dental amalgam, pressure and vacuum gauges, novelty items, counterweights and dampers, medical devices known as dilators and weighted tubing, certain rubber flooring and gas flow regulators used in older residential gas meters.

Electronic Devices - These devices often contain heavy metals like lead, cadmium, copper and chromium. Electronic devices have previously been banned from landfills.

Non-Empty Aerosol Cans that Contain Hazardous Materials - Many products in aerosol cans are toxic. And many aerosol cans contain flammables, like butane, as propellants for products like paint. If your aerosol can is labeled with words like TOXIC or FLAMMABLE, don't put it in the trash unless it is completely empty.

How Can I Properly Dispose of My Universal Waste Items?

For information on local Universal Waste Disposal Stations please visit the Web site www.household-hazwaste.org or call the **Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Program at 800-606-6606**.

Place household "dry-cell" batteries (batteries such as alkaline, cell phone, flashlight or watch, etc.) in a clear, heavy-duty, zip-type plastic bag. Place the sealed plastic bag in your black lid recycling 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 they help divert tons of materials away from our landfills which saves costs and is better for the environment. Here is a helpful list to help you utilize 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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Learn More About Greening Your Home With Tours and Hands-on Workshops

Build It Green Home Tour:

Sunday, June 4, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

More than 15 Bay Area Homeowners in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties will open their doors and offer tour goers the opportunity to meet homeowners and builders who have built or remodeled green. See houses that look great, save money and are easier on the environment.

Discover green materials like fiber-cement siding, recycled wood decking, and bamboo cabinetry and flooring. Learn

about green technologies such as radiant floor heating and solar electric systems.

Beginning in June a variety of green building workshops will be offered to further your green building knowledge. Don't miss this chance to see for yourself what a green home can do for you!

For more information on signing up for the tour or for building green workshops, visit www.BuildItGreen.org.



Waste Reduction

Of the "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" reducing waste is the most important. Stopping waste at the source can eliminate it from the landfills, conserve energy, create less pollution and can save you money. So, let's work together to prevent waste before it is created... here are some ideas:

Use a Cloth Shopping Bag

It's stronger than paper and plastic bags, and won't contribute to the tons of unnecessary trash in our landfills since it can be used over and over again.

Use a Reusable Drink Cup

Polystyrene, plastic, and paper cups all require the use of natural resources such as trees, water, and energy, and use toxic chemicals in the manufacturing process.

Look for Less Packaging

Of all the garbage we generate, 1/3 is packaging that gets thrown away immediately. Buy in bulk or concentrate form when possible, and avoid excessive packaging layers. Avoid disposables such as juice boxes or single serving snacks. Since almost all products require some packaging, choose ones with packaging that is recyclable.

Eliminate Unwanted Mail

Nearly 35 million trees are cut down yearly for mail people don't even read. To be removed from national mailing lists, send your name, name variations, and your address to: Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, P.O. Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008. Or visit bayarearecycling.org/junkmail/ to order a free junk mail reduction kit.



In the spirit of conservation we are providing our newsletter online, but please feel free to print it out.