


Plastic-Free July: Reducing Plastic Use for a Healthy, More Sustainable Future



Plastic Free July is a global initiative that empowers individuals and communities to make small choices to reduce their reliance on plastic. As we participate in Plastic-Free July, it's time to consider the impact of black plastics on our health and environment. Studies show that reheating food in plastic containers can release harmful chemicals, potentially affecting our well-being. Additionally, black plastics are often difficult to recycle, leading to more waste in our landfills.

Recent research has found that 85% of black plastic kitchen utensils and takeout containers contain toxic flame retardants, which have been linked to cancer, endocrine disruption, and neurotoxicity. These chemicals can leach into food, especially when heated, increasing the risk of exposure.

California State Law AB 619 empowers us to take action by allowing consumers to bring their own clean, reusable food and beverage containers for takeout orders and leftovers. By bringing your own reusable to-go containers when dining out, you reduce single-use plastic waste and minimize exposure to potentially harmful materials. A simple habit change can protect our health, reduce waste, and support sustainable practices in our community.



Moving & Decluttering?

Helping someone prepare to move in or out?

Wondering what to do with the piles of packing materials left behind?

What about the old chemicals and what-nots others have left behind, where do those go?

We often find ourselves unsure of how to get the usable materials into the hands of others who would appreciate it and at a loss for the tricky items that have been piling up in the garage, shed, or attic.

RE:Source provides guides and drop off locations for all the common items that need to be moved-on during these transitions. Visit <https://resource.stopwaste.org/fact-sheet/moving-decluttering> for tips, drop off locations, and more. Simply click on the item you are looking to properly dispose of and update the zip code at the search bar at the top of the page to find local drop off options.



Helpful Waste Sorting Resources for Residents

We're committed to making waste sorting easy and accessible for everyone! As part of our community resources, residents can take advantage of:

Kitchen Compost Pails – Available to help properly sort food waste for composting.

Large Item Collection – Each single family home is eligible for three free large item pickups per year.

For more information, please call (925) 479-9545 or email info@amadorvalleyindustries.com.



Free Recycling Resources from AVI

Residents can request free kitchen compost pails and used motor oil recycling kits (up to two containers and a heavy-duty zip lock bag for oil filters).

Call (925) 479-9545 to request your supplies.

Reminder: Free Large Item Collection for Single-Family Homes



Did you know?

Single-family residential households can schedule three free large item collections per contract year (July 1 – June 30). This service makes it easy to dispose of bulky items responsibly.

How to Schedule:

Call 925-479-9545 at least three days in advance to arrange pickup. Set items at the curb no more than 24 hours in advance, ensuring they don't block sidewalks or traffic.

Guidelines:

Small items must be boxed or bagged in disposable containers. Yard clippings and wood must be bundled, boxed, or bagged, with a maximum length of 4 feet.

Each pickup allows for up to 7 cubic yards of material—approximately 42 full 35-gallon bags or enough to fill a space 9 feet long by 5 feet high by 4 feet wide.

Do not use your garbage, recycling, or compost carts—use only disposable containers for pickup.

No hazardous materials, dirt, rock, or concrete are accepted. Items over 60 pounds, except furniture and appliances, are not accepted.

Acceptable Items:

- Furniture, carpets, mattresses
- Up to four car tires (without rims)
- Large appliances such as refrigerators, freezers (doors must be removed), and water heaters
- Electronics including stereos, VCRs, phones, and other household devices
- E-waste such as computers, monitors, televisions, and cell phones

Take advantage of this free bulk waste collection to clear your space with ease!

Why BPI-Certified Bags Are Not Accepted

To ensure our composting efforts remain effective, we want to clarify why **BPI-certified compostable bags are not accepted** in curbside compost collection. These bags require at **least 90 days** to fully break down, but the composting facility we use has a **less than 75-day turnaround**, meaning they don't have enough time to decompose properly.

We encourage residents to use simple, effective solutions to keep composting hassle-free:

Line your compost pail with newspaper to prevent food scraps from sticking and make cleanup easier.

Use a brown paper bag to collect compostable waste.

Store food scraps in the freezer until your service day to reduce gnats and mold.

