What do we do with all this STUFF?

The City of Santa Cruz residential guide to reducing, reusing, recycling, composting, and disposing.

www.cityofsantacruz.com/reducwaste
Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) - Landfill, Public Refuse, Recycling and GreenCycle! Drop-off
605 Dimeo Lane, three miles north of Santa Cruz off Highway 1.

Hours: Monday through Saturday, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm. Closed Sundays.
Closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Years’ Day.
The Facility closes at noon on December 24th (Christmas Eve) and December 31st (New Years Eve day).

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)
In partnership with the County of Santa Cruz you may drop off hazardous material at any of the following Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off sites.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City of Santa Cruz</th>
<th>Buena Vista Landfill</th>
<th>Ben Lomond Transfer Station</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RRF Household Hazardous Waste</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Saturdays only</td>
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<td>7:30 - 3:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>605 Dimeo Lane, Santa Cruz (3 miles north of Santa Cruz off Highway 1)</td>
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What do we do with all this STUFF?

Aerosol Cans

Empty aerosol cans that contained food products may be placed in your blue recycling cart. All other empty aerosol cans, such as empty paint cans, should be placed in the garbage. Unwanted cans containing leftover material should be taken to the HHW.

Acid & Alkali Solutions

Accepted at the HHW. Solutions such as chlorine for pools or hot tubs, sulfuric acid, ammonium nitrate, lime, fertilizers, etc.

Aluminum

Clean beverage cans, cat food cans, pie plates, trays, and foil wrap (flatten and fold foil; do not ball up) are accepted in your blue recycling cart. For scrap aluminum, see metals.

Ammunition & Explosives

Call 831-471-1131 for non-emergency law enforcement.

Answering Machines

See E-Waste.

Antifreeze

Accepted at the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-off area. Place in a sealed, labeled plastic container. Do not mix with motor oil.
**Appliances - May & November Curbside Pickup**

Washers, water heaters, microwaves, stoves, air conditioners, dryers, refrigerators, etc. are picked up at curbside twice a year in May and November on Appliance & Bulky Item Pickup Day. There is a recycling fee. These items may also be taken to the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-off Area for a fee. Televisions and computers may be dropped off, free of charge. Special curbside Bulky Item Pickup is available, “On-call” only, all year. Call 420-5220 for fees and information or to schedule a pickup.

**Asbestos**

Not accepted at our facility. Asbestos is accepted at the Monterey Regional Waste Management District 14201 Del Monte Blvd, Marina CA. There is a $25 minimum charge. Call: 831-384-5313 for more information.

**Aseptic Packaging**

Packages such as juice boxes or soy milk containers are **not recyclable**. Place in the garbage. Aseptic packages are made up of multiple layers of plastic, cardboard, and aluminum that is difficult to separate and process.

**Asphalt**

Asphalt is accepted at the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-off Area for a fee.

**Auto Batteries**

Accepted at the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-off area at no charge. From residential sources only. **Do not place auto batteries in blue recycling cart.** Accepted at City and County facilities.

**Auto Products**

Auto products such as aerosol cans, brake fluid, polishes or wax, degreasers, engine starting fluid, cleaners, etc. are accepted at the HHW for no charge. Motor oil, antifreeze and oil filters are accepted at the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-off Area.

**Bags - Remember your Reusable Bags!**

Buy reusable bags and use them over and over! If you need a bag choose paper. Place used paper bags of any color in your blue recycling cart. See [Single-Use Bags](#). See [Plastic Bags](#).
Balloons - What goes up...must come down!

Most balloons are made of latex (rubber) or Mylar, a metallic plastic—neither can be recycled. They must go in the garbage. Balloons and balloon fragments can harm wildlife when mistaken for food. Balloon ribbons and string tails are another problem because animals can get entangled in them.

Balloons released into the air—whether by accident or on purpose, eventually come down, falling onto streets, waterways, and the ocean. Once they land, balloons become litter or marine debris. California law requires that metallic balloons be weighted to prevent them from flying away! Metallic balloons conduct electricity and can wreak havoc on power lines. The weight also prevents balloons from becoming sky litter. PENAL CODE SECTION 653.1

The City of Santa Cruz offers a no waste solution to the balloon problem. Local schools and organizations may borrow Dori Poles and colorful pennants for special events. See Dori Poles

Batteries

Used batteries are considered hazardous waste in California. This includes AAA, AA, C, D, button cell, 9-volt, and all others, both rechargeable and single use. For less waste, use rechargeable batteries. Businesses selling rechargeable batteries must take them back for recycling. See Auto batteries.

Household Batteries ONLY may be dropped off at the following City locations:

✓ Branciforte Library, 230 Gault Street
✓ Downtown Library, 224 Church Street
✓ Garfield Park Library, 750 Woodrow Avenue
✓ City of Santa Cruz Public Works Dept., 809 Center Street, Room 201
✓ City of Santa Cruz Customer Service Municipal Utilities, 212 Locust St.
✓ City Hall, Locust Street Parking lot trash enclosure battery receptacle.
✓ Louden Nelson Community Center, 301 Center Street
✓ Resource Recovery Facility, Monday-Saturday, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm

Books

ACCEPTED by the “Friends of the Library” at any City/County Library:
Hard cover and soft cover books, original DVDs, VHS tapes and music CD’s (no copies), and books on CD or cassette. All donations must be in good condition. Also local photographs and postcards are accepted (identifying information and dates appreciated).

NOT ACCEPTED: No catalogues, magazines, or newspapers. No vinyl records, textbooks, encyclopedias, outdated computer manuals or outdated travel guides.

To donate historic items such as photos, videos, 16 mm films, slides, historic newspapers, please contact the Library administration at 831-427-7706.

For City/County Library locations, please visit: http://www.santacruzpl.org/branches
See phone books and paper.
Bottles & Cans - Keep it loose!

Remove all liquids.
Place loose bottles and cans in your blue recycling cart.
We accept clean beer, wine, soda, juice and food containers.
Rinse clean and remove corks from wine bottles. Paper labels are ok.
Do not place bottles and cans in a plastic bag!

Building Materials

See Construction Material
See Construction & Demolition Debris

Bulky Household Items

Bulky items such as couches, dressers, mattresses, barbecues,
exercise equipment and desks are accepted at the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-off Area for a fee. Our Special Curbside Bulky Item Pickup operates on an “On-call” basis. Call 420-5220 for fees and to schedule a pickup.
See Appliances

Car Batteries

See Auto Batteries

Cardboard

Place small pieces of cardboard in your blue recycling cart. Large amounts of loose cardboard is accepted at the RRF FREE of charge!! Wax or plastic coated cardboard and oil-or food-stained cardboard is not recyclable. Wax-coated or food-stained cardboard such as pizza boxes should be placed in the trash or they may be composted in your home compost bin. Check out the City of Santa Cruz Home Composting $40 Discount Program.

Carpet

Carpet is not recyclable in the City recycling program. Take old carpet and padding to the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-off Area for a refuse fee. Currently carpet and padding are landfilled. Americans throw away 3.5 million tons of carpet a year and only about 9% is recycled. When you purchase new carpet, find out if your retail store or contractor has a take back program to recycle your old carpet and padding.
**Cat Litter**

Empty your cat litter box (all feces and litter) into a plastic bag, tie it closed, and place it in the garbage. Do not flush cat feces down the toilet. Cat litter and feces is not recyclable or compostable. Do not place cat litter in your home compost bin, the GreenCycle bin or your recycle bin. Do not bury cat litter or feces in your yard. Unused cat litter may be donated to the SPCA or Santa Cruz Animal Shelter. See Pet Supplies.

**Cell Phones - recycle at your local library!**

Cell phones contain toxins and chemicals that should be handled in a responsible manner. Do the right thing and recycle them! Take your used or unwanted cell phones to any City/County Public Library. The Friends of the Santa Cruz Public Libraries accepts used cell phones. Phones are recycled or refurbished and funds raised will benefit our libraries.

For City/County Library locations, please visit: http://www.santacruzpl.org/branches

**Ceramics and Pottery**

Broken ceramic items such as plates, bowls, mugs and flower pots are not recyclable. Place these items in the trash. Useable items may be donated to a local charitable organization.

**Chemicals & Cleaning Fluids**

Items such as toilet cleaners, rug and upholstery cleaners, ammonia, disinfectants, glues, wood preservatives, oils, stains/finishes, lab sets, ceramic glazes, mothballs, oven cleaners, solvents, polishes, paints, nail polish, bathroom cleaners, or pool or hot tub chemicals, etc., should be taken to the HHW.

**Christmas Trees**

See Holiday Trees.

**Cigarette Butts - Keep those butts off of the beach!**

Most smokers are considerate but over 5 million cigarette butts have been picked up from California beaches since 1985. Butts are snuffed out at the beach or they can originate from city streets. When butts are flipped onto streets or into gutters, the rain carries them into storm drains which flow to the ocean. So picking up butts or other litter from your neighborhood will help keep our beaches clean! Place cigarette butts in the garbage. See Storm Drains.
Clean Fill

Accepted at the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-off Area for a fee.

Compact Discs, DVD’s, & Cassette Tapes

Compact discs, DVD’s and Cassette tapes are not recyclable. If you have large quantities of CD/DVD cases please contact us at 420-5424.

Compost Bin Program - For City of Santa Cruz residents only!

Composting is nature’s way of recycling . . . with a little help from you!

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS
The City of Santa Cruz will give you a $40 rebate when you purchase a compost bin or worm bin from either our website or from one of our participating retailers listed below. Follow these steps:

1. On-Line! Simply go to www.cityofsantacruz.com/homecomposting to find a great selection of compost or worm bins. Follow the directions on screen and make your selection. Pay the full price at the time of purchase and apply for the $40 rebate.

OR

2. Shop Local! Purchase a compost bin from one of our local vendors:

   The Garden Company
   2218 Mission Street
   Santa Cruz CA 95060

   ProBuild Garden Center
   235 River Street
   Santa Cruz CA 95060

   Soil Solutions
   138 Fern Street
   Santa Cruz CA 95060

3. Fill out the Home Composting $40 Discount form from our website (PDF). These forms are also available at our participating retailers. Forms must be filled out completely, including the 11 digit Santa Cruz municipal utility bill number. Incomplete forms will not receive a rebate.

4. Send the completed form AND your proof of purchase (receipt) to:
   City of Santa Cruz Public Works Department
   Home Composting $40 Discount Program
   809 Center Street, Room 201
   Santa Cruz CA 95060

You will receive a rebate within 5 to 6 weeks.

Computer Monitors & Televisions

It is illegal to landfill cathode ray tubes. Take monitors, computer processing units (CPUs) and peripherals to the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-off Area at no charge. See Electronics.
Construction & Demolition Debris

The more you separate the more you save! When contractors or home owners recycle or separate reusable material from their construction or remodel project they receive reduced rates on roll-off boxes and gate fees at the RRF.

Debris is generated during new construction, remodeling or deconstruction. Typical material includes bricks, concrete, masonry, soil, rocks, lumber, plywood, paving material, siding (aluminum or vinyl), drywall (sheetrock), shingles, roofing material, electrical wiring, and plumbing fixtures. All of these materials can be used or recycled.

**Why Separate?** Recycling preserves the environment and helps your bottom line! Projects will cost less through reduced disposal fees, and tax breaks are available by donating usable material. Separating materials will earn Green Building Points which may accelerate the permit review process through the City of Santa Cruz Green Building Program.

Roll-off boxes are available in 10-, 15-, 20- and 30-yard sizes. We offer a: refuse box, regular box, clean fill box, mixed construction and demolition box, concrete box, clean wood box, and recycling box. **Save money by staging box-types during different phases of construction!**

**Order boxes** by calling Customer Service at 420-5220

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Construction Materials

Keep good, usable materials out of the landfill. Donate good quality construction materials to the Habitat for Humanity, ReStore. It is the environmentally and socially responsible choice. All proceeds from the sale of salvaged items help build new homes around the world.

Now open on the west side of Santa Cruz!
Habitat for Humanity ReStore
719 Swift Street, Santa Cruz  831 824-4704
Open: Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm.

ReStore accepts donations of new and used building materials, hardware, tile, appliances, furniture and household goods.

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Cooking Oil

Cooking oil is accepted for recycling at the GREENSTATION, 433 Ocean St, Santa Cruz
Call 425-9100 for more information.

**Cooking Oil is not accepted for recycling at the City of Santa Cruz Resource Recovery Facility RRF.** Pour cooking oil into a plastic container and place in the garbage.
Diapers

All disposable diapers go in the garbage. Never place diapers in the blue recycling or GreenCyle cart. This includes compostable and biodegradable diapers.

Dori Poles & Pennants

Say NO to balloon decorations! Dori Poles and pennants are a festive no-waste decoration. Special events and parties are fun, but they generate extra waste. Decorations like balloons cannot be reused or recycled. They go in the garbage when the event is over. Instead of filling the trash can after a special event, use decorations that don’t become waste.

The City of Santa Cruz loans Dori Poles and pennants to our City schools free of change to use for graduation and other special events. Reserve Dori Poles for a school event by calling 420-5449.

Drugs - No drugs down the drain!

See medications.

Electronics (E-waste)

Discarded electronic equipment, such as computer monitors, CPUs, digital cameras, printers, network equipment, cables, microwaves, televisions, telephones, video games, cell phones, radios, stereos, VCRs and DVD players, answering machines, printers, fax machines, digital cameras and electronic toys should be taken to the RRF public Drop-off.

Environmentally Acceptable Packaging & Products

The City of Santa Cruz prohibits the use of polystyrene foam (Styrofoam) “take-out” containers by any business offering food or drink, and requires the use of recyclable, biodegradable or compostable containers. New revisions to the City ordinance took effect August 23, 2012. The new revisions prohibit the sale of plastic foam products including plastic foam plates, cups, bowls, coolers, containers, packing peanuts, and other items.

For more information: www.cityofsantacruz.com/ResourceRecovery.
See Polystyrene.
**Fire Extinguishers**

Must be empty of all material. Take to the [RRF](#). If fire extinguisher is full take to the [HHW](#).

**Flammable Liquids**

Flammable liquids such as gas, lighter fluid, turpentine, etc., should be taken to the [HHW](#).

**Fluorescent Tubes & Bulbs**

It is illegal to throw out fluorescent tubes, compact fluorescent bulbs, high-density discharge bulbs, metal halide bulbs, and sodium or neon bulbs. Do not place them in your garbage or recycling cart!

Fluorescent Tubes and Bulbs may be dropped off for recycling at the following locations:

Ace Hardware- 855 Almar Ave, Santa Cruz  
72 Rancho Del Mar, Aptos  
851 Main St, Watsonville

Felton Paint & Hardware - 6291 Highway 9, Felton

Greenspace - 710 Swift St, Santa Cruz

Illuminee 402 Ingalls St, Santa Cruz

Orchard Supply Hardware- 1601 41st Ave, Capitola  
1060 South Green Valley Road, Watsonville

Riverside Lighting 300 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz Resource Recovery Facility- 605 Dimeo Lane, Santa Cruz  
Monday - Saturday

Scarborough Lumber 20 El Pueblo Road, Scotts Valley  
9470 Highway 9, Ben Lomond  
12990 Central Ave, Boulder Creek

Tubes over 4 feet are not accepted. Limit: 10 tubes and compact bulbs per visit. 10 ballasts per visit.

**Food Scraps**

The City of Santa Cruz is currently discussing options to provide a food scrap collection program. Do not place food scraps in your GreenCycle cart. Food scraps are easy to compost. To start composting in your backyard or get a worm bin, check out the [City of Santa Cruz Home Composting $40 Discount Program](#).
Forty percent of our garbage is made up of organics, so start composting today! Composting is nature's way of recycling… with a little help from you! Composting is easy, so to get started, visit us at [City of Santa Cruz Home Composting $40 Discount Program](#).

Don’t Waste Your Greens!

**GreenCycle! cart accepts:**
Leaves, pine needles, prunings and branches (less than 2 feet long and 6 inches in diameter), plants, grass clippings, brush, unpainted/untreated lumber, untreated wood chips, bark, and saw dust (in paper bags). See: Tree Stumps.

**GreenCycle! cart does not accept:**
- No vegetable or food waste,
- no plastic bags,
- no garbage,
- no hazardous materials,
- no glass or plastics,
- no scrap metal (nails and hinges are OK),
- no pitch canker diseased trimmings (declare at gatehouse),
- no bamboo,
- no painted or treated wood,
- no flower pots,
- no dirt, rock, concrete, or bricks, and,
- no animal waste.

**Holiday Trees & Greens**

Holiday Trees are accepted three ways, all FREE:

- **Curbside** – Pick up service runs from January 1 through January 14th. Place your tree next to your cart on your regular service day. Allow a two-foot clearance from the carts. Trees must be six feet in length or less, so cut accordingly.

- **GreenCycle! cart** – Trim branches to fit into the cart with the lid closed so the material slides out when serviced.

- **Drop-off** – Take your tree to the GreenCycle! area at the RRF through the month of January.

Please remove all ornaments, tinsel and tree stands. No flocked trees!

**Glass bottles & jars**

Beer, wine, and soda bottles, glass jars and glass food containers can be placed in your blue recycling cart. All colors of glass and caps and lids are accepted. Paper labels are ok. Rinse clean.

**No ceramics, window glass, mirrors, Pyrex, crystal or light bulbs. Do not bag bottles and jars, keep them loose.**
**Household Hazardous Waste**

Almost every home has common household products containing chemicals that are harmful to humans, animals and the environment. When these products are no longer wanted they become Household Hazardous Waste. It is both **dangerous** and **illegal** to disposal of HHW in the garbage, down any drain, or on the ground. Do the right thing and take your HHW to the nearest Drop-off facility – It’s FREE! In partnership with the County of Santa Cruz you may drop off your material at any of the following HHW Drop-off sites:

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</table>

**All Facilities are closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year’s Day**

The [HHW](#) Drop-off area accepts paint and solvents, brake fluid, cleaning products, pool, hot tub and garden chemicals, aerosol cans, herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, fluorescent bulbs and tubes, unwanted medicine, household and car batteries, mercury thermometers, and propane tanks containing gas. See [Medications](#) or [Needles](#). Take transmission fluid, used motor oil and filters to the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-off Area.

Residents may only transport 15 gallons or 125 lbs. of Household Hazardous Waste in their vehicle. **For more information about Household Hazardous Waste, call 420-2606.**

**For a brochure call 420-5424**

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**Junk Mail**

You may recycle junk mail in your blue recycling cart. Stamps, labels, and cellophane windows are ok. Remove all plastic cards. See [Paper](#).

**Manage junk mail:**

- ✔ Eliminate unwanted mail by calling the sender’s 800 number or by writing “refused” on first class mail.
- ✔ Eliminate duplicate mailings and subscriptions by returning labels to the sender requesting that all but one be removed.
- ✔ For bulk mail, request removal of name. Purge your own mailing lists to eliminate duplication.
- ✔ Re-use envelopes you’ve received by covering up the old address and postage, and affix new label.
- ✔ Go on line at [http://www.donotmail.org](http://www.donotmail.org)

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**Lumber**

See [construction materials](#). See [wood waste](#).
Mercury Devices

Take any item containing mercury directly to the HHW. Place in clear, labeled plastic bag before transporting. Typical items are thermometers, thermostats, dental amalgam and fillings, barometers, manometers, old chemistry sets, and blood pressure measuring devices. See fluorescent tubes and batteries.

Mattresses & Box Springs

Bulky items like mattresses and box springs are accepted for recycling at the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-off Area for a fee. For Special Curbside Bulky Item Pickup, call 420-5220 for fees and to schedule an appointment. See Appliances for information about May & November curbside pickup.

Medications & Drugs

We collect unwanted, unused medications as well as needles (see Needles and Sharps) at several local sites. Keep medicine out of our groundwater, streams and oceans. Never pour medications down any drain, and do not flush down the toilet because our treatment system can’t process these chemicals effectively. Never throw them in the garbage. For more Drop-off sites visit: www.sharpmedsolutions.org.

Take drugs and medications to your nearest take-back program:

✔ Bruce’s Medical Plaza Pharmacy, 550 Water Street- Medicines and Sharps

✔ City of Santa Cruz Police Department, 155 Center Street - Medicines only

✔ City of Santa Cruz Resource Recovery Facility, 605 Dimeo Lane
  HHW Drop-off, Saturdays only 7:30 am to 3:30 pm - Medicines and Sharps

✔ Horsnyder’s Pharmacy, 1226A Soquel Avenue - Medicines and Sharps

✔ CVS, 600 Front Street- Sharps only

✔ CVS, 1700 Mission Street- Sharps only

✔ Safeway Pharmacy, 117 Morrissey Boulevard - Sharps only

✔ Safeway Pharmacy, 2203 Mission Street - Sharps only

✔ UCSC Cowell Health Center Pharmacy, 1156 High Street- Medicines and Sharps

✔ Walgreens, 1718 Soquel Avenue - Medicines and Sharps

✔ Walgreens, 201 Front Street - Medicines and Sharps

✔ Westside Pharmacy, 1401 Mission Street- Medicines and Sharps

DROP OFF DURING STORE HOURS ONLY!
Metal Cans - Keep it loose!

Such as aluminum, tin, steel, bi-metal, and food-aerosol cans are accepted in the blue recycling cart. Containers must be loose, empty, and clean. **Do not place cans in plastic bags.**

Metal - Scrap

Accepted at the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-off area: iron, steel, stainless steel, copper, aluminum, brass, and bronze. Materials will go into our scrap metal pile. Items might include: lounge chairs, sheds, tubing, bed frames, bicycles, cast-iron sinks and bathtubs, cooking pots and pans, electrical wire, eyeglass frames, farming equipment, ladders, industrial cuttings, locks and doorknobs, office equipment and furniture, park and playground equipment, pipe, re-bar, structural steel building frames, tools, telephone wire, as well as aluminum siding, doors, and window frames. We also take automobile parts, lawnmowers, motors, and transmissions (fluids must be removed). **Do not place scrap metal in the blue recycling cart.**

Milk & Juice Containers

Waxed cardboard cartons and aseptic packaging (such as soy milk containers and juice boxes) are **not recyclable. Do not** place in the blue recycling cart! **Place in the garbage.** Plastic milk jugs are accepted in the blue recycling cart.

Motor Oil

See [Oil and Filters](#).

Needles & Sharps

*It is illegal to dispose of needles in the trash or recycling container.*

To properly dispose of sharps and needles, place them in a dedicated, approved, red sharps container (found at pharmacies) and drop off the full container at one of the City of Santa Cruz take-back participants listed in **Medications and Drugs**.

For a full list of Drop-off sites visit: [www.sharpmedsolutions.org](http://www.sharpmedsolutions.org).
**Oil & Filters**

Put used motor oil in a 2 ½ gallon container provided by the City of Santa Cruz. Place drained filters in zip-lock bag. Leave both next to blue recycling cart - **not inside**! Do not mix used motor oil with antifreeze, gasoline or other contaminants. To receive a free 2 ½ gallon oil container, call 420-5220. Or bring used oil and filters to the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-off Area (no drums). **Absolutely NO solvents.**

See [Cooking Oil](#).

**Newspaper**

Accepted in the blue recycling cart. No need to bundle. See [paper](#).

**Ovens**

See [appliances](#).

**Paint**

**FREE PAINT PROGRAM** Each year thousands of gallons of paint are left over from home improvement projects. Bring your excess latex or oil-based paint to the [HHW](#) Drop-off facility. All paint is sorted by color, blended together, and offered to the public free of charge. This provides a no-cost alternative to many painting projects. **Available on a first-come, first-served basis.**

If your paint can contains less than 2 inches of paint, open the lid and let the paint dry. After the paint is dry you may then place the container in the garbage.

**Paper**

White and colored paper, binder, bond, typing, copier, fax paper, ream wrappers and all envelopes (windows, labels and stamps are OK) are accepted. Brochures, catalogues, magazines, telephone books and newspaper (no need to bag or bundle with string) are accepted. Paper bags, manila envelopes and file folders are accepted in your blue recycling cart.

**No shredded paper.** See [shredded paper](#).

**Paperboard**

Cereal and shoe boxes, egg cartons, paper towel rolls, beer and soda packs, and manila and bleached file folders are all accepted in your blue recycling cart.

**Pesticides**

Bring to the [HHW](#) Drop-off; there is no charge.
Pet Adoption - A rescued pet is a recycled pet

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rescue!
There are thousands of dogs and cats in our area that need homes. If you are looking for a pet to adopt check these local organizations and agencies
Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter: www.scanimalshelter.org 831-454-7200
Santa Cruz SPCA: www.santacruzspca.org 831-465-5000
Animal Friends Rescue Project (AFRP) www.animalfriendsrescue.org 831-333-0722
PetSmart Adoptions 831-333-0722
See article, The Recycled Dog!

Pet Medications

Pet medications should never be flushed down the drain and needles require special handling. It is illegal in California to dispose of needles or medications in any refuse or recycling cart! The City of Santa Cruz and local pharmacies offer a FREE “take-back program.” You may include drugs, ointments, vitamins, flea control products, shampoo, and lotions. It’s OK to combine all of the items (including human drugs) in a single Ziploc bag, but please leave liquids in the original container. Secure human and/or pet needles in an approved, red sharps container. (Sharps containers are available at local pharmacies for a small fee.)
Give medicines and red sharps container to pharmacy counter staff.
Please do not take pet medications to the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter or the SPCA.
See Medications & Drugs

Pet Supplies

Pet Food - Donate unneeded pet food to Heather’s Pet Food Bank at the Santa Cruz SPCA (address below) to help low-income, homeless, and senior pet guardians.
Cat Food - Donate to Project Purr at the Santa Cruz Co. Animal Shelter (address below).

Pet Supplies - Donate clean usable items, i.e. towels and blankets (no dog beds or used cat trees) to either:
Santa Cruz Co. Animal Shelter 2200 7th Ave., Santa Cruz 831-454-7200 or Santa Cruz SPCA 2685 Chanticleer Ave., Santa Cruz 831-465-5000
Other blanket collection locations: www.anniesblankets.org

Pet Waste - The Scoop on Poop!

Place all cat and dog droppings and kitty litter, along with their plastic bags, in the brown trash cart where they belong. Feces of any kind is not recyclable nor should it be home composted. Keep pet droppings and cat litter out of the blue recycling cart and out of the GreenCycle! cart. Before mowing your lawn, clean up the dog droppings so that they do not end up in the GreenCycle! cart along with grass clippings.
Note: Biodegradable/flushable doggie doo bags should not be flushed down a toilet. If you use these bags, make sure to put them in the garbage.
Phone Books

Phone books are accepted in your blue recycling cart.

Photographic Chemicals

Bring to the HHW Drop-off; there is no charge.

Photographs, film & negatives

Photographs have a polyester coating and therefore are not recyclable. Also, old film and negatives are not recyclable. Place these items in the trash.

Plastic

Plastic bottles, containers, and tubs (#s 1-5 and 7) are accepted in the blue recycling cart. Plastics must be clean. Caps are OK. Polystyrene #6 (Styrofoam) is not accepted in the City of Santa Cruz recycling program. See plastic bags. See polystyrene.

Plastic Bags

As part of our new co-mingled program we now accept bagged plastic bags in our curbside recycling carts! BAG YOUR BAGS! Place used plastic bags into one sturdy grocery-sized plastic bag and tie the top using the bag itself! Bags must be empty of any material. They should be clean, dried, bagged and tied!

You may also include household plastic film in the bag with the plastic bags. This is flexible, stretchable thin plastic such as the packaging around paper towels, toilet paper, cases of water, magazines, etc.

NO SINGLE BAGS! Loose or single bags are not accepted. Loose bags get caught in recycling machinery and cause expensive damage. They become airborne in the wind polluting our environment and littering the landscape. When loose bags reach the ocean, they resemble jellyfish and are ingested by whales and other sea life.

No rubber bands, string, twist ties or tape, please!

Minimize waste! Use your plastic bags over and over. Better yet, say “NO” to plastic bags when shopping. Currently we are not accepting plastic bags or film plastic from commercial customers.

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:

- No hard or rigid plastics
- No six-pack rings
- No Tyvek
- No foam plastics
- No photographic film
- No strapping or twine
- No food or liquids
- No dirt or organic matter
- No receipts or other paper
- No wood, metal, glass or grit
- No rigid bag handles or drawstrings
- No woven plastic bags or tarps

See: Single Use Bags
Plastic – Rigid

Items such as plastic lawn chairs, toys, buckets, storage containers, black nursery pots, and hangers are accepted at the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-off Area for Recycling, free of charge. Do not place these items in your blue cart.

Plywood

Plywood or engineered wood products are not accepted in your GreenCycle cart. Plywood is manufactured using glue that disrupts the reprocessing of the material into a usable form. Fiberboard and Oriented Strand Board are impregnated with resins that make the wood fibers unrecoverable. We do accept plywood, fiberboard and Oriented Strand Board in our Construction & Demolition (C&D) materials program at the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-off Area, where we grind it and use it to cover the garbage at the end of the day. See Construction Materials.

Polyethylene Plastic Sheeting (Visqueen)

Clean plastic sheeting is accepted at the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-off Area for recycling, free of charge. If the sheeting is extremely dirty or covered in paint, place in the garbage. Plastic sheeting may be black or clear. Do not place in your blue recycling cart.

Polystyrene (Styrofoam)

Polystyrene is not recyclable in the City of Santa Cruz.

Block Styrofoam - place in garbage.

Peanuts - Save and use again, or take to a local mailing house such as the United Parcel Service (UPS) Stores. Three locations in Santa Cruz: 343 Soquel Avenue, 849 Almar Avenue and 251 Sylvania Avenue.

Pool & Hot Tub Chemicals

NEVER place these chemicals in the garbage or in your blue recycling carts. These acids are harmful to refuse and recycling workers. HHW Drop-off only! FREE!

Prescription Drugs

See medications.
Pressure Treated Wood

*Not* recyclable. Take to the [RRF](#) and declare material at gatehouse.

Printer Cartridges - Re-Think & Re-Ink!

Nearly 2 billion cartridges are thrown into our landfills every year. These cartridges are made of petroleum and non-biodegradable materials. They can be refilled several times before their useful life is up! Do your part to keep them out of the landfill.

Have your printer cartridge refilled at:

**Rapid Refill Ink** - 1715 Mission St. Santa Cruz, 423-4030

The City of Santa Cruz has partnered with Rapid Refill Inc. to make inkjet cartridge recycling more convenient. **Drop off your old inkjet or toner cartridges in the Rapid Refill collection boxes at the following locations:**

- **Aptos Library**, 7695 Soquel Drive, Aptos
- **Boulder Creek Library**, 13390 West Park, Boulder Creek
- **Branciforte Library**, 230 Gault Street, Santa Cruz
- **Capitola Library**, 2005 Wharf Road, Capitola
- **Downtown Library**, 224 Church Street, Santa Cruz
- **City of Santa Cruz Public Works**, 809 Center St. Room 201, Santa Cruz
- **Felton Library**, 6299 Gushee, Felton
- **Garfield Park Library**, 705 Woodrow, Santa Cruz
- **LaSelva Beach Library**, 316 Estrella, La Selva Beach
- **Live Oak Library**, 2380 Portola Drive, Santa Cruz
- **Scotts Valley Library**, 251 Kings Village Road, Scotts Valley

Propane Tanks

**Caution!** Do not place old tanks in your garbage or recycling: they can explode and cause serious injury! When tank is empty of all propane, you may take it to the [RRF](#) where staff will place it in the scrap metal pile. If you have a broken valve on a tank in which there is still gas, take the tank to the [HHW](#) Drop-off. By law all tanks between 4 and 40 lbs. must have an Overfill Protection Device.

Recycling Guides & Video

View the [City of Santa Cruz Recycling Guide](#).
Also find a handy recycling guide in your AT&T phone book. Look for pages with the green edge under "R" in the yellow pages.

[**Santa Cruz Recycles! video**](#) - see your recycling center in action!
Recycle Right! Program

The City of Santa Cruz has a new program designed to improve the quality of business and residential recycling. City staff are now inspecting mixed recycling carts and cardboard containers to identify and document contamination sometimes found in recycling containers or carts (trash, food, diapers, syringes, etc.). Your business or residence will be informed of any issues of contamination. Our priority is for your business or residence to be successful and for you to “Recycle Right!” Call 831-420-5546. See Recycling Guides & Video.

RV Sewage

It is illegal to put any raw sewage in a gutter or down storm drains (only rain down the drain!). Failure to comply may cost you a Notice of Violation and a $500 fine. Local gas stations may provide an RV discharge outlet, typically at a modest fee. New Brighton Beach State Park has an outlet for discharging RV wastes. If you see anyone discharging any material into a gutter or storm drain, dial 9-1-1 immediately!

Second Chance Store

2nd Chance Stores are part of the HHW program and they offer good and usable products to the public FREE OF CHARGE! Products commonly available: paint, wood stains and preservatives, cleaning products, garden products, automotive products, caulking and adhesives.

The Santa Cruz HHW facility is open Saturdays 7:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Call 454-2606 for more information. See HHW

Shredded Paper

Do not place shredded paper in your blue recycling cart. Shredded paper may only be recycled when dropped off at the RRF.

For disposal, seal shredded paper in a paper or plastic bag and place in your brown garbage cart. This prevents the shredded paper from becoming litter. Shredded paper may be composted or vermi-composted (in worm bins). Check out the City of Santa Cruz Home Composting $40 Discount Program to get started with home composting.
**Single-Use Bags**

The Single-Use Bag ordinance bans retail businesses from providing customers with single-use plastic carry-out bags and requires businesses to charge 10-cents for each paper carry-out bag. It also requires paper bags to contain 40% post-consumer content. The retailer keeps the 10-cent charge to offset the program implementation costs. Restaurants are not covered by the ordinance. The law allows single-use bags used to contain loose items prior to checkout such as produce or bulk items, or to protect items placed in a carry-out bag such as meat or wet items. The law encourages businesses of offer, and customers to use, reusable bags.

See [Bags](#)


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**Sinks**

Accepted at the [RRF](#) Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-off Area. Metal sinks may be placed in the metal bin along with hardware at no charge. Porcelain sinks should have the hardware removed (such as faucets) and are accepted for a fee.

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**Smoke Detectors**

Take to the [HHW](#) Drop-off.

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**Storm Drains**

Do not dump anything in storm drains, gutters or on the ground. Storm drains flow directly into Monterey Bay. Storm water pollution is the greatest threat to water quality. [Storm Drains](#)

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**Styrofoam**

See [polystyrene](#).

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**Televisions**

It is illegal to landfill cathode ray tubes. Take to the [RRF](#) Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-off Area at no charge.

See [electronics](#).

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**Textiles - for salvage**

Textiles and clothing are not accepted in the blue recycling cart. Textiles too worn for resale including: old clothes, sheets, towels, and blankets can be recycled at Hope Services, located at 220 Lincoln Street in Santa Cruz. Hours are M-F 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Goodwill Industries accepts textiles for salvage at the loading dock near the Goodwill Bargain Outlet at 292 Pioneer Street, Santa Cruz. Donations should be bagged or boxed and labeled ‘Textiles for Salvage.’ The Goodwill retail stores do not accept textiles for salvage.
**Thermostats**
See [Household Hazardous Waste](#) or [Mercury Devices](#).

**Tires**
Take to the RRF for recycling. Vehicle tires and bicycle tires are accepted for a fee. Tubes are not recyclable and should be placed in the garbage.

**Toilets**
Accepted at the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-off area; there is no charge. Porcelain toilets must have metal hardware and toilet seats removed. *(Low Flow toilet rebate.)*

**Tree Stumps**
Accepted at the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-off Area for a fee.

**Visqueen**
See [Polyethylene Plastic Sheeting](#)

**Wine Corks**
Wine corks may be recycled through the Re-Cork America Program. Take used wine corks to Whole Foods 911 Soquel Ave, Santa Cruz and place them in the Re-Cork collection bin. Do not place wine corks in your blue recycling cart. Before recycling wine bottles please remove the corks.

**Woodwaste**
Accepted at the GreenCycle! Drop-off area of the RRF for a fee.