What do we do with all this STUFF?

The City of Santa Cruz resident’s guide to reducing, reusing, recycling, composting, and disposing.
The Resource Recovery Facility (RRF) is located at 605 Dimeo Lane, three miles north of Santa Cruz off of Highway 1. It is open Monday through Saturday from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm. **Closed Sundays.** The Facility includes the Landfill, Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-Off Area, and **GreenCycle!** Drop-Off. The Facility is 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).

The Household Hazardous Waste Facility (HHW) - The Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off site is located at the Resource Recovery Facility at 605 Dimeo Lane, three miles north of Santa Cruz, up Highway 1. **The Household Hazardous Waste drop-off site is open Saturdays only from 7:30 am to 3:30 p.m.**
**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 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 also 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**
Washers, water heaters, microwaves, stoves, air conditioners, dryers, refrigerators, etc. are picked up at curbside twice a year in May and November on Appliance 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, Tuesdays only, all year. Call 420-5220 for fees and information.

**Asbestos**
Not accepted at RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-Off Area or HHW drop-off. Call Marina Landfill at 384-5313. There is a $25 minimum charge.
**Aseptic Packaging**

Packages such as juice boxes or soy milk containers are **not recyclable**. Place in the garbage.

**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; there is no charge. From residential sources only. **Do not place auto batteries in blue recycling cart.**

**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**

Buy reusable bags and use them over and over! Place **paper bags** of any color in your blue recycling cart. See also [Plastic Bags](#).

**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 also [Auto batteries](#).

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

- ✔ Branciforte Library, 230 Gault Street
- ✔ Central Branch Library, 224 Church Street
- ✔ Garfield Park Library, 750 Woodrow Avenue
- ✔ City of Santa Cruz Public Works Department, 809 Center Street, Room 201
- ✔ City of Santa Cruz Customer Service Municipal Utilities, 212 Locust St.
- ✔ City Hall, Locust Street Parking lot trash enclosure area, call 420-5449 for instructions.
- ✔ Louden Nelson Community Center, 301 Center Street
- ✔ Resource Recovery Facility, Monday-Saturday, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm
**Books**

**ACCEPTED at any City/County Library:** Hard cover and soft cover books, original DVDs and music CD’s (no copies), and books on cassette. Also local photographs and postcards are accepted (identifying information and dates appreciated).

**NOT ACCEPTED:** No catalogues, VHS tapes, magazines, vinyl records, textbooks, or newspapers.

To donate historic items such as photos, videos, 16 mm films, slides, historic newspapers, please contact the Library administration at 420-5600.

For City/County Library locations, please visit: [http://www.santacruzpl.org/libinfo/telnos.shtm](http://www.santacruzpl.org/libinfo/telnos.shtm).

Also see phone books and paper.

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**Bulky Household Items**

Bulky items such as couches, dressers, mattresses or old tables are accepted at the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-Off Area for a fee. Our Special Curbside Bulky Item Pickup operates on Tuesdays only. Call 420-5220 for fees and appointment.

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**Cardboard**

Place smaller pieces into your blue recycling cart. Large amounts of loose cardboard are accepted at the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-Off Area at no 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 may be composted in your home compost bin. Check out the City of Santa Cruz Compost Bin Program for more information.

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**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.
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.

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, wood, 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 C&D boxes by calling Customer Service at 420-5220
Drugs

No drugs down the drain! See medications.

Electronics (E Waste)

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

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 put 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 Racho Del Mar, Aptos
451 Main St, Watsonville

ProBuild- 235 River St, Santa Cruz
2435 41st Ave, Soquel

GreenSpace- 1122 Soquel Ave, Santa Cruz

Scarborough Ace Hardware-218 Mt Hermon Rd,SV

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

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

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

Ben Lomond Transfer Station- 9835 Newell Creek Road, Ben Lomond-

Buena Vista Landfill– 1231 Buena Vista Drive, Watsonville
**Holiday Trees**

Holiday Trees are accepted three ways, all free:

- **Curbside** – place your tree next to your carts on your regular collection day in the second week of January. Allow a three-foot clearance from the carts. Trees must be six feet in length or less, so cut accordingly.

- **GreenCycle! cart** – Cut 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.

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**Green (organic) material**

25% of our garbage is made up of organics, so start composting today! Visit us at City of Santa Cruz Compost Bin Program.

*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.

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**Glass bottles & jars**

Beer, wine, and soda bottles, glass jars and food containers can be placed in your blue recycling cart. All colors of glass and caps and lids accepted. Paper labels are ok. Rinse clean. **No ceramics, window glass, mirrors, Pyrex or crystal.**

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**Food Scraps**

The City of Santa Cruz is currently in negotiations to provide a food scrap collection program along with your GreenCycle! program. To start home composting or get a worm bin, check out the City of Santa Cruz Compost Bin Program.
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City of Santa Cruz RRF</th>
<th>Buena Vista Landfill</th>
<th>Ben Lomond Transfer Station</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Household Hazardous Waste site</td>
<td>Open Tues, Wed, &amp; Sat 7:30 to 3:30</td>
<td>Open Thurs &amp; Sun 7:30 to 3:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>605 Dimeo Lane (3 miles north of Santa Cruz up Highway 1)</td>
<td>1231 Buena Vista Drive, Watsonville</td>
<td>9835 Newell Creek Road, Ben Lomond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>1 mile south of Highway 1</td>
<td>Off Glen Arbor Road</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All Facilities are closed Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year 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 also 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.

Junk Mail

Also see paper. You may recycle junk mail in your blue recycling cart.

Manage junk mail:

✔ Eliminate unwanted mail by calling the sender's 800 number or 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

Lumber

See woodwaste.
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 also: fluorescent tubes and batteries.

Medications & Drugs

We collect unwanted, unused medications as well as needles (see Needles and Sharps) at several local sites (see list below). 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 drop-off sites visit: www.sharpmedsolutions.org.

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

✓ Bruce’s Medical Plaza Pharmacy*, 550 Water St. -Sharps only
✓ City of Santa Cruz Police Department, 155 Center St. -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 Ave. -Medicines and sharps
✓ Long’s Drugs*, 600 Front St. -Sharps only
✓ Long’s Drugs*, 1700 Mission St. -Sharps only
✓ Safeway Pharmacy*, 117 Morrissey Blvd. -Sharps only
✓ UCSC Cowell Health Center Pharmacy*, 1156 High St. -Medicines and Sharps
✓ Walgreens*, 1401 Mission St. -Medicines and Sharps
✓ Westside Pharmacy*, 1401 Mission St. -Medicines and Sharps

* = Ask for your $3 coupon at these locations to purchase a red, sharps container.

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 (available Tuesdays only), call 420-5220 for fees and appointments.
**Metals**

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 blue carts.**

**Metal Cans**

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.**

**Milk & Juice Containers**

Waxed cardboard cartons and aseptic packaging (such as soy milk containers) are **not recyclable. Do not** place in the blue recycling cart! Place in 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 in pharmacies) and drop off the full container at one of the City of Santa Cruz take-back participants listed in **Medications and Drugs**.

A $3 coupon is available at participating City pharmacies to purchase a red, dedicated sharps container. Ask for a coupon at check-out. For a full list of drop-off sites through the county visit: [www.sharpmedsolutions.org](http://www.sharpmedsolutions.org).
**Newspaper**

Accepted in the blue recycling cart. See also [paper](#).

**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).

**Ovens**

See [appliances](#).

**Paint**

If your paint can contains less than 2 inches of paint, open the lid and let the paint dry, then place the container in the trash. Bring excess oil or latex paint to the [HHW](#). Paint is sorted by type and color, blended and offered to the public free of charge!

**Paper**

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

**Phone Books**

Phone books are accepted in your blue recycling cart.
Photographic Chemicals

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

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!

Pesticides

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

Plastics

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

Plastic Bags

Bag Your Bags!
Place dry, clean plastic bags into one sturdy grocery-sized plastic bag and tie the top using the bag itself. Place in your blue recycling cart. No single bags accepted! Single bags cause expensive damage to recycling machinery. Do not place loose or single plastic bags in any cart.

Only bags that are flexible, stretchable, thin plastic are accepted, including grocery and merchandise bags, produce and bread bags, Ziploc bags, bubble wrap, dry cleaner bags, and plastic packaging like on cases of soda and water. NO hard or rigid plastics (see Plastics - Rigid). No six-pack rings, No Tyvek, No foam plastics, No strapping or twine, No contaminates, No woven plastic bags, and No tarps. Place those items in your brown refuse cart.

Bags must be empty
Bags should be clean, dried, bagged and tied.
No rubber bands, string, twist ties, or tape

You may mingle plastic bags and plastic film together in one bag.
Say NO to plastic bags. Use cloth instead!

Plastics– Rigid

Items such as plastic lawn chairs, toys, buckets, storage containers, black nursery pots, and lids are accepted at the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-Off Area for recycling. Do not place these items in your blue 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) Store, 343 Soquel Ave. or 849 Almar Ave.

Prescription Drugs

See also medications.

Pressure Treated Wood

Not recyclable. Take to the RRF and declare material at gatehouse.

Printer Cartridges

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.

To have your printer cartridge refilled visit:
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
Central Library, 224 Church Street, Santa Cruz
City of Santa Cruz Public Works Department, 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 Selava Beach
Live Oak Library, 2380 Portola Drive, Santa Cruz
Scotts Valley Library, 230-D Mt. Hermon Road, Scotts Valley
RV Sewage

It is illegal to put any raw sewage material 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.**

Shredded Paper

Do **not** place shredded paper in your blue recycling cart. For disposal, seal the shredded paper in a paper or plastic bag and place in your brown refuse 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 Compost Bin Program](#) to get started composting. Shredded paper can only be recycled when dropped off at the RRF.

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.**

Smoke Detectors

Take to the [HHW Drop-Off](#).
**Styrofoam**
See polystyrene.

**Televisions**
It is illegal to landfill cathode ray tubes. Take to the RRF Public Refuse and Recycling Drop-Off Area at no charge. See also electronics.

**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 hardware removed (such as toilet seats and metal). Low Flow toilet rebate.

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

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