

County of Santa Cruz



CURBSIDER

JANUARY 2015

Battery Recycling Charged Up

Page 2

Where To Take It Back

Page 2

Producer Responsibility

Page 3

Sharps Disposal Now Easier

Page 4

Carpet Recycling at County Disposal Sites

Page 4

Too Many Phone Books?

Page 5

Refillable Propane Bottles

Page 5

Recycling Resources

Back Page



Battery Recycling Charged Up

When a battery goes dead, you might just take it along with you to the store to be sure you get the correct replacement. Wouldn't it be great if you could just leave the old battery at the store? Well, now you can at 40 retailers in Santa Cruz County.

A new recycling program accepts all types of household batteries together: AA, AAA, C, D, 9-volt, button cells, alkaline, NiMH, lithium, rechargeable, phone, hearing aid, watch, tool – any type of small dry cell battery. Cell phones are accepted, too. Customers are asked to bag up individual batteries in the plastic bags provided to assure safe shipping. Batteries collected in this program will be recycled to the highest standards of resource conservation and environmental protection. The take-back program is operated by Call2Recycle, a battery stewardship organization funded by battery manufacturers, at no cost to retailers or local government.

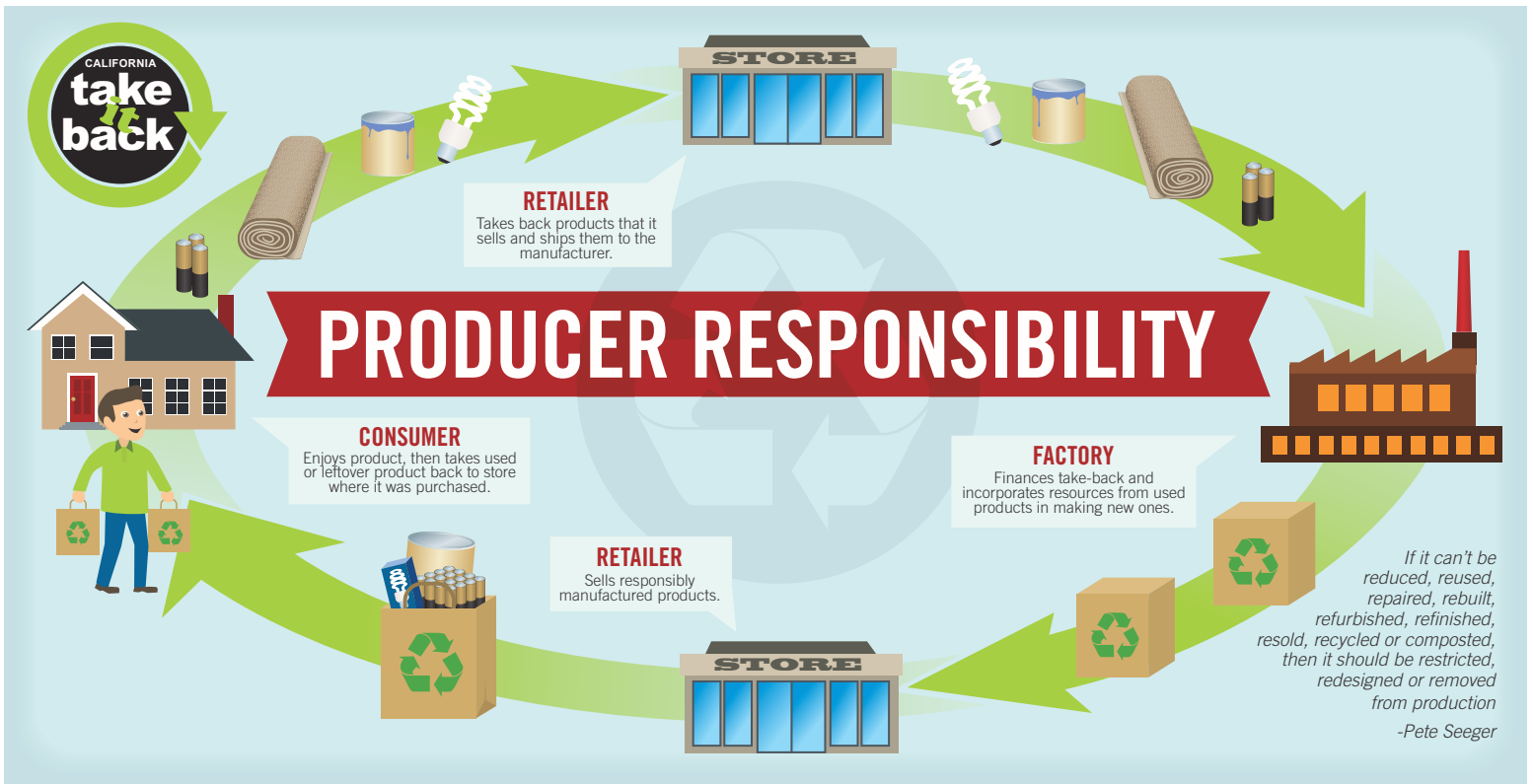


Where To Take It Back

Many products can now be taken back to the store where they were purchased or to a program sponsored by the manufacturer. Check out the new Take It Back section on the County's recycling website for details about take-back options for paint, motor oil & filters, medications, medical sharps, fluorescent lamps, household batteries, carpet, and refillable propane canisters.

For take-back locations, visit www.SantaCruzCountyRecycles.org or call County Public Works at (831) 454-2160.





When garbage collection service began in Santa Cruz County in 1926, residential discards were much simpler. Man-made goods amounted to only ten percent of the trash. Today three-quarters of municipal solid waste consists of manufactured products and packaging. High-tech factories produce many products with complex combinations of multiple materials that are difficult to separate and recycle, including hazardous substances. With the allure of convenience, more products are designed for a single use. Your local government is left with the task of cleaning up the resulting waste.

The makers of a product actually have the greatest ability to minimize adverse impacts of what they make by re-evaluating the product design concept. Some product manufacturers have adopted responsible policies and instituted take-back programs on their own. Interface Carpet, the world's largest manufacturer of commercial carpet tile, is a shining example thanks to the vision of its CEO Ray Anderson. The company takes back all of its worn-out carpet and incorporates the materials in new products. In contrast, most companies accept such responsibility only as a result of laws requiring them to do so.

Extended Producer Responsibility or EPR refers to a mandatory type of product stewardship. EPR laws generally target products that contain hazardous materials or are otherwise difficult or expensive to manage when they are discarded. A few EPR laws have passed in California with the support of the industries that produce the affected products. Other proposed take-back laws, such as for prescription medications and batteries, have failed due to vigorous opposition by the same corporations that are successfully participating in take-back programs in the European Union and several Canadian provinces where EPR laws are now common.

An effective EPR law will cause the true cost of a product's ultimate disposal or recycling to be reflected in its sales price. As the manufacturer must now take back and manage the waste product, this market signal can affect the product design to reduce the use of hazardous components, increase the product's recyclability, or extend the product's useful life through enhanced durability.

California has enacted four EPR laws to date. The implementation of two of these laws has already created new opportunities locally for residents to dispose of designated products. Carpet is now accepted for recycling at the Buena Vista Landfill and Ben Lomond Transfer Station. Six retail paint stores now take back leftover paint, while Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) facilities continue to accept paint.

Under EPR legislation, manufacturers may create a stewardship organization that sets up a product take-back program, often in conjunction with retail outlets. A retail store that agrees to take back a product they sell at the end of its useful life also meets key criteria toward certification in the Green Business Program (www.montereybaygreenbusiness.org).

California EPR laws currently on the books:

- AB 2347 of 2008 – Mercury Thermostat Recycling
- AB 1343 of 2010 – Architectural Paint Stewardship
- AB 2398 of 2010 – Producer Responsibility for Carpet
- SB 254 of 2013 – Used Mattress Recovery and Recycling

Sharps Disposal Now Easier

Of the 39 retail pharmacies in Santa Cruz County, 28 take back used hypodermic needles and other medical sharps from the public at no charge. This convenience is a boon for people with diabetes and others who take medicines intravenously. Pet owners who administer injectable medications to their furry friends also appreciate the nearly ubiquitous take-back options. Most of these pharmacies signed up when the County-sponsored Sharp Solutions for Home Medicines Program launched in 2008.

Pharmacy owners and managers were motivated to sign up for this program to offer a community service, and they appreciate the customer loyalty and good will their participation generates. In addition, 12 pharmacies also take back unused medications. The newest sharps collection sites are the Rite Aid pharmacies in Felton and Aptos. These two stores made the change as a direct result of a County ordinance adopted in August 2014 that now requires any seller of sharps in the unincorporated county to take them back. Local cities may also consider such an ordinance.

Pharmacies will only accept needles contained in an approved sharps container, usually made of hard red plastic. All sharps users are advised to follow State law by not disposing of sharps in the garbage or recycling and by using an approved container to store and transport the needles to a safe take-back site. Sharps containers are available for



sale at all sharps take-back sites. Residents who still have needles in an unapproved container may take them to a Household Hazardous Waste Facility during open hours, as HHW sites are equipped to handle such potentially harmful waste.

Better management of sharps is aimed at reducing needle-stick injuries among the general public and particularly sanitation workers. For take-back locations and information, visit: www.sharpsmedsolutions.org.

Carpet Recycling at County Disposal Sites

Thanks to a recent state law, carpet can once again be recycled in Santa Cruz County. Last May the Ben Lomond Transfer Station began accepting carpet at a discounted rate, and the Buena Vista Landfill began offering the recycling discount in November. Carpet must be separated from padding, tack strips and other trash, and then rolled in manageable lengths. Disposal site patrons are asked to deposit rolls in the carpet collection container. Rolled foam carpet pad is also accepted.

When new carpet is purchased, a recovery fee of a nickel per square yard is charged, which pays for transportation and other expenses of recycling the carpet fibers into new carpet and other products. The California Carpet Stewardship program was established by State law in 2010.



**Take Carpet To:
The Buena Vista Landfill or
The Ben Lomond Transfer Station.**

Too Many Phone Books?

HOW TO OPT-OUT www.yellowpagesoptout.com

It's easy to limit delivery of phone books to just the ones you want, or to stop all deliveries. Enter your zip code on this web page to find out which directories are distributed in your neighborhood, and customize your delivery preferences. All directory publishers cooperate in this service.

If you still use the phone book you are probably happy to get a new one each year. But do you need three? YP, Yellowbook, and Valley Yellow Pages are telephone directory publishers who each print over 100,000 books every year for distribution in Santa Cruz County.

Several factors are contributing to the decline in phone book use. More people are relying on Internet directories. Landlines are being replaced by cell phones whose numbers are typically not included in phone books. Some publishers have dropped residential white pages entirely from their books.

While phone books are now accepted in all curbside recycling programs and major drop-off recycling centers, wouldn't it be better if the trees weren't cut to make all that paper? Better than recycling our discards is avoiding the use of a product that will later be discarded. Source reduction is the most effective action one can take to minimize our negative impact on our environment.

New Product: Refillable 1 lb. Propane Bottle

Camp stove and lantern, propane torch in the garage, and tiki lights on the patio are among the many tools and appliances powered by small 1 lb. canisters of propane gas. These small cylinders are made for a single use and cannot safely be refilled, and it's not always easy to tell when they are empty. The result is numerous empty or possibly empty bottles to dispose of. It takes 1 pound of steel to make a cylinder strong enough to hold 1 pound of compressed gas.

Enter a new product on the market. At least three manufacturers now make a 1 lb. propane bottle specially designed to be refilled safely while remaining compatible with all the traditional uses of these canisters. Several Ace Hardware locations are among those stores in Santa Cruz County that now carry these refillable canisters and also offer exchange or refilling service. Imagine buying a canister that will last for at least 75 refills. Since the cost of a single-use cylinder is about six times the price of the gas it contains, refillables promise to be a good way to preserve resources and save money at the same time.



Proper disposal of non-refillable 1 lb. propane bottles:

- If empty, deposit in the blue cart for curbside pickup by GreenWaste Recovery, or drop off as scrap metal at a disposal site recycling center.
- If not empty, take to a Household Hazardous Waste facility

HOLIDAY TREE RECYCLING

Curbside pickup and drop-off locations for trees through January 18, 2015.

For more information call (831) 454-2160 or visit www.santacruzcountyrecycles.org



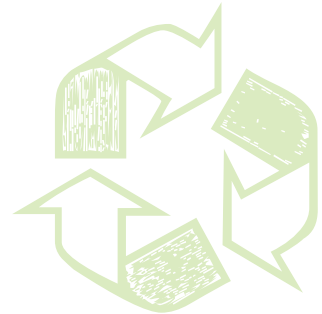
County of Santa Cruz Public Works

701 Ocean Street, Room 410
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2160

Presort Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Complete Mailing
Service, Inc.



Printed on 55% recycled 30% post-consumer waste paper processed chlorine-free, using soy-based inks.



Recycling Resources

Recycle Information Line 831-454-2333
• What and where to recycle (recorded messages)

Curbside Refuse, Recycling and Yard Waste Collection 800-665-2209
(operated by GreenWaste Recovery)
www.greenwaste.com

- Begin new service
- Report missed recycling or trash service
- Request delivery or removal of carts
- Obtain oil recycling jugs

County Public Works Dept. 831-454-2160
www.santacruzcountyrecycles.org
• Apartments and business recycling inquiries
• Complaints, compliments or suggestions
• Report roadside trash 831-477-3999

Household Hazardous Waste 831-454-2606
(recorded messages)
• Schedule for free disposal
• Non-hazardous alternatives
• Free surplus paint

Composting Resources
www.compostsantacruzcounty.org

Buena Vista Landfill & Recycling Center 831-454-5153
• Recorded information 831-454-2430
1231 Buena Vista Drive, Watsonville 95076
Open Mon-Sat 7:30-3:30
HHW Facility - Open Wed, Fri & Sat 7:30-3:30

Ben Lomond Transfer Station & Recycling Center 831-336-3951
• Recorded information 831-454-2430
9835 Newell Creek Road, Ben Lomond 95005
Open Mon-Sat 7:30-3:30
HHW Facility - Open Thursdays 7:30-3:30

City of Santa Cruz Resource Recovery Facility & Recycling Center 831-420-6270
• Open to unincorporated county residents in Davenport and Bonny Doon only
605 Dimeo Lane, Santa Cruz 95060
Open Mon-Sat 7:30-3:30
HHW Facility - Open Saturdays 7:30-3:30

California Grey Bears Recycling Centers 831-479-1055
Mid County, 2710 Chanticleer Avenue, Santa Cruz 95065
..... Open 7:30-3:45 daily
Buena Vista Landfill - Open Mon-Sat 7:30-3:30

SLV Redemption/Recycling Centers 831-335-1728
(operated by Valley Women's Club)
Felton - Hihn & Gushee - Open Thurs-Tues 11-5
Boulder Creek - 12890 Hwy 9 - Open Tues-Sun 11-5
Ben Lomond Transfer Station - Open Mon-Sat 7:30-3:30