

Recycling in Fountain Valley



January 2008



CITY OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY
10200 Slater Avenue
Fountain Valley, CA 92708
www.fountainvalley.org

Contact Numbers

General City Information

(714) 593-4400

Rainbow Disposal

(714) 847-3581

Household Hazardous Material

(714) 834-6752

Public Works

(714) 593-4433

Emergency Police and Fire

9-1-1

Crime Prevention

(714) 593-4423

BYOB: Bring Your Own Bag

Paper or Plastic? Every day, California consumers are faced with that question at grocery store check-out stands. It seems that plastic has been an overwhelming winner of choice. In fact, plastic is so popular that we are using 600 bags per second in California. Of an estimated 19 billion plastic retail bags used annually, less than 5 percent are being recycled.

Now, thanks to a new California law (Assembly Bill 2449), large grocery stores and retail pharmacies are making it easier for customers to recycle their plastic bags. Many local retailers are offering in-store recycling bins for plastics and reusable bags for purchase.

So, why recycle plastic bags? Each year, we throw out 294 million pounds of plastic bags. Reducing the number of bags we throw away by 50 percent would cut our oil use by more than 2,000 barrels a day and keep 73,000 tons of trash out of landfills.

Also, plastic bags do not decay. Rather, they become absorbed by the environment as sunlight breaks down plastic into smaller and smaller pieces.

So, does this mean we should be using paper bags? Not necessarily. To make all the bags we use each year, it takes 14 million trees for paper and 12 million barrels of oil for plastic. The production of paper bags creates 70 percent more air pollution than plastic, but plastic bags create four times the solid waste — enough to fill the Empire State Building two and a half times! The best alternative is to reduce and reuse or simply BYOB — bring your own bag.



Four Helpful Tips!

1. **Use reusable canvas or cloth bags.** Most grocery stores now offer reusable bags for sale to customers. Keep them in your car for the next time you have to run out for groceries and remember to bring them with you inside the store.
2. **Say "No thank you."** Not all items require a bag so tell the clerk, "No thank you." Instead, carry small items in your pocket or purse.
3. **Recycle!** California requires large supermarkets or pharmacies to offer free recycling of plastic bags. Bring those bags with you and recycle them next time you go to the store.
4. **Reuse them.** Be creative! There are many great uses for plastic grocery bags such as trash can liners in the home, lunch bags, packaging material or for doggie waste.



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E-waste: Electronics Abandoned for Newer Models

Faster, more advanced computers, cell phones and electronics offer endless possibilities for enrichment, learning and entertainment. But as consumers and businesses keep up-to-date with the introduction of exciting new products, we are faced with a mounting challenge: what to do with the products we're upgrading *from*?



Hundreds of millions of retired computers, cell phones and electronics — referred to as “e-waste,” sit idle or are discarded by Americans every year, eventually contributing to landfill waste. Toxic substances like lead, cadmium and mercury that are commonly used in these products can contaminate the land, water and air. We need to make smart choices about what to do with our e-waste to help ensure a clean environment for future generations.

California State Law now prohibits the disposal of household e-waste items such as televisions, computers, CPUs, laptops, monitors, desktop copiers, keyboards, microwaves, stereos and CD players, DVD and VCR players into landfills.

We can lend a helping hand by following the mantra of “**Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.**” **Reduce** your generation of e-waste through proper use and good maintenance. **Reuse** still functioning electronic equipment by donating or selling it to someone who can still use it. **Recycle** those components that cannot be repaired.

So how does one rid their home of e-waste? Bring e-waste, and other household hazardous waste, to the County Collection facility located at 17121 Nichols Street in the City of Huntington Beach from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Waste from business is not accepted. There is no cost and the facility is very convenient to use.

To contact an organization that collects specific types of electronic equipment for reuse or recycling, please visit:
<http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/electronics/Collection>

Oceans of Garbage: Perils of Urban Living

Trash cans tend to accumulate heavy odors that may make it tempting to wash them out. Unfortunately, residents often wash out their trash cans with the common misconception that washed out materials which flow into storm drains go into a wastewater treatment plant. The fact is anything that enters the storm drain system eventually flows to the ocean untreated. This includes the washed out bacterial materials, such as food, pet waste and chemicals.

Bacterium is one of the biggest health hazards at our local beaches. The condition of beaches may be worsened due to the contribution of washed out material derived from trash cans. To prevent or reduce odors in your trash cans and help keep our beaches free from pollution, follow the tips below:

1. Dispose of cooking oil in a container with a screw-on lid.
2. Place solid waste such as food and pet waste in a plastic bag prior to placing the material in the trash.
3. Regularly sweep up and remove any solid material from the trash can and place in a trash bag.
4. If you decide to wash out the trash can, do so in an area on your property where the water won't flow to the streets or storm drains, such as the lawn.
5. Use a minimal amount of water to wash out the trash can, and avoid using soaps or other chemicals.

