



## SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

Are you getting ready to tackle those spring cleaning projects? When cleaning out the garage this year it is important to be vigilant to look for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) items that have been banned from being thrown in the trash due to toxic content. To help you identify possible HHW items please review our Household Hazardous Waste Watch List below.

Properly disposing HHW items is free and convenient for residents only. The nearest HHW drop off location is in Livermore at 5584 La Ribera Street. It is an easy location to find, from Pleasanton drive east on highway 580 and exit on to South Vasco Road and make a right on La Ribera Street. Thank you for doing your part to protect our environment.

**For Drop-off Center days and hours of operation please call [StopWaste.Org](http://StopWaste.Org) at (800) 606-6606 or visit [www.StopWaste.Org](http://www.StopWaste.Org) for more information.**

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE WATCH LIST

Paint	Adhesives	Auto	Garden	Misc.
Stain	Putty	Fuel	Sprays	Propane
Shellac	Caulk	Waxes	Fertilizers	Pool Chemicals
Solvents	Epoxy	Batteries	Ant Traps	Photo Chemicals
Thinners	Mortar	Additives	Pesticides	Acids & Caustics
Additives	Stucco	Motor Oil	Herbicides	Household
Oil Paint	Cement	Oil Filters	Rat Poison	Batteries
Latex Paint	Wood Glue	Antifreeze	Gopher Bait	Bleach & Cleaners
				Fluorescent Bulbs

#### We Want Our Service to Be The Best and You Can Help

Please place your carts at the curb edge with at least 3 feet of clearance from other objects, including other carts, basketball hoops and motor vehicles.



#### What Do I Put Into the Organics Cart?

The reason Organics Carts are so important is that using them helps divert materials away from our landfills which is better for the environment. Here is a list to help you use your cart efficiently. Thank you for helping us provide you with the best possible service.

##### Organics Acceptable List

- Grass and weed clippings
- Shrubs and tree prunings (less than 4" in diameter)
- Leaves, plants and flowers
- Food scraps and food soiled paper products

##### Non-acceptable Organics List

- No household garbage
- **No plastic bags**
- No dirt or rocks
- No overloading - lid must be closed

**Amador Valley Industries**

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# ANTS - BE - GONE

## GOT ANTS?

Now that you can put food scraps and food-soiled paper in your green organics cart (yardwaste), here are some less-toxic ways you can control any pesky ants that may be around your food scraps kitchen pail, organics cart, or your garbage cart.

Why use less-toxic products to control ants? Not only are they safer for your home and family, but for the environment as well. Common household pesticides show up in Bay Area creeks, sometimes at levels that can harm sensitive aquatic life. Even applied according to label directions, conventional pesticides may wash into the gutter and down a storm drain where the water flows untreated directly into local creeks and San Francisco Bay.

## STORAGE & BARRIERS

1. Wrap your food scraps in newspaper or paper bags. (Please no plastic bags in the green cart; plastic contaminates the compost).
2. Leave especially attractive food scraps (fruits/sweets) in your refrigerator or freezer until the night before collection.
3. Ants send out scouts (one or two ants). Kill the scouts every time you see them, and eventually, the nest will stop sending them (count on this to take about a month. Ants are slow learners).
4. Ants have trouble climbing up anything slick like vegetable shortening or petroleum jelly. Wipe a ring of either substance around your kitchen pail to stop them.
5. Ants won't cross water, so if you can, set the kitchen pail in a shallow dish of water.
6. Place a barrier on the outside of your organics cart using a waterproof banding material. This material provides a non-absorbent surface for application of a sticky pest barrier product. As the insects climb up over the sticky bands, they become trapped without escape. You will have to monitor the effectiveness of the band since periodic reapplication will be necessary when the sticky pest barrier becomes too dirty.

## ANT BAITES

Ant baits contain a pesticide mixed with an attractive food substance. Ants take small quantities of bait back to their nest to share with their nest mates. In this way the entire nest can sometimes be eliminated. Ant baits are best used inside your home.

1. Use baits with boric acid, hydramethylnon, fipronil, or arsenic as an active ingredient.

2. Keep several different baits on hand because ants change their food preferences frequently. If one bait is not working, try another. Wait at least a day to see if they take the bait.
3. Place the bait in the path of the ants.
4. Baits may take several weeks to kill the ants. At first you may see more ants coming to the bait, but after a few days to a week you should see a significant reduction.
5. When the ants are gone, remove the bait and return it to its original container. Place the container in a plastic bag and seal it to use again.

## INSECTICIDAL DUST

(For inside around kitchen pail storage area) Use diatomaceous earth (DE) in wall voids and cracks before they are sealed. Use a hand duster to apply DE and wear a dust mask and goggles. DE has little toxicity to humans or pets, but kills insects by absorbing their outer waxy coating, causing dehydration and death.

## OTHER SUGGESTIONS

Here are some ant control tips we have compiled through suggestions from residents in other cities that have a food scrap program and from other sources. We DO NOT guarantee the effectiveness of these ideas, but it could certainly be worthwhile to give them a try.

- Dust the ant-infested area around your containers with baking soda or baby powder to stop ants.
- Mix one tablespoon of biodegradable peppermint oil soap with 2 cups of water in a spray bottle, this mixture kills ants on contact and helps drive away future ants.
- To control ants outside, sprinkle anthills with a mixture of equal parts powdered sugar and powdered borax.
- At the point of entry, pour a line of paprika, red chili powder, dried peppermint leaves or cream of tartar.
- Ants dislike salt. Spread a good layer of salt in their path and they will no longer enter.
- Place orange peels or lemon peel in kitchen pail and cart, put peels in ant holes and add water.
- Sprinkle plain old instant grits near ants. The ants eat them, and then go for water, which makes the grits expand inside them & they die.

If you have any questions or suggestions on ant control and food scraps, call Amador Valley Industries

at 925-479-9545 or visit us at [www.AmadorValleyIndustries.com](http://www.AmadorValleyIndustries.com)

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