



Tips For An Early Spring

Homemade Household Cleaners

Making your own household cleaners have two great benefits: they are about a tenth of the cost of store bought alternatives and do not leave the toxic residues that chemical cleaners can. Here are some examples:

All Purpose Cleaner

Mix 2 tsp. Borax and 1 tsp. liquid dishwashing soap in 1 quart of water and store in spray bottle.

All Purpose Tile Cleaner

Add 2 tbsp. Baking soda to 1 quart warm water to clean porcelain tile.

All Purpose Glass Cleaner

Mix 1/4 cup white vinegar (or 2 tbsp. lemon juice) in 1 quart warm water and store in spray bottle.

Oven Cleaner

Mix 2 tsp. Borax, 2 tbsp. dishwashing soap and 1 quart warm water and spray in oven, wait 20 minutes and clean.

Be on the lookout...

When doing your spring cleaning

this year please be on the lookout for old batteries, florescent light bulbs, household kitchen and bathroom cleaners, vehicle fluids, paints, pesticides, pool chemicals because they contain toxins that are poisonous, corrosive or flammable. For more information regarding household hazardous waste disposal call the Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste Program at 1-800-606-6606 or StopWaste.Org at 1-877-STOPWASTE (786-7927).



garbage cart. Deceiving ashes can conceal a hot ember that can start a fire in your garbage cart threatening nearby structures or

at the very least melting holes in your cart causing a big mess and requiring you to pay for a replacement cart.

- Keep your barbecue grill clean and free of grease buildups. If accumulated grease deposits catch fire they can be difficult to put out. It's a good idea to have a fire extinguisher close by just in case.

- Change the batteries in all smoke detectors; use day light savings time as a reminder.
- Check batteries in flashlights; be prepared for power outages.

Springtime Safety Tips

- One important thing to remember is when using a barbecue with charcoal please make sure that the ashes have set for a minimum of 48 hours, then wrap ashes in tin foil and put in

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 they help divert tons of materials away from our landfills which saves costs and is better for the environment. Here is a list to help you utilize 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

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Bay-Friendly Garden Tour Sunday, April 27, 2008 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Showcasing Natural Gardening Techniques

The 5th annual FREE tour continues to celebrate the diverse styles of Bay-Friendly with a new crop of gardens throughout Alameda County. Pleasanton, Dublin and Livermore gardeners adapt traditional landscapes with drought-tolerant perennials better suited to the valley. Backyard farmers across the County grow bountiful harvests of fruit and vegetables and keep goats, chickens and bees for their milk, eggs and honey. Neighbors in Berkeley cultivate a common garden as well as their own backyard retreats. Several of the garden clusters are walkable and/or bikeable. Bay-Friendly gardens offer something for everyone – come and discover ideas for creating your perfect haven.



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Registration for the tour is required. Visit www.BayFriendly.org by April 15, 2008 to register for the tour. Registrants will receive a tour guide book with garden directions and descriptions by mail. Native plants, vegetable starts and Mediterranean perennials can be purchased at select sites on the tour.



Build It Green Home Tour Sunday, June 1, 2008 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Building on the huge success of our past home tours, Build It Green is excited to return and offer our third Build It Green Home Tour in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

Don't miss this one-day self-guided tour showcasing green homes that will introduce attendees to homeowners and building professionals who have built or remodeled green. See houses that look great, save money and are easier on the environment.



Discover green materials like fiber-cement siding, recycled wood decking, bamboo flooring and

recycled glass counter tops. Learn about green technologies such as radiant floor heating, green roofs, greywater systems, solar hot water and solar electric systems.

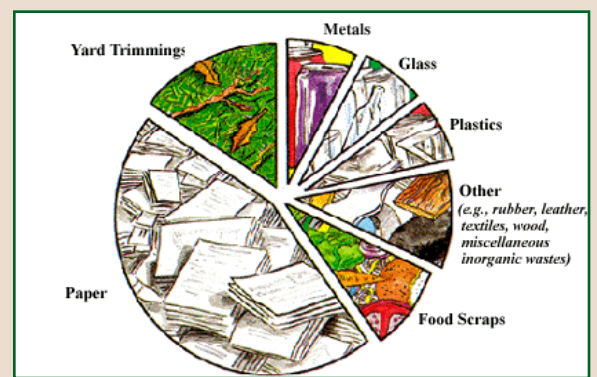
For more information on how to purchase a guidebook for the tour, visit: www.BuildItGreen.org or call 1-888-404-7336.

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF WHAT IS IN AMERICA'S TRASH

TABLE OF TRASH TYPES AND PERCENTAGES

TRASH TYPE	PERCENTAGE	TONNAGE
PAPER	40.4%	71.6 MILLION TONS
YARD TRIMMINGS	17.6%	31.6 MILLION TONS
METALS	8.5%	15.3 MILLION TONS
PLASTICS	8.0%	14.4 MILLION TONS
FOOD SCRAPS	7.4%	13.2 MILLION TONS
GLASS	7.0%	12.5 MILLION TONS
OTHER	11.6%	20.8 MILLION TONS

(E.G., RUBBER, LEATHER, TEXTILES, WOOD, MISCELLANEOUS INORGANIC WASTES)



SOURCE: US EPA

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE RESOURCES OF THE US EPA VISIT WWW.EPA.GOV

In the spirit of conservation we are providing our newsletter online, but please feel free to print it out.