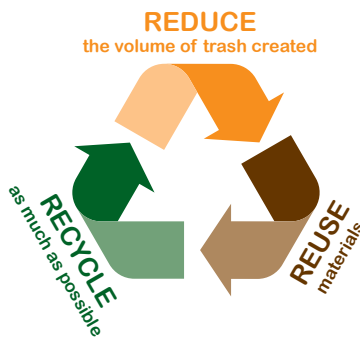




Summertime Recycling

You are probably familiar with the 3 Rs of the recycling process. These days you hear a lot about Recycling, for example, which materials to put in your blue top cart but not as much about the other 2 Rs - Reduce and Reuse.



Reduce, or Precycling

Precycling is trying to reduce waste by “pre-thinking” your purchases. Precycling is part of the answer and becoming a buzz word for this next decade. Precycling is reducing waste

by not acquiring it in the first place (even if it is recyclable). Precycling saves precious natural resources, helps with greenhouse gas reduction and can save you money. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Keep reusable cloth/canvas bags in your car so you will never forget to bring them along when you are shopping. Compared to plastic/paper bags they are more durable and easy to carry.
- Do not accept a bag when making small purchases
- Avoid non-compostable and non-recyclable packaging; avoid polystyrene whenever possible for example egg cartons
- Buy bulk food items to reduce the amount of packaging
- Use refillable water bottles instead of purchasing single-use water bottles when possible

- Use reusable products such as plates, glasses, napkins, dinnerware and tablecloths that may be washed and reused. Many products that are labeled disposable such as plates, cups and silverware are durable enough and can be placed in your dishwasher
- Borrow or rent items that you use only seasonally or occasionally
- Wrap gifts in reusable items to match the occasion like receiving blankets or dish towels
- Make decorations with reusable or recyclable material
- Avoid junk mail

Reuse

This is the most creative of the 3 Rs. This is your opportunity to look at items you would normally just throw away and think of ways to reuse them to take the place of items you might purchase.

- Reuse packing materials – Reuse the wire twist ties that come in toy packaging to bind all sorts of things around the house like extension cords or computer/printer cords. Also, reuse the silica packets that you get in a shoebox or new purse by putting a few of them into boxes and bins with holiday decorations or seasonal clothes to help keep out moisture
- Use a reusable coffee mug, think of how many paper cups and plastic lids could be saved
- Use a permanent coffee filter
- Use a sponge instead of a paper towel
- Store left-overs in durable glass containers, instead of plastic containers that may not be as microwave friendly

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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BARBECUE SAFETY TIPS

You probably can't wait to get out the barbecue and start cooking outdoors again. We would like to share some safety tips with you so that you have a fun and safe summertime.

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 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.
- Never use a barbecue in an enclosed space.
- Keep the barbecue at least 10 feet away from a building or other material.
- Never add lighter fluid after a fire is going.
- Keep face and clothing away from flames.
- Open lid carefully, turning your face away from the fire.
- Although decks are popular places to barbecue, be aware that leaves, dry grass, and other combustible materials collect under them. If a smoldering match or ember is dropped between the boards, it may ignite these materials and the deck. If your deck is close to, or attached to your home, this could present a very serious fire hazard.



E Waste — What is it and what do I do with it?

Ever wonder what to do with your old television, computer, monitor, VCR, printer, fax machine or cell-phone? Well, these common household electronics often referred to as E Waste, cannot be placed in your trash and have been banned from landfill disposal. You may now bring these items to the Pleasanton Transfer Station, located at 3110 Busch Rd. Please let the gatekeeper know if you are disposing of any of these items and he will direct you to a separate drop off area. Fees are based on the item(s) brought to the Transfer Station and cannot be quoted over the phone. For your convenience the Pleasanton Transfer Station is open 7 days a week from 8 AM to 4 PM.



Photography by Marlynn Morshead



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