



Happy New Year Everyone, Let's Make It A Green One!

Start the new year off with making waste reduction and recycling one of your New Year's resolutions. You can trim your waste by eliminating disposable plates and cups from your parties and using cloth napkins and reusable plastic and ceramic plates. Commit to purchasing longer lasting products such as compact florescent light bulbs and rechargeable batteries. You will save money, conserve energy and make less trash.



Announcing "Easy Pay" the Effortless Way to Pay Your Amador Valley Industries Service Bill



No more checks to write. No more stamps or trips to the Post Office. And it's FREE!

Here is how it works. When you enroll in Easy Pay, your Amador Valley Industries payments will always be on time. Your financial institution will automatically deduct the funds from your checking account and show the payments on your checking account statement. You'll save time and money, plus you won't have to worry about missing a payment if you are out of town. If you would like to enroll in Easy Pay, please download the Easy Pay Form and fax documents to 925-846-9323 or mail to Amador Valley Industries, P.O. Box 12617, Pleasanton, CA

94588. The link for the Easy Pay form is <http://www.amadorvalleyindustries/easypay.html>

Tired of Junk-mail?

Is junk-mail cluttering your day, and your home? One idea is to send pre-paid envelopes back with a request that you be taken off the sender's mailing list. Hopefully, they will be responsive and honor your request.



Another idea, and maybe more reliable, is to contact the Direct Marketing Association and request to be taken off their lists. It takes two letters (one P.O. box is for telephone lists, one for mailings, send the same letter to both), this will drastically reduce your junk-mail clutter.

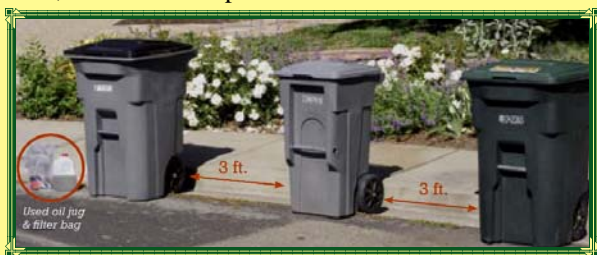
Here are the addresses:

**Direct Marketing Association,
Box 9008
Farmingdale, NY, 11735**

**Direct Marketing Association,
Box 9014
Farmingdale, NY, 11735**

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 helpful 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

Amador Valley Industries

Mailing Address P.O. Box 12617 Pleasanton, CA 94588 - Corporate Address 11875 Dublin Boulevard Suite D167, Dublin CA
Phone 925-479-9545 Fax 925-479-0650



Tips for a Greener Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a great excuse for sending tokens of love to your nearest and dearest and to a secret admirer, or two! But in our desire to show affection for each other, we can overdo it and create a lot of waste.

However, with a little planning, we can choose gifts and goodies that will bring joy to loved ones while caring for the planet.

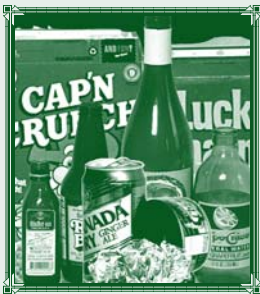
Here are some top tips for making yours greener:

- try and choose a card from a local craft market, especially from designers who use recycled materials
- make your own, if you're artistically gifted
- look for cards in charity shops, where you know the profits are going to a good cause
- always avoid over-packaged cards
- remember to recycle your card - or cards!
- send an e-card or text message - they are good for the environment and for your pocket (especially if you have more than one secret love!)

What about that Valentine's gift? There's nothing wrong with flowers and chocolates, but there are ways of improving on the old tried and tested formulas:

- avoid flowers sent by mail order - they require so much packaging just to keep them safe during transit
- order flowers from a local florist and ask for them to be wrapped in paper that can be recycled and remember to compost the flowers afterwards
- choose chocolate with the Fair Trade label - it helps communities in need and with a higher cocoa content, it simply tastes delicious
- if they're the star of your life, name a star after them.

Valentine's Day wouldn't be complete without the romantic meal. It's easier, and cozier, to go green at home. Save energy romantically and dine by candlelight. And finally, don't forget to recycle your empty bubbly bottle - or bottles!



Interesting End Products

Have you ever wondered what gets recycled into what? Sometimes it's exactly what you'd expect. Old corrugated boxes turn into new corrugated boxes. Newspapers? Same pulp, different news. Glass bottles into glass bottles. But some of the end products may surprise you.

These are just a few examples of the thousands of products that are created using recycled materials that would otherwise wind up in our landfills. Glass beverage containers can be recycled over and over again. But they can also be used for other things you may not expect. Like roads, marbles, decorative tiles and surfboards. And a host of other products and materials.

In 1995, the recycling of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles reached a new high. Thirty four percent of all the bottles produced were being recycled. These bottles are turned into everything from rugs to goggles, park benches and fences to fiber for filling ski jackets. Steel and aluminum cans can be easily recycled for use in other steel and aluminum products. This not only conserves mineral resources, but the recycling process also uses about 75% less energy than using virgin materials. Recycled steel and aluminum finds its way into new cars, bikes, appliances, cookware, and a whole lot more. So remember: almost everything can be recycled except the planet.

Plop, Plop, Fizz, Fizz Oh How Clean It Is!

Now look what you can do with Alka Seltzer.

Clean a toilet: Drop in two Alka Seltzer tablets, wait twenty minutes, brush and flush. The citric acid and effervescent action cleans wonderfully.

Clean a vase: To remove a stain from the bottom of a glass vase or cruet, fill with water and drop in two Alka Seltzer tablets.

Polish jewelry: Drop two Alka Seltzer tablets into a glass of water and immerse the jewelry for two minutes.

Clean a thermos bottle: Fill the bottle with water, drop in four Alka Seltzer tablets, and let soak for an hour (or longer, if necessary).

Unclog a drain: Clear the sink drain by dropping three Alka Seltzer tablets down the drain followed by a cup of Heinz White Vinegar. Wait a few minutes, then run the hot water. And you thought it was just for a headache...

