



Amador Valley Industries

COMMERCIAL

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NEWSLETTER

Quality Control: Imperative to Service

In order for recycling and compost containers to be serviced, they need to be free of anything that isn't recyclable or compostable, including plastic bags, hoses, foam, textiles, tarps, plastic food lining, dishes, polystyrene, and diapers.

Contaminating your recycling and compost containers reduces the recoverability of products and increases costs for everyone. Please make sure that you and all your employees know what is and isn't recyclable or compostable. AVI provide lists, posters, on-site training, and collection containers in various sizes. Utilizing these tools will allow you to:

1. Ensure everyone understands how to recycle and compost.
2. Ensure regular pickups.
3. Avoid contamination surcharges.

Common Contaminants

Plastic bags are the most common contaminant in the recycling and compost; please do **NOT** bag recyclables or compost. The following items are also **NOT** allowed in either the recycling or compost containers and must go in the garbage.




The items below are **NOT allowed in the garbage, recycling, or compost containers** and must be taken to a Recycling and/or Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Visit StopWaste.org/HHW to find a household hazardous waste facility near you. For a complete list of what can go into each container visit the RE:source curbside guide at StopWaste.org/curbside.



Soft & Stretchy Plastics = Garbage

Soft and stretchy plastic items are **NOT** accepted in AVI's recycling program. Common soft and stretchy items that belong in the garbage container include:

- Cleaning wipes
- Face masks
- Plastic gloves
- Plastic storage bags
- Plastic packaging
- Plastic shopping bags
- Film or stretch wrap
- Bubble wrap/mailers
- Condiment packets
- Plastic food wrappers
 - such as foil bags, cereal/cracker box liners, chips/candy wrappers.

Remember that the  symbol does **NOT** always indicate that an item is recyclable. Follow AVI's How-to-Guides at AmadorValleyIndustries.com.

For easy options to reuse, repair, recycle, or safely dispose of just about anything, search StopWaste's RE:Source guide at: Resource.Stopwaste.org

STOPWASTE
at home • at work • at school

AVI Assistance and Resources

AVI offers the following assistance and resources:

- **Free Waste Assessments** to help you determine your organization's garbage, recycling, and food scraps/compost service needs.
- **Free Set-up & Ongoing Support** to help keep your compost and recycling programs running smoothly.
- **Free Resources**
 - Indoor recycling and food scraps/organics containers (supplies limited).
 - Posters & instructional materials.
 - Window decals to let customers know you're doing your part.
 - Special event indoor/outdoor recycling containers.



Available in various sizes and shapes.

How Landfills Work

Modern landfills are carefully engineered and managed facilities for the disposal of our garbage. A landfill is an excavated area in the ground that is filled up in multiple sections called cells. Modern landfills have liners to prevent groundwater contamination. Trucks and machinery will dump trash into one area (cell) until it is full. A full cell is then closed, and dumping begins in a new cell. Once a landfill is full it must be permanently closed. Keeping recyclable and compostable materials out of landfills extends their lifespan.



When organic materials are landfilled, methane is produced. Methane is a highly potent greenhouse gas that fuels climate change. When recyclables (glass, metal, and plastic) are landfilled, viable resources are wasted that could have been reused and made into new products. Recycling reduces emissions associated with resource extraction and manufacturing.

According to CalRecycle, Californians throw away nearly 6 million tons of food waste each year. This represents about 18 percent of all the material that goes into landfills. In order for California to reach its goal of 75% source reduction under State law SB 1383, Californians must reduce organic materials by placing them in the compost bin.

Simple everyday actions like refusing single use items, reducing waste, reusing items, recycling, and composting are important steps that Californians can take to conserve resources and fight climate change.

What Items are Organic?

All organic materials produce methane when placed into a landfill. Organics include anything that was once alive, including cardboard, food scraps, plant debris, soiled paper, and office paper.



Interested in Learning More?



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