



Mill Valley Refuse Service FAQs

Visit our website for complete information: www.millvalleyrefuse.com

WHAT GOES WHERE?

Below we've listed general disposal guidelines but we recommend that you visit our website and use our **What Goes Where** tool to find out if a material can be reused, recycled, composted, or disposed of in your trash.

COMPOST

Which items belong in my green compost cart?

Yard/Green Waste: Grass cuttings, weeds tree trimmings less than 4" diameter, berry vines, leaves, and garden waste.

Food Scraps: Meat, poultry, dairy, fish, bones, fruit, vegetables, egg shells, coffee grounds, tea bags, pizza boxes & food soiled paper products.

Which items do NOT belong in my green compost cart?

No waxed paper products, cooking oil, plastic bags, nursery pots, pet waste, wood products, glass, soil, concrete or rock.

How do I prevent odors in my green compost cart?

To prevent odors, mix food waste with yard waste. Add one layer of yard waste, newspaper or shredded paper to the bottom of your green cart before adding food waste. Food waste can also be put into paper grocery bags to help contain odors.

When does my green cart get picked up?

We collect carts weekly. Place your cart at the curb by 6 a.m. on your designated pickup day.

Can I use BioBags?

No. BioBags do not meet the compost facility's standards for organic use. They also decompose slower than green waste and food scraps.

Can I compost in an apartment or condo?

Yes! Ask your property manager to call Mill Valley Refuse to set up composting services in your building. We will provide a countertop pail for collecting food waste for free.

What does my compost become?

Food scraps, yard waste, and food-soiled paper become Homegrown Compost, a rich and nutritious, certified organic compost that you can purchase from Redwood Landfill's WM EarthCare Center in Novato.

RECYCLING

Which items belong in my Paper Cart (the brown cart with the blue lid)?

Newspaper, office paper, magazines, junk mail, catalogs, telephone books, paperboard, paper bags, stationary, envelopes, paperboard (i.e. cereal boxes) & cardboard.

Which items do NOT belong in my Paper Cart?

No milk cartons, aseptic juice, soy and soup boxes, soiled paper, wax or plastic coated paper, tissues, paper towels, photographs, or hardcover books.

Which items belong in my Container Cart (the brown cart with the brown lid)?

Plastic: Empty plastic milk, soda and water bottles and jugs, yogurt and margarine tubs, empty shampoo and soap bottles.

Glass: Food and beverage bottles and jars only.

Metal: Steel, bimetal and aluminum food and beverage cans, metal lids, empty aerosol cans, pie plates & clean foil.

All items must be rinsed or wiped clean of food residue.

Which items do NOT belong in my Container Cart?

Glass No No's: ceramic, Pyrex, stemware, light bulbs, window glass or mirrors.

Metal No No's: scrap metal, propane tanks, hangers or containers with liquid.

Plastic No No's: plastic bags*, film plastic (like Saran™ wrap) plastic package wrapping; chip bags Styrofoam™, hoses, lawn chairs, furniture, toys, PVC pipe, buckets, sheeting, or tarps, nursery pots.

**Plastic bags are not acceptable in curbside recycling but many grocery stores provide plastic bag recycling collection bins for your convenience.*

When do my recycling carts get picked up?

We pick up recycling carts on an alternating week schedule —paper one week, containers the next. Place your cart at the curb by 6 a.m. on the designated pickup day. Visit our website for a full recycling schedule.

How do I set up recycling services for a business?

Rules for business recycling are the same as for residential recycling.



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TRASH

Which items belong in my trash cart?

- Animal waste
- Cat litter
- Chip bags
- Diapers
- Foil wrappers
- Garden hoses
- Hangers
- Styrofoam & packing peanuts
- All plastics except bottles, jugs and tubs.
- Plastic bags or any type of plastic packaging wrap
- Drinking glasses, lightbulbs, window glass
- Any item not listed in our recycling or compost sections.

Which items do NOT belong in my trash cart?

- Appliances
- Ashes
- Auto parts
- Cement
- Construction material
- Dirt
- E-waste
- Furniture
- Household hazardous waste
- Mattresses
- Paper, plastic, glass & metal materials that belong in your brown recycling carts
- Rocks
- Tires
- Yard waste and food scraps that belong in your green compost cart

Call us for a free estimate and special pickup of many of these items.

When does my trash get picked up?

We collect trash carts weekly. Place carts in an accessible curbside location by 6 a.m. on your designated pickup day. On-Premise pickups are available for an extra charge. Visit our website for more information.

There is a 60 lb. weight limit per cart; extra weight may be subject to a special pickup charge.

Why is my garbage rate different from my neighbor's?

Rates vary by trash cart size (20, 32, and 45-gallon sizes), and between neighborhoods due to terrain.

Compost can reduce your garbage rate! Since 23% of residential waste is composed of food scraps and food-soiled paper, composting reduces the amount of garbage your household produces and can help you switch to a smaller trash cart size.

How do I dispose of excess trash?

Call our office at (415) 457-9760 for quotes on extra trash pick up.

FREE trash pickups available

Call our office at (415) 457-9760 to ask about annual, FREE trash pickups available to single-family residences.

TOXICS AND HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW)

How do I dispose of household hazardous waste?

We offer free residential curbside pickup for approved HHW. Please call us to arrange a pickup.

Which HHW items do you accept for curbside pickup?

- Cell phones
- Computers and monitors
- Fluorescent light bulbs under 4' in length
- Household batteries (not car batteries)
- Motor oil
- Non-empty aerosol cans
- Oil filters
- Printers
- Televisions (additional charge if two men are required to lift)

What about HHW items not on your curbside pickup list?

Bring HHW items not listed for free disposal at the Marin Household Hazardous Waste Facility. www.marinhhw.com

PHARMACEUTICALS

What do I do with expired medication?

Do not flush medicine down the toilet. Drop off outdated prescription medicine and pharmaceuticals at one of these locations:

- Mill Valley Police Department: 1 Hamilton Dr., Mill Valley
- Central Marin Police Authority: 250 Doherty Dr., Larkspur

RATES AND BILLING

With whom should I speak about rates or billing?

Contact Mill Valley Refuse Service at (415) 457-9760.

SMART PURCHASING

How else can I reduce the amount of waste I produce?

Consider purchasing reusable, rechargeable, recyclable and/or compostable goods.

Questions to consider when purchasing products:

- Is it non-hazardous or less hazardous than other choices?
- Is it reusable, durable or easily repaired?
- Is it made from recycled materials?
- Does it conserve energy or water?
- Is it refillable or available in bulk to reduce packaging?
- Does it need special disposal?
- Will the manufacturer take it back?

MILL VALLEY REFUSE SERVICE

Monday – Friday | 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.
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(415) 457-9760 | www.millvalleyrefuse.com