

PLEASE DON'T TRASH THOSE TREES

Did you know that over 25 million Christmas trees are purchased in the U.S. every year?

That's a lot of trees! Here's the information you need to ensure that your Christmas tree does not end up in the landfill.



PUT YOUR TREES OUT ON THE CURB ON ANY REGULAR GREEN CAN DAY, STARTING AFTER NEW YEAR'S.

- Collectors will not pick up trees left in backyard locations by garbage cans.
- Remove all ornaments, tinsel and metal stands (wooden stands are ok).
- Cut any tree over five feet tall so it can be easily handled.
- Flocked trees are ok.
- Plastic trees can not be recycled.

CHRISTMAS PACKAGE RECYCLE GUIDELINES

We know you'll be tempted to throw every bit of Christmas wrap and packaging into your recycling can, but unfortunately, some of it is just not recyclable.

THESE ITEMS ARE NOT RECYCLABLE

- Metallic or plastic-coated wrapping paper
- Bows and ribbons
- Plastic "blister" packaging
- Styrofoam blocks or peanuts

Looking for ideas on how to reduce waste during the holidays? Visit the California Integrated Waste Management website at www.calrecycle.ca.gov/public/holidays

HOLIDAY TIPPING: AVOID THE GRINCH

It has been a tradition for some to tip the garbage, recycling and compost can collectors during the Christmas or New Year's holidays. *Your collectors very much appreciate these gifts!*

However, gifts left on the cans at the street have been targets for thieves who are known to drive or walk along the streets snatching gifts before the collectors arrive. If you'd like to recognize your collectors with a gift, please use the following guidelines to avoid the grinchies out there.

THE BEST WAYS TO TIP

- Hand your gift directly to the collectors, they'll appreciate meeting you!
- Send your check, cash, or package to our office. Please include your service address so we can make sure your collectors receive your thoughtful gift.



If sending a check, **do not make it out to MVRIS**, instead, call us at 457-9760 ext. 25 and we'll provide you with the names of your collectors. If you want to tip more than one collector, please send separate gifts to make it easier for us to "split" gifts.

PLEASE SEND GIFT PACKAGES TO OUR OFFICE:

Mill Valley Refuse Service
Attn: Holiday Gift
PO Box 3557
San Rafael CA, 94912

PARTICIPATE IN FOOD SCRAP COMPOSTING

Our food scrap composting service has been underway since August. Please remember to place your food scraps and food-soiled paper in your green can along with your yard waste. **We pick up the organic waste from your green can weekly on your regular pickup day.**

HOW TO AVOID THE "ICK" FACTOR

There is a certain amount of smell and mess that comes with composting. Here are a few tips to make it a little less "icky" to participate.

- If there is no yard waste in the can already, place a layer of newspaper at the bottom of the can to keep food scraps from sticking to the bottom. Better yet, if you shred sensitive documents, place those at the bottom of the can (recycling centers hate shredded paper because it's impossible to separate from other recyclables).
- You can place food scraps into brown paper bags before depositing into the green can.
- Clean your compost container or bucket when necessary.
- You may place a small compost bucket into your green can at the curb. Our drivers will lift the smaller bucket out and dump it separately.

Your participation is critical in making food scrap composting a success.

Visit our website (www.millvalleyrefuse.com) for more information, or call our office and we'll send a written copy of all our composting guidelines.

SERVICE AS USUAL OVER THE HOLIDAYS

This year, Christmas and New Year's Day each fall on a Saturday which means there will be no disruption in your disposal services. You may put your cans out on your normal pick up day.

www.millvalleyrefuse.com
415-457-9760
San Rafael, CA 94912-3557
P.O. Box 3557



LET'S TALK TRASH NEWSLETTER
IMPORTANT INFORMATION
ABOUT YOUR GARBAGE,
RECYCLING AND REFUSE SERVICE

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
UNICORN

THE FIRST QUARTER NUMBERS ARE IN

We began adding food scraps and food-soiled paper to green cans in August of this year. Between the start of August through the end of October, we collected 1,897.71 tons of yard/food waste and 3,884.84 tons of trash. During that same August through October period in 2009 (before food scrap composting), we collected 1,273.29 tons of yard waste and 4,057.83 tons of trash. That means we have diverted from the landfill approximately 173 tons

of waste so far this year thanks to your participation in food scrap composting. Thank you for participating!

SMALLER GREEN CANS AVAILABLE

Residents and businesses who don't have much yard waste can request a 20-gallon green can for food scrap composting. Please call our office at 457-9760 if you'd prefer the smaller can size.

Visit our website for more information about food scrap composting.
www.millvalleyrefuse.com



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

For more than 100 years, Mill Valley Refuse Service has provided continuous service to the communities of southern Marin. We appreciate your business and wish you and your families a safe and joyous holiday season and the very best in the new year.

