

# Mill Valley Refuse Service FAQs

## COMPOSTING

### Which items belong in my green bin?

#### FOOD SCRAPS

- Beans
- Bones
- Breads and grains
- Cheese
- Coffee grounds
- Eggshells
- Fruits
- Meat
- Pasta
- Plate scrapings
- Poultry
- Rice
- Seafood and shellfish
- Vegetables

#### FOOD-SOILED PAPER

- Coffee filters
- Tea bags
- Paper napkins and towels
- Paper plates and cups
- Paper take-out boxes
- Pizza boxes

#### YARD and GARDEN WASTE

- Flowers
- Grass and weeds
- Houseplants
- Leaves
- Trimmings

### Which items do NOT belong in my green bin?

- Animal waste
- Cat litter
- Diapers
- Glass
- Liquids
- Metals and foil
- Milk cartons
- Paper ice cream cartons
- Plastic bags and containers, including biodegradable plastics
- Plastic flower pots
- Plastic trays
- Rocks and dirt
- Styrofoam
- Waxed paper

### How do I prevent odors in my green compost bin?

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 bin before adding food waste. Food waste can also be put into paper grocery bags to help contain odors.

### When does my green bin get picked up?

Mill Valley Refuse collects bins weekly. Place your bin at the curb by 6 a.m. on your designated pickup day. Visit the Mill Valley Refuse website for more information.

### Can I use BioBags?

No. BioBags do not meet Redwood Landfill and Recycling Center's standards for organic use. They decompose slower than green waste and food scraps. Redwood Landfill is currently experimenting with a composting project that would allow the use of BioBags.

### 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. Mill Valley Refuse will give you a cart and a countertop pail for collecting food waste for FREE. By composting, property owners can reduce their service costs by reducing the number of trashcans at your complex.

### What does my compost become?

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

## RECYCLING

### Which items belong in my brown (or blue) bin?

#### MIXED PAPER

- Cardboard—flatten and bundle before recycling (smaller than 4' x 4')
- Junk mail, magazines, catalogs, paperbacks and phone books
- Newspaper and inserts
- Office paper including white and colored, envelopes with or without windows
- Paper cardboard such as cereal boxes (remove liners) and shoe boxes

#### GLASS

- Remove caps and rinse glass containers before recycling

#### PLASTIC

- Remove caps and rinse plastic containers before recycling
- Drink boxes such as juice and soy milk containers and other aseptic packaging
- Juice concentrate containers
- Milk cartons
- Plastics numbered 1 through 7

#### METAL

- Remove caps and rinse metal containers before recycling
- Aluminum cans
- Steel cans
- Tin and bi-metal cans (aerosol and metal are accepted if completely empty and dry)

### Which items do NOT belong in my brown recycling bin?

- Ceramics
- Containers with liquids
- Hangers
- Hardcover books
- Light bulbs
- Paper towels
- Photographs
- Plastic bags
- Propane tanks
- PVC pipe
- Pyrex
- Scrap metal
- Soiled, wax or plastic coated paper
- Stemware
- Styrofoam
- Tissues
- Window glass or mirrors

### When does my brown bin get picked up?

Mill Valley Refuse collects recycling bins weekly. Place your bin at the curb by 6 a.m. on your designated pickup day. Visit the Mill Valley Refuse website for more information.

### How can I recycle items not on this list?

Mill Valley Recycling Service offers free curbside collection for the following items:

- Common household batteries (not car batteries)
- Latex paints
- Oil filters
- Some e-waste (computers, televisions)
- Used motor oil

### How do I set up recycling services for a business?

Visit the Mill Valley Refuse website for business recycling solutions.

## TRASH

### Which items belong in my trashcan?

- Animal waste
- Cat litter
- Chewing gum
- Chip bags
- Diapers
- Foil wrappers
- Garden hoses
- Glass
- Hangers
- Liquids
- Plastic bags
- Scrap metal
- Styrofoam and packing peanuts

### Which items do NOT belong in my trashcan?

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

### When does my hauler collect my trash?

Mill Valley Refuse collects trashcans weekly. Place bins in an accessible curbside or backyard location by 6 a.m. on your designated pickup day. Visit the Mill Valley Refuse website for more information.

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

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

Rates vary by trashcan size (20, 32, and 45-gallon sizes), and between neighborhoods due to terrain. Residents must provide their own trashcans.

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 trashcan size.

### How do I dispose of excess trash?

Call Mill Valley Refuse at (415) 457-9760 for quotes on extra trash. Ask about annual, FREE pickups of trash available to single-family residences.

## TOXICS AND HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW)

### How do I dispose of household hazardous waste?

Mill Valley Refuse offers free residential curbside pickup for approved HHW. Please call Mill Valley Refuse to arrange a pickup.

### Which HHW items does my hauler accept?

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

## PHARMACEUTICALS

### What do I do with expired medication?

Do not flush medicine down the toilet. Drop off out-dated 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

Monday–Friday | 7 a.m.–3 p.m.  
112 Front St., San Rafael, CA 94901  
(415) 457-9760 | [www.millvalleyrefuse.com](http://www.millvalleyrefuse.com)



**ZEROWASTEMARIN**  
PROTECTING OUR RESOURCES TOGETHER  
[ZeroWasteMarin.org](http://ZeroWasteMarin.org)