

# West Valley Recycles!

Fall 2008

## DON'T GET STUCK WITH YOUR SHARPS: Dispose Of Them Properly!

**O**n September 1, 2008, a new law has taken effect, which will make it illegal to place home generated sharps in trash or recycling receptacles. Home generated sharps are needles, syringes, and lancets that assist people who use sharps or syringes at home to manage an illness. When sharps are improperly disposed of they pose a threat to children, adults, sanitation workers, and even pets. Here's how to properly and safely dispose of your sharps:

Note: Residents **MUST** place sharps in a biohazard sharps container, which are available for purchase at your local pharmacy, before bringing to any of the approved sharps drop-off locations.

♦ **Pharmacies, Doctor's Offices or Clinics:** Contact your local Pharmacy, Medical Clinic, or personal Physician and ask if they can start a take back program.

♦ **Mail Back Services:** If you purchase sharps on-line, please remember to request a pre-addressed, prepaid mail-back box for your used sharps. A list of mail back services can be found at <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/medicalwaste>

♦ **Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program:** For more information on pharmacies and other locations that accept used sharps, or if there is not a location near you to take back your sharps, contact The Household Hazardous Waste Program at [www.hhw.org](http://www.hhw.org) or call 408-299-7300.

### SHARPS TAKE-BACK LOCATIONS IN THE WEST VALLEY AREA

Call for packaging requirements before you bring used household syringes, needles, and lancets to the following drop off locations:

#### CAMPBELL

**Kaiser Permanente**  
Campbell Medical Offices  
220 E. Hacienda Avenue, Campbell  
(408) 871-6500  
(for Kaiser Members only)

#### LOS GATOS

**Shannon Road Fire Station**  
16565 Shannon Rd, Los Gatos  
Biohazard Sharps Container Size  
Requirement: One quart or one  
and half quart size for drop off box

**Community Hospital, Los Gatos**  
815 Pollard Road, Los Gatos  
(408) 378-6131

**B M A Dialysis**  
14651 S. Bascom, Los Gatos  
(408) 358-3791  
(for B M A Patients only)

**Mission Oaks Campus of Good Samaritan**  
15891 Los Gatos Almaden Rd  
Los Gatos (408) 356-4111

#### SARATOGA

**West Valley Fire Station**  
19800 Cox Avenue, Saratoga  
Biohazard Sharps Container Size  
Requirement: One quart or one  
and half quart size for drop off box

#### COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA, HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) PROGRAM

Deposit used home-generated sharps into a biohazard sharps container, when the container is  $\frac{3}{4}$  full permanently seal shut and make an appointment through our website at [www.hhw.org](http://www.hhw.org) or call (408)-299-7300

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Collection occurs on all holidays except December 25th and January 1st.

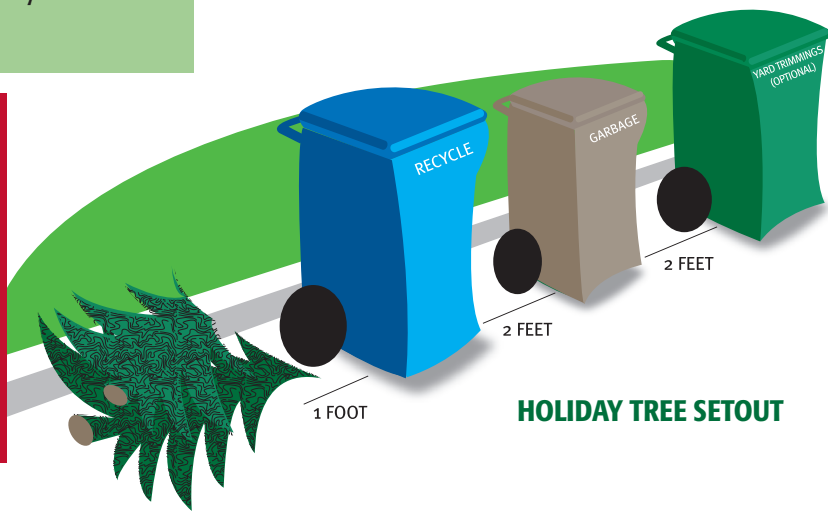
Both December 25th 2008 and January 1st 2009 fall on Thursday. During these weeks, if your regular collection day is Thursday collection will occur on Friday. If your regular collection day is Friday collection will occur on Saturday. No other collection days will be affected.

## HOLIDAY TREE COLLECTION

**Beginning December 26th 2008 and continuing through January 25th 2009**, WVC&R will collect up to two Holiday trees per residence as part of your regular collection.

- Undecorated natural or flocked holiday trees are acceptable.
- Please remove stands, tinsel and decorations.
- All trees must be cut into 5-foot or preferably shorter lengths.
- Place the tree at least one foot away from WVC&R carts.

To receive your **FREE** recycling "How-to Guide," call Customer Service at (408) 283-9250 or visit [www.westvalleyrecycles.com](http://www.westvalleyrecycles.com)



HOLIDAY TREE SETOUT

## BILL PAY THE EASY WAY

West Valley Collection & Recycling has made it easier than ever to pay your bill. Choose the method that works best for you.

**Mail it:** Make your check payable to West Valley Collection & Recycling. Be sure to include the payment stub to get credit for your payment right away. Use the pre-addressed envelope included with your bill.

**Drop it off:** We accept payments at our office Monday through Friday from 8 AM – 4:30 PM

Deliver checks to:  
West Valley  
Collection & Recycling  
1333 Oakland Road,  
San Jose, CA 95112

**Pay / View Your Bill Online.** Visit our new online payment system at [www.wasteconnections.com](http://www.wasteconnections.com); click on "Online Bill-Pay" and follow a few simple instructions. You must have your current invoice and credit card or debit card information available.

Home banking customers continue to use the remit address:

West Valley  
Collection & Recycling  
PO BOX 60248  
Los Angeles CA 90060-0248

You must have your current invoice available.

## Have questions about your recycling service?



## Ask Randy

**Q:** With the Holidays around the corner, I'm very interested in finding a way to eliminate waste and complete the recycling loop by giving to others. I just don't know where to begin.

**A:** Re-using an item is far better than recycling. Donating heavy coats, sweatshirts, beanies or blankets can make for a warm Holiday to a family in need. Also, if you have household electronics such as TVs, phones or computers you don't want to go to waste check out donation alternatives before you recycle using the links below.

Goodwill: <http://www.goodwill.org>

Salvation Army: <http://www.salvationarmyusa.org>

RecycleWorks Reuse Center: <http://www.recycleworks.org>

If you have clothing that is shredded or not in "wearable" condition, you can always recycle them! Tie fabrics in a clear plastic bag and place in your recycling cart for collection. We'll do the rest.

**Acceptable Items:** Clean cotton, linen, polyester, rayon and wool fabrics (e.g. blankets, clothes, cloth diapers, rags, sheets) **NO** rags or textiles soiled with chemicals, oil or paint. **NO** Shoes, Carpets, Disposable diapers, Down-filled items, Leather, Nylon, Pillows, Rubber, Stuffed animals, Vinyl.

## MAKE IT A GREEN HOLIDAY

Thinking green begins long before you determine which item goes into your garbage cart and which one goes in your recycling cart. It starts with knowing which materials to buy at the store that reduce waste in your household. So remember to always look for the recycle triangle when you buy.

When picking up gift-wrap this Holiday season remember to buy wrapping paper made from recyclable materials. **YOU CANNOT RECYCLE METALLIC OR FOIL GIFT-WRAP.**

For those of you that want to get really creative. You can use recyclable materials to wrap and personalize a gift using old magazines, sections of the newspaper and even a brown grocery

bag. Wrapping and decorating gifts using a grocery bag only takes a few minutes of your time to better the environment and make a memory.

### Follow these easy steps:

- You will need a brown grocery bag, scissors, colorful pens or markers and tape.
- Cut down the seam of the bag from top to bottom.
- Turn inside out to hide all store advertisements and give yourself a blank canvas.
  - Wrap gift.
  - Decorate with personalized greetings and drawings of your choice.



## IMPORTANT TO NOTE:



1333 Oakland Road  
San Jose CA 95112-9894

(408) 283-9250

[www.westvalleyrecycles.com](http://www.westvalleyrecycles.com)

customerservice@westvalleyrecycles.com

### E-Waste Drop Off Event

E-Waste Drop Off Events will be taking place in West Valley cities soon. Please go to [www.westvalleyrecycles.com](http://www.westvalleyrecycles.com) to find the event in your community. Drop off E-waste such as computers, computer monitors, hard drives, TVs and VCRs absolutely FREE.

### Clean Yard Trimmings

Keep your yard trimmings "Green" and your recyclables clean by keeping all garbage out of your yard trimmings and recycling cart. Garbage contaminates recyclable materials.