

Fall 2011

rethinker



Simple. Smart. Green.
www.RethinkWaste.org

rethinker

A quarterly newsletter dedicated to educating our customers regarding waste reduction, reuse and recycling. With your help, we can achieve our goals of diverting waste from the landfill and maintaining healthy, livable communities.

IN THIS ISSUE:

CARTSMART PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT – COMPOST

HOLIDAY PARTY TIPS

ASK MARIO

RethinkWaste
610 Elm Street, Suite 202
San Carlos, California 94070

♻️ PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER WITH SOY BASED INK

PRST STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2643
San Francisco, CA

CartSMART Program Spotlight COMPOST!

Thanks to all your efforts, recycle and compost tonnages for single-family residents are up by 30% each since the start of the CartSMART program, and garbage tonnages are down by 19%! With the holiday season nearly upon us – and all the food that goes with the celebrations – we couldn't help but turn our thoughts to compost. In honor of all the leftovers, this issue is focused on what does (and what doesn't) go in the green Compost Cart or Bin. We've also provided some tips on how to make your party planning a little greener. **Happy holidays!**

COMPOST 30%

YES! These Items Are Accepted in Your Compost Cart or Bin

Food Scraps

- Bones
- Bread, grains, pasta
- Coffee grounds (and filters)
- Dairy
- Eggshells
- Fish and shellfish
- Fruit (including pits)
- Meat
- Poultry
- Vegetables



Food- & Beverage-Soiled Paper Products

- Paper bags
- Paper cups
- Paper napkins and towels
- Paper plates
- Paper take-out boxes and containers
- Paper tea bags
- Pizza boxes



Yard Trimmings

- Branches and brush
- Flowers and floral trimmings
- Lawn clippings
- Leaves
- Weeds



Holiday Tree Recycling

Recology will collect your tree between December 26th and January 31st on your regular collection day. Please remove all decorations and tree stands (flocked trees are ok) before placing next to your Compost Cart for collection. Trees longer than 8 feet in length must be cut into shorter lengths before being placed next to your Compost Cart in order to be collected. After January 31st, trees need to be cut into pieces and placed inside the Compost Cart. The pieces must fit inside.



NO! These Items Are NOT Accepted in Your Compost Cart/Bin

- Aluminum or metal
- Animal waste
- Concrete, asphalt, stones or bricks
- Cooking oil
- Condiment packets
- Diapers
- Garbage
- Glass or ceramics
- Hazardous waste
- Juice or soy milk boxes with foil liners
- Liquids or ice
- Palm fronds
- Plastics
- Plastic bags
- Plywood
- Sod, dirt or rocks
- Styrofoam packaging, food containers or packing peanuts
- Treated or painted wood



It's Easy Being Green



Having an eco-friendly get together or party during the holidays doesn't have to be hard. It just requires some creativity! Here's some helpful tips to reducing your environmental footprint while celebrating:



Holiday Party Tips

- ✓ Send electronic invitations
- ✓ Use potted plants or flowers for decorations – they can serve double duty as party favors for guests at the end
- ✓ Create centerpieces using colorful and seasonal fruits and vegetables - they can serve as a healthy snack the next day
- ✓ Buy food that's locally grown
- ✓ Use cloth napkins and reusable dishes, glasses and utensils
- ✓ Set up recycle and compost stations for your guests



Ask Mario



Announcements

THANKSGIVING DAY

Thursday, November 24, 2011

No change to CartSMART collection services by Recology. Set your carts out for collection as usual. Recology's administrative offices and the Shoreway Environmental Center will be closed.



CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 25, 2011

No change to CartSMART collection services by Recology as the holiday falls on Sunday. Set your carts out for collection as usual. The Shoreway Environmental Center will be closed.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Sunday, January 1, 2012

No change to CartSMART collection services by Recology as the holiday falls on Sunday. Set your carts out for collection as usual. The Shoreway Environmental Center will be closed.



Dear Mario,

I hear of so many different things that can go into the green cart, but some items are still confusing. I use a lot of paper towels for cleaning up messes, sometimes with cleaning solutions. Can these be tossed into the green cart?

How about Kleenex? Is there a rule I should follow?

— Bewildered in Belmont

Dear Bewildered,

You don't want to put any paper towels that you've gotten wet with household cleaners in the Compost Cart because the chemicals in them can be harmful to the compost. But if it's a paper towel that has food on it or gotten wet by a beverage or water, it can go into the green cart, that's no problem at all!

Used tissues do not belong in the Compost Cart either due to the possibility that the pathogens will survive the composting process, so please place these in the trash.

If you have a question for Mario, please send it to: rethinker@RethinkWaste.org

Information & Resources



The regional public agency that helps local communities reduce waste through innovative programs and partnerships and by managing service contracts.

Telephone: 650-802-3500
rethinker@RethinkWaste.org
www.RethinkWaste.org

For questions about your bill and the CartSMART program:

RECOLOGY SAN MATEO COUNTY
 225 Shoreway Road
 San Carlos, CA 94070
 Customer Service: 650-595-3900
carts@recology.com
www.RecologySanMateoCounty.com

For questions about the Shoreway Environmental Center:

SOUTH BAY RECYCLING
 333 Shoreway Road
 San Carlos, CA 94070
 Telephone: 650-802-8355
www.SBRecycling.net



Follow Us



Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/rethinkwaste and Twitter at twitter.com/rethinkwaste to get the latest information on CartSMART, great information on sustainability and other environmental facts.

Want to save paper? Sign up to get the rethinker quarterly newsletter electronically by going to our website at www.RethinkWaste.org.



Sign up by December 20 and get a \$10 Starbucks gift card!
 Limited to the first 25 people.