



Contact Us:  
Redwood Empire Disposal  
(707) 585-0291  
New!



Online Chat at:  
unicycler.com

Office Hours  
Monday - Friday 7am-6pm  
Saturday - Sunday 7am-3pm



/NorthBayUnicycler

## Upcoming Events:

April 12th & 13th:



July 24th - Aug. 10th:



Aug. 9th & 10th:  
Gravenstein Apple Fair



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## The Unicycler Can Green Your School



Imagine our schools as leaders in environmental sustainability, offering students the tools to be innovators, and giving them a healthy environment in which to learn and play. Recycling at school empowers kids to make a difference, and teaches them environmental values that will stay with them for life.

As part of our efforts to expand our diversion programs and keep Sonoma County green,

The Ratto Group has been working with schools across the County to decrease the amount of trash they send to the landfill. Recycling Coordinators with The Ratto Group work with many schools throughout the year to improve their recycle program, whether it's simply updating signs or doing a full program overload with classroom-to-classroom presentations, the outreach coordinators tailor the program to the needs and capabilities of each individual school.

Here is just a taste of some of the services we provide to our local schools:

**Site Visit:** Outreach staff is available to visit your school to start or enhance your current recycling program. We can provide recommendations for service frequency and bin sizes, update signage on indoor cans or outdoor bins so they're clearly marked, and work with staff to determine the most effective way to reach your students and make recycling as easy to do as possible.

**Food Scrap Composting:** By participating in our new food scrap composting program, your food scraps and soiled paper products can all be diverted from the landfill and sent to a composting facility instead. Large amounts of food waste get thrown away at schools every day during snack break and lunch time, so composting the food scraps instead makes a really big difference.

**Presentations:** The best way to spread the word and educate the students about recycling, composting, re-using, and more, is through presentations! To teach your students about what happens to garbage and recycling once it leaves school, our outreach coordinators can provide grade-appropriate presentations classroom-to-classroom, in large groups of a few classes and/or grades at a time, or all at once through a school wide assembly. These presentations can be tailored to the classroom or school's needs depending on the program you have in place and what the students already know.



Recycling Coordinators Hillary & Bessie

**Fieldtrip of Facility:** Fieldtrips for groups of students are available at our recyclables sorting facility in Santa Rosa. At this facility, kids can see firsthand what happens to all of the recyclable materials we collect here in Sonoma County as they get sorted, baled, and sent off to be recycled into new material. Tours are limited to small groups and staff availability, and time slots fill up quickly!

So if you know a school that needs to be greened by the Unicycler, please don't hesitate to contact one of our Recycling Coordinators. These services are at no additional cost to the schools located in our service areas, and spots fill up quickly. To contact our Green Team, please email greenteam@unicycler.com, or call customer service and ask to be connected with the Recycling Coordinator in your area!



## Guidelines & Reminders from Customer Service

To help us provide the best service to you, please observe the following:



- Place carts at the road edge the night prior to your service day.
- Please leave 3 feet between garbage, recycling & yard waste carts.
- Place garbage loosely in your cart. Carts that are overstuffed or have material jammed into them may not empty completely.
- Please remove your containers from the road edge as soon after they have been serviced as is practical.

- Be sure all items are contained inside your carts. Carts that have items sticking out of them or have material piled on top may not be emptied or may receive additional charges.
- You may opt to set out recycle and yard waste carts only when full if you choose.

For everyone's safety and convenience, we request that you pay special attention to the following:

- Do not place carts within three feet of vehicles, mailboxes, fire hydrants, other obstacles or personal property.
- Collection vehicles need 14' overhead clearance. Carts should not be placed in an area with overhangs, trees or other obstacles.
- Please park your car in your driveway the night before your collection day whenever possible. There may be a delay in collection of blocked carts.
- If you have any questions, please call or check out our new on-line chat option at [unicycler.com](http://unicycler.com).

## Extra Trash

- If you have an overloaded garbage cart or extra bags of garbage piled on top of, or alongside your cart, you may receive an automatic charge for each extra bag or can of garbage. Carts are considered overloaded if the lid will not close.
- If you have extra garbage, call our office at 585-0291 by 2:30 pm the day before your regular collection day to order extra service and avoid confusion when you receive your bill. Do not overstuff your carts as they may not empty completely.

## Bulky Item Pickups

The Ratto Group - *A family of companies* local hauler (Redwood Empire Disposal) offers Bulky Item Pickup for items that are too large for your cart.

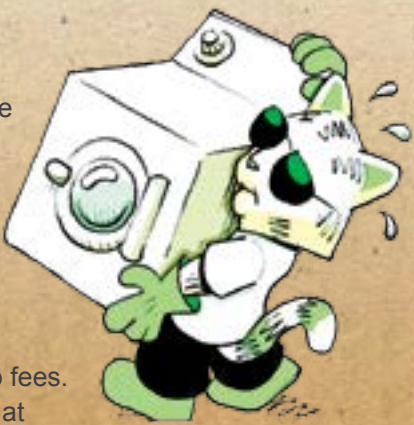
Items such as mattresses, couches, and large furniture items can be picked up for a fee\* for single-family residential customers. Call Redwood Empire Disposal at 585-0291 to schedule a pickup.

We make any attempt to reduce, reuse and recycle your bulky items and keep them out of the landfill. Help us out by trying to donate your item before disposing of it.

### Please Remember:

- We are unable to pick up hazardous waste. Call the HHW hotline at 795-2025 or visit [unicycler.com](http://unicycler.com) for more information.
- Please direct reusable items to thrift or second hand stores.

\*Certain items have pick-up fees. Please call or chat online at [unicycler.com](http://unicycler.com) for details.



## Our "Green Family" - Partners in Food Waste Recycling

Our "Green Family" consists of businesses in our community who currently take advantage of our Food Waste Recycling program. Please support and thank them for making every effort to reduce our local footprint.



## Save Yourself Some Money!

If you are generating less waste, you can reward yourself with a smaller garbage bill by exchanging your current cart for a smaller size. We offer four levels of service. Super recyclers or small families may be able to reduce their waste and subscribe to the 20 gallon service.

**If you would like to change your service level, please contact our office for details and rates.**

## Yard Waste Guidelines

- Place all grass cuttings, leaves & weeds, tree & shrubbery trimmings, berry bushes and other yard & garden waste inside your green rolling cart, also referred to as your yard waste cart. Branches under 4 inches in diameter and less than 2 feet long are accepted.
- Also accepted in the yard waste carts are food scraps such as fruits and vegetables (including pits and nuts), coffee grounds with filters, tea bags, seafood including shells, meat and bones, plate scrapings and kitchen prep scraps, bread, grains, pasta, baked goods, cheese, eggs, eggshells and non-coated paper products such as paper plates and napkins.
- Place your yard waste cart at the curb allowing at least three feet of space between containers.
- All green waste must be in the container. Loose material will not be collected.
- Do not put yard waste in plastic bags.
- Please put your garbage in the correct can. Contamination can lead to higher costs and higher prices in garbage service.

## Keep Your Green Clean!

Keep your cart clean by wrapping your food scraps in a brown paper bag or newspaper. The following materials are banned from your yard waste cart.

- garbage • sod or dirt • rock • gravel or concrete • lumber • playground bark • plastic bags • nursery pots or plastic • pet waste • palm fronds • processed or treated wood products • bamboo • cups, packaging & straws • liquid waste & ice • plastics • cardboard • take-out containers • compostable plastics (even bio-bags) • synthetic corks • waxed cardboard • poison oak • Sudden Oak Death infested material • BBQ ashes • tree stumps



# Ask the Unicycler

*Dear Unicycler:*  
*The other day I saw one of your trucks pick up the trash and then dump the green waste into the same truck. I work really hard to separate my recycling and green waste from the trash. What gives?*  
*Signed,*

Dilligent Debris Divider

## Dear Dilligent Debris Divider:

What you saw was one of our split-body collection trucks! Even though it looks like the materials were being mixed together because they were dumped into the same hole on top of the truck, there are actually two compartments inside that keep each material completely separate. So rest assured, the materials you work so diligently to keep separate are not being mixed together. Just like you, we want to keep the recycling and green waste as clean and contamination-free as possible.

The split-body collection trucks are actually super eco-friendly. Because they're collecting two materials at one time, it decreases the number of trips in your neighborhood by one-third, which also decreases fuel use and reduces wear and tear on the streets. These trucks also have reduced emissions, exceeding state standards with Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel.

So the next time you see two materials go into the same truck, just remember that it's our split-body collection vehicles hard at work!

*Have a recycling or environmental question? Ask us at [greenteam@unicycler.com](mailto:greenteam@unicycler.com). Or, like us on Facebook and post your questions there.*

## Unicycler Offering Full Construction Services Plus an 82% Diversion Rate!

The Unicycler has been busy as of late. We are proud to announce that the Ratto Group is now offering full construction services for all of your disposal needs. By "Construction Services" we mean just about everything a general contractor would need to get a building project going. This also includes disposal of the construction and demolition materials which we are diverting at a rate over 82% from the landfill. Exchanges of debris boxes can even be done same day. We now offer a full array of the following:



Give us a call at 707-585-5222 or visit us at [www.unicycler.com](http://www.unicycler.com) for more information on what we can do to help out your jobsite.

# Single-Stream Recycling Guide

*Place all recycling together inside the blue cart*

## Mixed Paper and Cardboard

Flatten or cut boxes to fit loosely inside cart. Place shredded paper in clear plastic or paper bag.

### Yes!

- White & Colored Paper
- Office Paper & Junk Mail
- Newspaper
- Magazines & Catalogs
- Cereal & Shoe Boxes
- Corrugated Cardboard

### No!

- Napkins, Towels, Tissues
- Food-Contaminated Paper
- Photographs or Blueprint Paper
- Waxed Cardboard or Paper



## Milk Cartons and Juice/Rice/Soy Boxes

Remove straws. Empty before recycling.

### Yes!

- Milk Cartons
- Drink Boxes

### No!

- Plastic-Lined Cartons
- Straws or Pop Tops



## Glass Bottles & Jars

Empty before recycling. Leave caps screwed on.

### Yes!

- Clear & Colored Glass
- Food & Beverage Jars

### No!

- Window or Mirror Glass
- Ceramic, Dishes or Stemware
- Loose Caps less than 4"



## Plastic Containers

Wash & squash. Empty before recycling. Leave caps screwed on.

### Yes!

- Plastic Containers
- Milk & Water Jugs
- Soda & Juice Bottles
- Yogurt & Deli Tubs
- Consolidated Plastic Bags
- Rigid Plastics

### No!

- Loose Caps less than 4"
- Styrofoam



## Metal Cans

Wash & squash, leave labels on. Empty before recycling.

### Yes!

- Aluminum Cans
- Steel & Tin Cans
- Bimetal Cans
- Empty Paint/ Aerosol Cans

### No!

- Plastic Caps
- Styrofoam
- Loose Caps less than 4"



# Why is it Important to Recycle Used Motor Oil and Oil Filters?

- Used oil can contain contaminants such as lead, magnesium, copper, zinc, chromium, arsenic, cadmium and chlorinated compounds.
- Don't pour used motor oil down the drain or on the ground. One gallon of used motor oil can pollute one million gallons of drinking water.
- Used motor oil represents more than 40 percent of the oil pollution in our country's waterways.
- Used oil is easy to recycle. It can be re-refined into usable motor oil.

- Recycle your used oil filter. Even after draining, used oil filters contain about 10 ounces of used oil, as well as one pound of reusable steel.
- All the used oil filters sold annually in California could be recycled into 67 million pounds of steel, enough to build three large football stadiums!

Here in Sonoma County we recycle 3,800 gallons of oil per year. Recycling used oil and filters reduces our dependence on foreign oil, saves valuable resources, protects the health of our families, and is the only legal way to dispose of them! You haven't finished changing your oil until you've taken this last important step. There are two convenient options for recycling used oil and filters in Sonoma County:

## Curbside recycling service for used motor oil and filters!

Call Customer Service at 585-0291 or 800-243-0291 to request a special container and zip-lock filter bag. Then call our office to request a pickup. Place oil and filter at the curb next to (not in) your recycling cart for pickup on your regular collection day. The driver will leave a replacement container when your full one is collected.

## Drop-off Recycling Locations!

There are many locations in Sonoma County that accept motor oil for recycling. Most also take filters. To find a list of locations nearest you, visit [http://recyclenow.org/toxics/motor\\_oil\\_dropoff.asp](http://recyclenow.org/toxics/motor_oil_dropoff.asp). Or check your Sonoma County Recycling Guide in the AT&T Phone Book. Find it behind the tab under Recycling in the AT&T Yellow Pages.



**New!** No need to spend your time on the phone. Simply go to [unicycler.com](http://unicycler.com) during business hours and click on the "Chat Now" option on the right side. A Customer Service Agent will be able to handle whatever situation you may have. Or, if it's past business hours, click on "Leave a message" and we'll get back to you within 24 hours.





**Redwood Empire Disposal**

PO Box 14609  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Tel (707) 585-0291  
Tel (800) 243-0291  
Fax (707) 586-5543

# Screamin’ Mimi’s Reduces Major Landfill Waste Through Food Scrap Composting Program

Open since 1995, local shop Screamin' Mimi's makes all of their ice cream and sorbet fresh on the premises. A few years ago, Screamin’ Mimi’s became determined to reduce the amount of waste they produced from being sent to the landfill. They looked into a lot of different options for their ice cream cups, from clear plastic to a coated wax paper, and finally a biodegradable bagasse bowl. Eventually they were able to replace all of their paper products with a compostable option with the exception of their extra large plastic straws for milkshakes and coffee travel lids.

Screamin’ Mimi’s was very proud of this accomplishment until one day they heard a speaker on the radio discussing that even biodegradable items in the landfill will never break down due to the lack of oxygen, dirt and microorganisms. “At that point I realized I had done all this work and raised some of my costs to only have no impact,” says Maraline Olson, owner of Screamin’ Mimi’s. “I was so upset and then I found out about the food scrap program. I called The Ratto Group and they got me into the program ASAP.”

Within weeks they were able to reduce their trash from up to twelve 33 gallon bags a day to one small trash bag. The rest of the waste was being put in the food scrap containers or recycling. The entire kitchen, service area and production area are almost 90% food scrap waste and 10% recycling. The food scraps consist of everything from the paper towels used when washing their hands constantly, to lemon rinds, fruit cores and broken ice cream cones. Cardboard boxes and plastic milk containers fill up the recycling bins. The only landfill trash comes from their public access trash bin in the dining area. The bags of trash generated from that area are often sorted to further reduce the amount of landfill trash bags.

“I have memories of our trash bags overflowing the bins and now we hardly fill one 96 gallon can,” says Maraline. “It is so very rewarding to me and my staff to see the huge reduction in landfill waste from our business. Ideally an ice cream cone can be totally earth friendly with no waste since you eat the holder. But if someone doesn't want a cone, it's good to know that that is truly the next best thing for the environment.”



Screamin' Mimi's - Sebastopol

### TOXICS DISPOSAL

#### SERVICE OPTIONS FOR RESIDENTS

##### Household Toxics Facility

The Household Toxics Facility is open every week for free drop-off of toxics from Sonoma County residents.

**Appointment:** Not required

**Hours:** Thursday, Friday & Saturday 7:30 am–2:30 pm

**Location:** Central Disposal Site (Bldg. 5) 500 Mechem Rd., Petaluma

##### Community Toxics Collections

Every week there is a toxics collection somewhere in Sonoma County. Bring your ID to prove residency.

**Appointment required:** Call 795-2025 option 3 or toll-free 1-877-747-1870 or email [toxicsdisposal@cleanharbors.com](mailto:toxicsdisposal@cleanharbors.com)

**Hours:** Tuesdays 4-8 pm

##### Toxic Rover Pickup Service

Have your toxics picked up at your home. Services are provided on a first-come-first-serve basis.

**Fee:** \$50/pickup (limit 440 pounds). Limited free pickup available for seniors over 80 years of age and housebound residents.

**Appointment required:** Call 795-2025 option 4 or toll-free 1-877-747-1870 or email [toxicsdisposal@cleanharbors.com](mailto:toxicsdisposal@cleanharbors.com)

**Hours:** Wednesdays limited appointments

#### 2014 Community Toxics Collections schedule

<b>March 2014</b>	<b>May 2014</b>	<b>July 2014</b>
4 Rohnert Park	6 Guerneville	1 Larkfield
11 Santa Rosa, NW	13 Boyes Hot Springs	8 Petaluma
18 Monte Rio	20 Healdsburg	15 Kenwood
25 Sebastopol	27 Sonoma	22 Santa Rosa, SE
		29 Windsor
<b>April 2014</b>	<b>June 2014</b>	<b>August 2014</b>
1 Cloverdale	3 Santa Rosa, NW	5 Rohnert Park
8 Santa Rosa, NE	10 Oakmont	12 Cotati
15 Windsor	17 Cloverdale	19 Sebastopol
22 Sonoma	24 Graton	26 Glen Ellen
29 Larkfield	25 Bodega Bay	

**Locations of Community Toxics Collections will be provided when you schedule your appointment.** Call at least 24 hours prior to the collection event. **For a complete schedule, visit [www.recyclenow.org](http://www.recyclenow.org)**

**Transportation & packing:** State transportation laws limit each vehicle to a maximum of 15 gallons of liquid (with a maximum of 5 gallons per container) or 125 pounds of solid material • Never mix chemicals • Place in sealed containers in the trunk, packed to prevent spills • Syringes/needles must be in a sealed and labeled approved container. **Not accepted:** Explosives or ammunition • Radioactive materials • Electronics • Biological wastes (except syringes) • Controlled substances.

#### SERVICE OPTIONS FOR BUSINESSES

##### Household Toxics Facility

Located at the Central Disposal Site, the Household Toxics Facility is open for drop-off of hazardous waste from qualified Sonoma County businesses.

**Appointment required:** Call 795-2025 option 2 or toll-free 1-877-747-1870 or email [toxicsdisposal@cleanharbors.com](mailto:toxicsdisposal@cleanharbors.com)

**Forms & fees:** Paperwork required. Download forms at [www.recyclenow.org](http://www.recyclenow.org). \$25 processing fee plus disposal fees based on type and quantity of waste.

**Hours:** Tuesdays & Wednesdays 7:30 am–2:30 pm

**Location:** Central Disposal Site (Bldg. 5) at 500 Mechem Rd., Petaluma

##### Community Toxics Collections

Every week there is a toxics collection somewhere in Sonoma County. Space may be limited for business appointments and is based on availability.

**Appointment required:** Call 795-2025 option 2 or toll-free 1-877-747-1870

**Forms & fees:** Paperwork required. Download forms at [www.recyclenow.org](http://www.recyclenow.org). \$25 processing fee plus disposal fees based on type and quantity of waste.

**Hours:** Tuesdays 4-8 pm for a complete schedule of Community Toxics Collections, visit [www.recyclenow.org](http://www.recyclenow.org)

The Household Hazardous Waste Program is funded by the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency. [www.recyclenow.org](http://www.recyclenow.org) Eco-Desk 565-3375

Look for your  
**SONOMA COUNTY 2014 RECYCLING GUIDE**  
in the YP - The Real Yellow Pages phone book



Compost! It's in our roots.