



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

New!

Chat Live
Now!

Online Chat at:

unicycler.com

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 7am-6pm

Saturday - Sunday 7am-3pm



/NorthBayUnicycler

Upcoming Events:

December 26th - January 17th

Christmas Tree Recycling

Curbside Collection:

January 12th - January 16th

Drop-off Location:

December 26th - January 17th

Daily 8am-4pm at the Cotati Fire Station

1 East Cotati Ave.

General Information:

-**General Holiday Collection:** Customers with service on Thursday and Friday will be delayed one day during the weeks of Christmas and New Year's Day

-**Green Waste Cart Collection:** Trees are accepted in Green Waste Carts at **ANYTIME**. Trees **MUST** be cut to fit inside cart with the lids closed. Flocked trees are **NOT** accepted

-All lights, tinsel, ornaments and stands **MUST** be removed prior to any collection

-Flocked trees are considered trash and will **NOT** be collected at curbside, green cart or drop-off program



Get a "Bag Habit"

If you haven't made the switch to reusable shopping bags, now's your last chance. As of September 1st you'll be charged 10 cents per paper bag at grocery and retail stores throughout Sonoma County.

On February 19, 2014 the City and County members of the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency passed Ordinance No. 2014-2 establishing a Waste Reduction Program for Carry-out Bags and a related administrative penalties law. The law is intended to reduce litter, keep plastic bags out of local waterways, and encourage the use of reusable bags. Just in Sonoma County, it is estimated that 232 million plastic bags and 46 million paper bags are used each year.



"Bag Your Bags"

The Ratto Group at Redwood Empire Disposal knows that there are still bags being produced so until plastic bags are obsolete, we will accept them! Please just be sure to place all bags into one big bag before placing it in your recycling cart or bin! Examples of recyclable plastic bags are all clean, dry bags labeled #2 or #4, bread bags, case wrap from water bottles, or dry cleaning bags just to name a few. Grocery stores will have drop off locations for plastic bags as well.

Most grocers' and large retailers such as Target and Wal-Mart now accept the plastic bag, wrap, and film for recycling. Look for a bin near the front of the store or check for local recycling options nearest you.

To help residents get the bag habit and support local jobs, the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency has contracted with BPE-USA Santa Rosa, to produce 10,000 reusable shopping bags. The reusable bags are produced from local sources that have an overstock of materials. Funding comes from the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency with support from community organizations, individuals, and businesses.

Some tips to help you to get the bag habit include putting your bags where you will see them. Carry them next to you in the passenger seat or hanging from a knob instead of the trunk or backseat of your car. Before you go into a store, check to make sure that you have your reusable bags in your cart or basket. If you forget a bag, you can find reusable bags for sale in most stores. If you only go shopping for a few items, you can also avoid the charge by going bag-less.

Plastic Bag Facts

- Plastic bags are the most visible source of litter we see on most streets and freeways today.
- One single plastic bag can take up to 1,000 years to degrade and also remain toxic after they break down.
- Though efficient to produce, it is crucial that plastic bags be reused and recycled and kept out of natural environments because they do not biodegrade quickly and can cause problems for wildlife when improperly disposed.

You can see a calendar of events at www.recyclenow.org/reduce/carryout_bag_reduction.asp get your bag (while supplies last).

Visit <http://www.recyclenow.org/business/carryoutbags.asp> to get the facts about the ordinance, to find suppliers of ordinance-compliant checkout bags and to download bilingual customer education materials. For additional questions, email recyclenow@sonoma-county.org or call 707-565-3375.

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 • meat & bones • seafood & shells
- cheese • dairy products



Cotati Recycling News

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.

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 Pick up 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 pick up.

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 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 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.

COTATI YACHT CLUB

Oliver's REAL FOOD. REAL PEOPLE. MARKETS

PARK AVENUE CATERING

AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR
Peet's Coffee & Tea

Want to join our "Green Family"?
Email now to GreenFamily@unicycler.com

Cotati's Split Body Trucks

Have you seen the garbage truck stop to collect the garbage cart and then pull forward and collect the blue recycling cart? These items are not being mixed, but are being placed in separate compartments of Redwood Empire Disposal's state-of-the art trucks. You may see these trucks, with a split compartment body, which keeps two commodities separate within the truck. Used in some areas of Cotati, these new eco-friendly vehicles decrease the number of trips through neighborhoods by one-third, while the split compartment trucks keep trash and recycling, or trash and yard waste separate. Collecting two materials in one truck decreases the amount of fuel and energy used, not to mention reduced traffic on roadways and in neighborhoods. Our entire fleet of collection vehicles run on Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel, which is specifically refined diesel fuel that has dramatically reduced sulfur content than the previous standard in highway diesel. Keep your eye out for these split bodied trucks in your neighborhood!

Truck Benefits:

- Collection of Two Materials in One Truck
- Reduced Truck Trips in Your Neighborhood
- Reduces Wear and Tear on Your Streets
- Reduced Emissions Exceed State Standards



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, kitchen prep scraps, bread, grains, pasta, baked goods, eggs, eggshells and non-coated paper products such as paper plates and napkins. **No meat, bones, dairy or seafood products in the yardwaste can.**
- 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.

Got Cooking Oil?

Plan on cooking this holiday season? Not sure what to do with leftover oil and grease? Fortunately, there is a solution. Several Sonoma County restaurants accept clean, liquid vegetable oil that is mostly free of any solids, meat scraps or water. Yokayo Biofuels, a CDFA-licensed grease collection center based in Ukiah, collects used vegetable oil and processes it into biodiesel. Visit recyclenow.org and see the Recycling Topics Database Search and look under "grease/food service oils" for additional Sonoma County locations that accept clear cooking oil. Or call 565-DESK for more information.

The following locations accept up to 10 gallons of clean vegetable oil that is free of any solids or water. Please call for hours and delivery instructions

Betty's English Fish n' Chips
4046 Sonoma Hwy Santa Rosa, (707) 539-0899

Coco's Bakery Restaurant
1501 Farmers Ln. Santa Rosa, (707) 545-2626

Big John's Market
1345 Healdsburg Ave. Healdsburg, (707) 433-7151

Puerto Vallarta
3333 Cleveland Ave. Santa Rosa, (707) 575-4374

Black Bear Diner
201 W. Napa St. # 34 Sonoma, (707) 935-6800

Willowbrook Ale House
3600 Petaluma Blvd N. Petaluma, (707) 775-4232

Ask the Unicycler

Dear Unicycler,

I really don't want to send gift wrap to the landfill during the holidays this year. Can wrapping paper go in the blue recycling cart instead?


Signed,

Wrapping Waste Worrier

Dear Wrapping Waste Worrier:

Fortunately, a lot of gift wrap options can be recycled! Any non-metallic wrapping paper, tissue paper, gift boxes, and paper gift bags can go in the blue recycling cart, even if they still have tape and gift tag stickers attached. However, metallic wrapping paper, bows and ribbons, metallic gift bags, and filling such as Styrofoam peanuts and shredded plastic, must all go in the trash.

An easy way to avoid sending gift wrap to the landfill is by using eco-friendly alternatives. For example, you can re-use paper you already have in the house as gift wrap such as newspaper, brown paper bags, old maps, or colorful calendar pages. If you do want to use traditional gift wrap, try to purchase wrapping materials that have recycled content whenever possible. Also, try wrapping the gift in a reusable item that can be a part of the gift such as reusable tote bags, baskets, scarves, or other textiles that can be used as wrap. In addition, try and save bows, bags, and gift boxes to reuse for the following year. Reusing materials will save money and decrease the amount of waste going to the landfill. A win-win!



/NorthBayUnicycler

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 services:



Temporary Fencing



Temporary Power Solutions



Portable Restrooms & Sinks



Recycling & Debris Boxes



Private Street Sweeping

Give us a call at 707-585-5222 or visit us at www.unicycler.com for more information

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 586-2283 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. 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.



Chat Live Now!

New!

No need to spend your time on the phone. Simply go to 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 14619
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

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

Eco-Spotlight -



Cotati's Oliver's Market is being highlighted for its development and implementation of sustainable waste management practices. In 2011, Oliver's created the position of Sustainability Coordinator, who was instrumental in reducing landfill materials. Numerous steps were completed in order to accomplish landfill reduction goals:

- Implemented Composting – purchased a composting bin from The Ratto Group, providing all inclusive composting for all departments and customers.
- Implemented a Three Bin Waste System – For every waste disposal location, landfill, recycling, and composting bins were provided to ensure that all needs are readily available.
- Created and Placed Signage Above all Bins – Adapted signage provided by The Ratto Group for store needs and positioned landfill, recycling, and composting signage above the appropriate bin.
- Implemented Three Bin Systems for Customers in Eating Areas – Allowed customers to help Oliver's divert materials from the landfill and educate customers who are interested in home waste management.
- Educated Staff on Appropriate Placement of Items – Created department specific signage, listing every item and what bin it belongs in.
- Completed in Store and Compactor Audits – Regularly looked through department bins and compactor to ensure that appropriate items were in appropriate locations.
- Top to Bottom Buy-In- A lot of the success of Oliver's waste management programs comes from total company buy in. It was vital that every level of store operations were aware of changes being made. Managers were trained so that they could answer questions and remind their department employees of appropriate disposal when needed.
- Monitoring & Result Reporting – Monitoring of monthly bills allowed Oliver's to track monthly usage. Seeing tangible results has been beneficial for many reasons. You see that changes are reducing landfill materials and saving the business money. These positive results could be reported to all store levels, to solidify the fruits of the employee's labors. Results could be presented to customers proving Oliver's commitment to being a sustainable business.
- Frates Consulting – Oliver's has used Frates Consulting in creating, implementing, and monitoring waste management practices.

Oliver's and Frates Consulting are very pleased with the wonderful options for waste diversion provided by The Ratto Group. Due to these possibilities Oliver's has been able to drastically reduce their landfill materials. In addition, The Ratto Group offers many resources for those interested in saving money and reducing their environmental impact.

Year	Ave Tons per Pickup	Per Month (tons)	Per Month (lbs)
2010 (Before)	6.81	13.62	27,240
2010 (After)	5.97	11.94	23,880
2011	4.44	8.88	17,760
2012	4.66	9.32	18,640
2013	4.52	9.04	18,080
Reduction per Month	2.29	4.58	9,160
Reduction per Year	27.48	54.96	109,920
Reduction %	33.63		

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 a.m.–2:30 p.m.**

Location: **Central Disposal Site (Bldg. 5) 500 Meham 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

Hours: **Tuesdays 4-8 p.m.**

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

Hours: **Wednesdays** limited appointments

2014-15 Community Toxics Collections schedule

September 2014	November 2014	January 2015
2 Oakmont	4 Guerneville	6 Sebastopol
9 Forestville	11 Windsor	13 Cloverdale
16 Healdsburg	18 Oakmont	20 Sonoma
23 Santa Rosa, NW		27 Oakmont
30 Sonoma	December 2014	February 2015
	2 Santa Rosa, SE	3 Healdsburg
	9 Kenwood	10 Santa Rosa, NE
October 2014	16 Santa Rosa, NW	17 Petaluma
7 Cloverdale		24 Rincon Valley
14 Santa Rosa, NE		
21 Petaluma		
28 Larkfield		

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**

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

Forms & fees: Paperwork required. Download forms at www.recyclenow.org. \$25 processing fee plus disposal fees based on type and quantity of waste.

Hours: **Tuesdays & Wednesdays 7:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.**

Location: **Central Disposal Site (Bldg. 5) at 500 Meham 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. \$25 processing fee plus disposal fees based on type and quantity of waste.

Hours: **Tuesdays 4-8 p.m.** for a complete schedule of Community Toxics Collections, visit www.recyclenow.org

The Household Hazardous Waste Program is funded by the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency. www.recyclenow.org **Eco-Desk 565-3375**