

Petaluma Recycling News



Part of **The Ratto Group**
A Family of Companies

Spring 2016

unicycler.com

Contact Us:

Petaluma Refuse & Recycling

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Santa Rosa, CA 95402
(707) 766-6026

Phone Hours

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

Office Address

1309 Dynamic St.,
Petaluma, CA 94954

Chat Live
Now!

Online Chat at:
unicycler.com

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/NorthBayUnicycler

Upcoming Events:

March 7th - 11th:

**Petaluma Spring Curbside
Cleanup**


April 23rd:

BUTTER AND EGG DAYS

**"Will Around! Next Stop Petaluma!"**
Parade on April 23
Parade Apps Due FEBRUARY 28
Presented by THE PETALUMA DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION

June 22nd - 26th:

Sonoma Marin Fair



**SONOMA • MARIN
FAIRGROUNDS &
EVENT CENTER**
FOURTH DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

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WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

It was a simpler time. We had one can, steel, no wheels. We dragged it back and forth to the curb each week. It was the small minority who recycled by taking their bottles and cans back to redemption centers in town. Curbside recycling was introduced. Three crates: glass, newspaper, and cans. People were encouraged to rinse out their food and beverage containers so they were clean for recycling. By 2003, The Ratto Group had introduced single-stream recycling. Now residents could co-mingle all of their recyclables in one large container (with wheels!). The increase in recycling participation was dramatic. It was more convenient. Residents no longer felt that they were putting all of their recyclables on display for the whole neighborhood to see. As the years went on, The Ratto Group continued to find markets for materials so that the stream could be widened. Rigid plastics were added to the mix allowing residents to recycle broken toys, laundry baskets, and even patio chairs (as long as they fit into the container). Residents no longer had to rinse out their food containers. As long as they were empty, people could be confident in knowing that the material would be recycled without using additional precious water. The Ratto Group long had a mantra of “When in doubt-recycle it!” when it came to deciding whether something should be recycled or thrown in the garbage. Now the climate is changing again.

Today’s reality is that most of the world’s manufacturing is done in China and throughout the Asian Pacific. This means that in order for materials to be effectively recycled, they must be shipped to markets overseas. In recent years, China has made efforts to reduce their pollution from manufacturing as well as waste. They have increased the standards for the recyclable materials which they receive for manufacturing. This means that now, more than ever, it is important to ensure that those jars of pasta sauce and cans of soup are empty. This doesn’t mean that we need to go back to rinsing our containers again, but they should be completely empty so that any residue is not going to leak out and contaminate the other materials that are in your single-stream recycling container.

Many people wonder just what happens to the contents of your recycling container once it is emptied into the truck each week. Most people by now are well aware that the Ratto Group uses “Split-body” trucks which allows for picking up two different containers in one trip. This means that the garbage can be taken to the landfill and emptied there, while the recycling material is taken to our sorting facility on Standish Avenue in Santa Rosa. There the material is sorted by hand as well as automated machines. The material is then baled and prepared for shipping to manufacturing companies overseas. There is always some material left over that cannot be recycled. This material is called “Residuals”. The facilities on Standish Avenue are recycling facilities, and not for garbage disposal. Therefore the State of California monitors these facilities to ensure that only a small percentage of the material is residual which ultimately ends up in the landfill. A recent article in The Atlantic quoted Tom Szaky- CEO of Terracycle in New York as saying “Typically, 50% of what you put in your recycling bin is never recycled. It’s sorted and thrown out...” California rules for residual require that percentage to be less than 10%. This is why it is very important that residents only use their recycling containers for acceptable recyclable materials. Garbage in the recycling containers contaminates the rest of the materials and puts the facility and its workers at risk.

This changing climate is not unique to Sonoma County. In a recent San Jose Mercury News article it was reported that the City of San Jose is considering increasing the size of garbage containers to help reduce recycling contamination. They are finding that residents are placing garbage in with their recycling when they do not have room for it in their garbage containers. As a Ratto Group customer you have a choice as to which size garbage container you have. We all want to have the smallest size garbage container and recycle as much as possible, but in some cases it may be necessary to have a larger garbage container to ensure that the recycling is full of clean and recyclable materials. The cost savings of having a smaller garbage container may be off-set by fees associated with contaminating your recycling. In other words, if your garbage container is too small to accommodate your waste, don’t contaminate your recycling. Just contact us for a larger container.

Links to the articles referenced above can be found on our website unicycler.com in our news section. There, you can also find helpful videos solving some of those more “controversial” questions such as: When is a pizza box recyclable? How clean do food containers have to be? The website also contains helpful, printable materials which explain just what is acceptable in your recycling container. By following the rules and spreading the word, together we can keep recycling convenient and cost-effective in Sonoma County.

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 all 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.
- 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.



Petaluma Refuse & Recycling
PO Box 14609
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Tel (707) 766-6026
Tel (800) 243-0291
Fax (707) 586-5543

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 766-6026 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 (Petaluma Refuse & Recycling) 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 single-family residential customers. Since we use a different truck to collect these items, please call Petaluma Refuse & Recycling at 766-6026 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.



ACCEPTED FOR RECYCLING ONLY
ACEPTADO PARA RECICLAR SOLAMENTE

Metal & Aluminum Cans
Latas de Metal y Aluminio

Glass Bottles & Jars
Jarras y Botellas de Vidrio

Plastic Bottles (with lid)
Botellas de Plástico (con Tapa)

Empty Household Plastic Containers & Rigid Plastic Items (No Clamshells)
Recipientes Para el Hogar de Plástico Vacíos Así Como los Artículos de Plástico Rígido (No Envases Para Empaque de políester Tipo Almaja)

Paper (No Shredded Paper), Paper Bags, Cereal Boxes, Cardboard (Flattened)
Papel (No Papel Picado), Bolsas del Papel, Cajas de Cereales, Carton (Apilaste Todas las Cajas),

Soy/Rice Milk & Juice Boxes
Cartones de Leche, de Soya/Arroz y Cajas de Jugo

Newspaper, Magazines, Office Paper, Catalogs & Telephone Books
Periódicos, Revistas, Papel de Oficina, Catálogos y Guías Telefónicas

NO Plastic Bags
No Bolsas de Plástico

Questions? Not sure which bin?
¿Preguntas? ¿No estoy seguro que contenedor?
unicycler.com

No Trash
No Basura

TOXICS DISPOSAL IN SONOMA COUNTY

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 Meham Rd., Petaluma

Community Toxics Collections
Every week there is a toxics collection somewhere in Sonoma County. Bring your ID to prove residency.
Appointment: **Call 795-2025 option 3 or toll-free required: 1-877-747-1870**
or email 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
Hours: **Wednesdays** limited appointments

Community Toxics Collections schedule

March 2016	May 2016	July 2016
1 Rincon Valley	3 Guerneville	5 Cloverdale
8 Petaluma	10 Oakmont	12 Santa Rosa, SE
15 Larkfield	17 Healdsburg	19 Sonoma
22 Sebastopol	24 Boyes Hot Springs	26 Rohnert Park
29 Santa Rosa, NW	31 Larkfield	
April 2016	June 2016	August 2016
5 Windsor	7 Bodega Bay	2 Windsor
12 Sonoma	14 Santa Rosa, NW	9 Sebastopol
19 Cloverdale	21 Petaluma	16 Forestville
26 Santa Rosa, SE	28 Kenwood	23 Glen Ellen
		30 Cotati

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 am–2:30 pm**
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 pm** for a complete schedule of Community Toxics Collections, visit www.recyclenow.org

Business Hazardous Waste

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



SONOMA COUNTY 2016 RECYCLING GUIDE
Get info to reduce your waste.

Food. Too good to waste.
On average, each Sonoma County household disposes of 190 pounds of food in the household garbage per year.

190 POUNDS

Americans waste 25% of the food they purchase.

565-DESK(3375)
WWW.RECYCLENOW.ORG

