# **CONTRACTION**

Why is Battery Recycling Important?

In an emergency and for all those electronic products we've come to depend on, batteries as an essential part of modern life. They help us hear, work, play, communicate, capture an image, be mobile, and alert us to danger conveniently and inexpensively.



From cell phones and computers, watches, smoke alarms, toys, and hearing aids, to flash lights and power tools — our demand for batteries has grown dramatically and is likely to continue to increase as technology finds new uses for this handy, portable energy source. Over 3 billion industrial and household batteries are purchased each year. That's enough to fill 600 full-size school buses annually! Unfortunately, many batteries contain toxic metals, such as mercury, cadmium and lead, which are a potential threat to people and the environment if not disposed of properly. Mercury, for example, is a nerve toxin that can impair the way people see, hear, walk and talk. When mercury gets into the environment, it builds up in the tissue of fish and wildlife and people who eat those fish. Because used batteries can be hazardous, they should not be thrown out in the garbage.

#### Safe Storage & Transportation of Batteries

A used battery may appear to be no longer useful, but can still contain a residual charge. Certain precautions must be taken to prevent batteries from short-circuiting and potentially causing a fire. Separate rechargeable batteries from non-rechargeable batteries.

Isolate the contacts of lithium (Li) batteries by putting each Li and Li-ion battery back into its original packaging, putting each Li and Li-ion battery in a separate plastic bag, or placing duct tape over the contact of each Li and Li-ion battery.

Store batteries separately in a plastic bucket, plastic bag, shoe box or non-metal container prior to recycling. All batteries -- rechargeable, <u>non-rechargeable</u>, and <u>automotive batteries</u> — are accepted at the Yuba-Sutter Household Hazardous Waste Facility.



s a participant in the Yuba-Sutter Curbside Recycling Program, you spend time each week preparing your recyclables for their journey to the curb and beyond. In fact, your initial efforts are crucial to the success of the recycling program. Presorting clean recycling materials also reduces processing costs.

#### Recycling is a three-step process:

- Collecting clean recyclable materials from homes and businesses;
- Remanufacturing the recyclables into new products; and
- Purchasing recycled products.

## All three steps are required for recycling to be successful.

When you finish drinking a beverage from a plastic bottle you simply drop the bottle into your blue recycling cart along with newspapers, office paper, metal cans, junk mail, etc. You don't need to bag or sort the recyclables. Remember on your collection day you only need to set out your cart if it is full.

## Where do the recyclables go next?

Recology Yuba-Sutter crews pick up the recyclable materials from your cart, dump them all into a collection truck and take them to a specially designed Materials Recovery Facility, at the Recology Yuba-Sutter transfer station or MRF (pronounced "MERF"). At the MRF, recyclable items or materials are sorted by type, baled, and loaded onto tractor-trailer trucks to go to factories or mills to be remanufactured. By purchasing items with recycled content, you encourage manufacturers to use your recycled materials in their processes. This provides a market for your aluminum, tin, glass, plastic and paper and creates a 'closed system' where fewer raw materials are needed in quantities and your used, recyclable materials are in demand. The most contaminated items found in the blue carts are Bathroom/Kitchen tissues, paper towels/plates, foam packing blocks, leftover take out food. In the green cart, the most common items are kids toys, car parts, dead animals and clothes. Contamination limits the ultimate marketability of items collected. Contamination reduces the value of recyclables and it hinders processing and causes unproductive downtime and clean-up expenses for processors, reclaimers and end-users.

# We Are Here to Serve!

We've all been there—the golden crossroads where we say good-bye to some of our favorite old items. Whether it is the BBQ you got as a wedding gift, or the lawnmower you purchased when you bought your first house, there always comes a time to say "good-bye."

The question is, how do you get rid of these larger items? The emotional break is up to you, but we can help you on the disposal end. Residential customers can request Bulky Item Pick-Up in advance of the regular collection day by calling Recology Yuba-Sutter at 530-743-6933 or using our online bulky item program form at www.recologyyubasutter.com. Each customer of Recology receives two coupons per year.

BBQs are similar to lawnmowers in that they need some prep-work before heading for the curb or the recycling center. Propane tanks need to be removed and either used with your new BBQ, or safely disposed of by taking them to the household hazardous waste facility. If you have a BBQ that doesn't rely on propane, you're in great shape. Just drag it out to the curb and attach the bulky item coupon, or take it to the Recology Yuba-Sutter Transfer Station. If there are any wheels on your BBQ, don't worry, they can stay put and be treated as garbage.

Lawnmowers need to have the oil and gasoline removed before they can be set-out at the curb for bulky item pickup. The gasoline and oil should be taken out and disposed of properly at the household hazardous waste facility. Don't worry about the tires, they can be left on and thrown out with the mower. Most importantly, Recology Yuba-Sutter will only pick up items that are labeled with the free bulky item coupon. This is important, you may know it is trash, but we have to be certain! We've seen some pretty worn-out items be proudly pulled back into the garage or yard at the end of the day!

### Recology Employee Owners Pitch In To Help One Of Their Own

Mike McFarland started in 1980 and worked for us 32 years. He and his father formerly ran Mike's Disposal in Live Oak which was purchased by YSDI in 1980. Mike stayed on as a driver where he continued to service our customers in Live Oak. Due to extraordinary circumstances Mike became wheelchair bound in 2012. He has been kind and upbeat throughout what most people would consider very difficult times. His love of gardening inspired his fellow employee owners to create a garden with easy access.





Recology. Yuba-Sutter

3001 N. Levee Road, Marysville 530.743.6933

Everyday Public Dumping Hours 7:00 am to 4:30 p.m.

Buy Back Center Hours Tues-Fri: 7:30 am to 2:00 p.m. Sat: 7:30 to 3:00 p.m. Monday - Friday Office Hours 8:00 am to 4:30 p.m. recologyyubasutter.com

For more information about the Yuba-Sutter Curbside Recycling Program call Public Education Coordinator Jackie Sillman at 749-4220 or visit YubaSutterRecycles.com