

Spring 2015

unicycler.com

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:**May 11th - 15th**

**Cotati Spring Curbside
 Cleanup**

June 14th**July 11th****July 24th - Aug. 9th****Aug. 22nd & 23rd****June - September**

**COTATI
 FARMERS
 MARKET**

For Us, Every Day Is Earth Day

Every year The United States joins over one hundred countries celebrating Earth Day to raise ecological awareness across the globe. Originating on April 22, 1970, it is a day to reflect on both our planet and the environment. It is also a day to educate others in ways we can keep our Earth healthy. Earth Day is a worldwide commemoration as well as a day to remember the importance of protecting our environment.

The idea came to Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, after witnessing the ravages of the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Inspired by the student anti-war movement, he realized that if he could infuse that energy with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution, it would force environmental protection onto the national political agenda. Senator Nelson announced the idea for a "national teach-in on the environment" to the national media, he persuaded Pete McCloskey, a conservation-minded Republican Congressman, to serve as his co-chair and recruited Denis Hayes as national coordinator. Hayes built a national staff of 85 to promote events across the land.

As a result, on the 22nd of April, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy sustainable environment in massive coast-to-coast rallies. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values.

As 1990 approached, a group of environmental leaders asked Denis Hayes to organize another big campaign. This time, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting environmental issues onto the world stage. Earth Day 1990 gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. It also prompted President Bill Clinton to award Senator Nelson the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1995) -- the highest honor given to civilians in the United States -- for his role as Earth Day founder.

A unique aspect of Earth Day in 1970 was that it brought together Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, and many other people with seemingly different beliefs and backgrounds. Earth Day 1970 was an important part of the National Environmental Awareness Campaign in 1986 which continues today. This campaign led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

A highlight of the annual ceremony at the United Nations is the ringing of the peace bell that was given to the U.N. by Japan. The passage of the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act, are considered to be products of Earth Day. We can make a difference by starting with a few actions:

Save Energy: Start turning off all unnecessary lights, fans, televisions, and unplug unused electronics.

Save Water: Conserve water by turning it off while brushing your teeth or shaving, choose to take short showers rather than baths, and check faucets & pipes for leaks.

Use Less Gas: Walk or ride a bike to reach your destination. This helps reduce pollution.

Recycle: In addition to recycling paper, cardboard, and plastic; recycle electronics! E-cycle all old batteries, old game consoles, and televisions.

Compost: After composting, plant trees and other plants to produce oxygen in the air.

Stay tuned into the new ways to go green!!!

Earth Day was intended to be a chance to learn about ways in which we can live in a more environmentally responsible fashion. So do your part for the Earth, by rethinking, reducing, reusing, recycling and reinventing. With just a few simple steps, we can all live our lives more eco-friendly!



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 Curbside Cleanup - May 11th-15th

During this week, Cotati residents may place extra garbage-contained in bags or boxes at the curb for collection on their regular collection day. **Items must be at the curb the night before your regularly scheduled collection day.**

Who May Participate?

- Cotati residential customers in good standing
- Multi-family complexes must request cleanup service by scheduling service no later than Friday, May 9th. Call Redwood Empire Disposal at 585-0291 to schedule.

-Businesses & Property Managers may not participate Requirements:

-Excess materials will not be removed. Residents are limited to two cubic yards of materials at the curb--equivalent to 14 bags, boxes or bins OR one bulky item plus seven bags or boxes OR 2 bulky items (e.g., couch or chair)

-Loose items will not be collected. All materials must be contained.

E-Waste Items:

TV's, computer monitors, electronic waste, also scrap metal.

*Fee for freon appliance & or microwaves. Call 585-0291 for an appointment or visit *www.unicycler.com* for more information

Bulky Items:

Bulky items must weigh LESS than 50 pounds, be less than 5 feet long and capable of being loaded easily onto a truck. Large furniture requires an appointment. Call Redwood Empire Disposal at 585-0291 before Friday May 9th for an appointment.



Prohibited Items:

The following items are not accepted:

-Dirt, rocks, concrete, tires, tree stumps, large appliances, mattresses, electronics, or pressure treated wood, wood waste, lawnmowers, recyclable items, or items banned from disposal

-No hazardous waste will be collected curbside including propane tanks, paint, oil, chemicals & cleaners. For hazardous waste disposal information call 565-3375 or visit www.recyclenow.org



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.

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

Ask the Unicycler

Dear Unicycler,

What is the easiest and most efficient way to pay my bill?

Signed,

Mr. Green

Dear Mr. Green:

Our online bill pay is the easiest and most efficient way to pay your garbage bill. With our online service you no longer receive paper bills, eliminate the use of stamps and handwritten checks which reduces the use of paper.

To get started, follow these 4 simple steps:

- Go to unicycler.com and click on pay bill in the right hand corner
- Have your bill with your unique ID available
- Click on the register button
- Enter in your information

Once you have created your account you will be able to: Pay your bill with credit, debit or bank withdrawal (residential billing is done quarterly and commercial billing is done monthly). Set up automatic "no-hassle" future payments. View your bills and billing history. Go Green - Enroll in paperless billing. Save trees, time and hassle.

Have a recycling or environmental question? Ask us at 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 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.



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 14609
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

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

It's Time For Spring! Clean Out and Clean Up!

It's about that time to start spring cleaning and de-cluttering your home. Often our busy lives become too overwhelmed. Clutter starts to build. The Ratto Group's mission is to help get things back on track with our "Go Green Clean Out" program.

Whether items were left behind by an old tenant, remodeling project, office move, or planning for a remodel of your home or backyard, we can help get rid of the debris! Why move items yourself? We will haul everything from where it sits, just point out what you no longer want, need, or have a use for, and we will take care of the rest!

Our teams consist of green waste disposal professionals who can help you with your home clean out. We will provide you with the peace of mind of knowing that you're "junk" is being disposed of in the most ethical way possible. We offer professional crews that have been trained in cleanout practices to make the job as efficient as possible.

No worries. We will provide dumpsters, cans, bins, and containers. We have the arsenal for any size job! We provide the following services for:

•Garage clean out •Basement clean out •Attic clean out •Property clean out •Estate clean out •Office clean out •Warehouse clean out
•Construction clean out •Foreclosure clean out and clean up •Downsizing clean out •Yard waste clean out

We love what we do!

As fully licensed proprietors of a D-63 Construction Clean-up contractor license, our experienced staff is fully skilled in working closely with construction teams or on their own. We are not only licensed but fully insured.

Where does your stuff go?

We here at The Ratto Group, pride ourselves in doing our best to keep the environment green, and we'll donate, recycle, and reuse all possible items to do our part in keeping Sonoma County clean! Our team will first sort out anything in good condition. We donate what we can and recycle the rest so that the community and the environment benefit. Our crew can quickly identify what can and cannot be recycled and separate the remaining items accordingly. The team also ensures that all hazardous materials like refrigerant, medical items or items with lead-based paint are removed before sending the "junk" to our recycling center. Particular care is taken when recycling old appliances and electronic equipment which can pose hazards.

How to get started:

Just give us a call at 707-495-0864, provide the location, and we will check out the site and give an estimate at no cost then provide your onsite quote! Our team operates seven days a week. All you have to do is provide us with access, and we will have everything cleaned out in no time!

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 Mecham 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 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

2015 Community Toxics Collections schedule

March 2015

3 Rohnert Park
10 Larkfield
17 Monte Rio
24 Santa Rosa, NW
31 Sebastopol

May 2015

5 Oakmont
12 Guerneville
19 Larkfield
26 Boyes Hot Springs

July 2015

7 Sonoma
14 Cloverdale
21 Santa Rosa, SE
28 Rohnert Park

April 2015

7 Windsor
14 Santa Rosa, SE
21 Cloverdale
28 Sonoma

June 2015

2 Santa Rosa, NW
9 Healdsburg
16 Kenwood
23 Bodega Bay
30 Petaluma

August 2015

4 Windsor
11 Sebastopol
18 Glen Ellen
25 Oakmont

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 Mecham 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



The Household Hazardous Waste Program is funded by the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency.

www.recyclenow.org Eco-Desk 565-3375

Sonoma County 2015 RECYCLING GUIDE

in the YP - The Real Yellow Pages phone book



Find a paint drop-off site near you.
Get info: WWW.RECYCLENOW.ORG

