



Fall 2015

unicycler.com

Contact Us: Novato Disposal Service

(415) 897-4177

New!



Online Chat at:
unicycler.com

Office Hours

Monday - Friday 7am-6pm

Saturday - Sunday 7am-3pm



[/NorthBayUnicycler](https://www.facebook.com/NorthBayUnicycler)

Upcoming Events:

October 10th - 12th

Free!
**Household E-Waste
Drop-off**

Novato Recycling Center
7576 Redwood Blvd.
See back page for details
www.novatosan.com



Christmas Tree Pickup

Curbside Collection:

January 4th - January 8th

Place whole trees (less than 4 feet long) at the curb on your regularly scheduled collection day. (Longer trees may be cut in half)

Drop-off Location:

3 Weekends

December 26-27th
January 2-3rd &
January 9th-10th

Drop off at 9am-5pm at

San Marin High School

15 San Marin Drive Novato, CA

\$5 unflocked/\$15 flocked trees

Pick-up Service:

Pick-up service can be scheduled through smtreecycle@gmail.com or call (415) 899-9223 for an appointment at an additional fee of \$10 for standard trees, \$25 for flocked. All proceeds from this event support San Marin's Safe and Sober Grad Party for graduating seniors. For more information please visit: <http://smsafegrad.org/>

General Tree Collection Information:

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

-Green Waste Cart Collecton: Trees are accepted in Green Waste Carts at **ANYTIME**. Trees **MUST** be cut to fit inside cart. 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 or in green cart



Package-Free Holiday Shopping

The easiest way to cut back on what you're throwing away is to reduce the amount of stuff you bring home in the first place. A good place to start is with product packaging. After all, packaging makes up 30 percent of America's trash — the largest portion of municipal solid waste generated.

It might seem overwhelming (perhaps even downright impossible) to do package-free holiday shopping, but there are ways to cut back on unnecessary packaging. Look for retailers that offer package-free products. Avoiding excessive packaging just takes practice. A good idea would be to shop at local shops and craft fairs, and keep an eye out in secondhand shops for new condition items. There are some great eco-shops that sell cool eco-alternatives, and you can get like-new secondhand books online. If you must wrap, try newspaper or paper bags - and always shop with a reusable bag.

Prefer to do all of your shopping online? Before placing an order with a company, find out what kind of packaging it uses. If the website doesn't provide that information, contact the retailer. The company might be willing to ship your items in a more eco-friendly way if you ask. Buying online might even be the greener choice. Some online retailers offer packaging free of styrofoam, plastic and clam shells. Online retailers offer an interesting sustainability opportunity because they do not need to rely on packaging to market a product, and therefore they may be able to forgo some packaging without any loss of benefit.

It can be difficult to assess the sustainability of packaging. If you see two similar products, it's easy to assume the one with the least amount of packaging is the more eco-friendly choice, but what if the more heavily packaged item comes wrapped in mostly recyclable materials?

Unicycler advises sustainably minded customers to simply use their best judgment. Don't just look at the amount of packaging — see what it's made of and check if the material can be recycled in your area. If you come across an item that's excessively packaged, don't hesitate to tell the company. When consumers send the message that sustainability matters, companies listen. So to benefit our environment remember to shop at local stores where you can buy unpackaged goods, purchase used items from thrift shops, and check out our website for more tips at www.unicycler.com.



Mandatory Commercial Recycling



California's Mandatory Commercial Recycling Law, AB 341, (came into effect on July 1, 2012) requires qualifying businesses and multifamily dwellings to recycle. The purpose of the law is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by diverting commercial solid waste to recycling efforts. According to the State, the commercial sector generates nearly three fourths of the solid waste in California. In Marin County, it is estimated that 70% of what is being landfilled in Marin County could be recycled.

Which businesses must comply with the law? Any commercial or public entity that generates 4 cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week.

Multifamily dwellings means residential dwellings of 5 units or more regardless of the amount of commercial solid waste generated.

No cost for single-stream recycling. Save money by reducing your garbage & increasing your recycling. The cost for disposal services is based on your level of garbage service. The more material recycled, the less you pay in disposal.

How to get started? Call us at (415) 897-4177 or for more information visit our website at www.unicycler.com.

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 and sweeping 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 897-4177 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.

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.

Recycle Used Motor Oil and Oil Filters

If you change your own motor oil you can help the environment today! Recycle your used motor oils from your car, truck, boat or lawn and garden equipment. Don't mix your used oil with any other liquids, such as solvents, gasoline, paint or antifreeze. Contaminated oil cannot be recycled and is very expensive to dispose of.

•Novato Recycling Center

7576 Redwood Hwy.
897-4177

Used oil & filters

•Ron Cromwell Chevron**

1549 So. Novato Blvd.
892-5393

Used oil & filters

• O'Reilly's Auto Parts**

1400 So. Novato Blvd.
897-5338

Used oil ONLY

• Oil Changer**

133 Vintage Way
897-0134

Used oil & filters

• Pennzoil 10-Minute Oil Change**

908 Diablo Ave.
898-5823

Used oil & filters

**CA Certification Collection Centers offer 40 cents per gallon for used oil. For more information go to the Novato Sanitary District website at www.novatosan.com or call the HHW hotline at 892-7344

Got Cooking Oil?

As the holidays approach, many of us are reminded of the mouth-watering treats and meals coming our way. A by-product of these delicious dishes is used cooking oil, which cannot be poured down the drain or thrown into the garbage "as is."

When cooking oil or other liquid waste is placed in garbage carts, it can leak out of collection vehicles and cause messes on the roads. Oil can enter storm drains and impact fish and wildlife and eventually make its way into our drinking water. Oil poured down the sink causes problems in sewage facilities and can create expensive blockages in city pipe systems. In order to protect Novato storm drains, waterways, & sewage systems, we need to carefully manage our cooking oil.

What Can a Chef Do?

If you have more than a few ounces of oil, you can pour kitty litter or some type of absorbent into oil to completely absorb it. Then double bag the saturated absorbent in plastic bags and place in the regular trash. Please be sure there is enough absorbent to soak up all the cooking oil. Another possibility is to check with your local restaurants to see if they will accept your clear, used cooking oil.

A Green Option for Restaurants.

Numerous restaurants in Novato have clear, liquid oil hauled away for use in production of biodiesel. Yakayo Biofuels in Ukiah is dedicated to expanding the biofuel industry in Northern California. They accept clean vegetable oil that is mostly free of solids, meat scraps and water from restaurants. Restaurants with large amounts of oil waste can contact them for collection of bulk vegetable oil. See www.ybiofuels.org or call (877) 804-1900.

If your restaurant accepts clear oil from the public, let us know and we can help promote the program and offer you some publicity at the same time.

Novato Disposal'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 Novato Disposal's state-of-the-art trucks. You may see these trucks with a split compartment body, which keeps garbage and recycling separate within the truck. Used in some areas of Novato, these new eco-friendly vehicles decrease the number of trips through neighborhoods by one-third, while the split compartment trucks keep trash and recycling 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



Yard and Food 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.

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) • corks • nursery pots or plastic • pet waste

Food scrap pails are still available for a \$6 fee at the Novato Recycling Center located at 7576 Redwood Blvd.

Ask the Unicycler

Dear Unicycler,

How do I dispose of my household light bulbs and batteries? I want to do the right thing!

A:

Thanks for asking! You probably have several types of light bulbs in your home. Fluorescent tubes, or compact fluorescent light (CFL's) bulbs are considered hazardous because of their mercury content and cannot be tossed in the trash or in your curbside recycling. Newer LED bulbs can also be recycled. You can bring your fluorescents and LED's to the Novato Recycling Center, HHW facility or Pini's Hardware for safe recycling. As for those old incandescent bulbs, they are NOT recyclable and should be tossed in the trash.

All household batteries – alkaline, ni-cads, lithiums, button batteries – cannot be thrown in the trash. Your household batteries can also be dropped off for recycling at the Novato Recycling Center, HHW facility or Pini's Hardware.

Please make sure you keep your batteries separate from your fluorescent bulbs. The weight of the batteries will cause the bulbs to break, releasing the hazardous mercury gas and removing the recyclability of the bulbs.

Thank you,

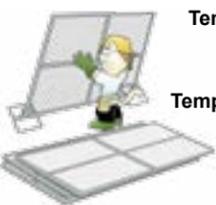
Unicycler

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

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 recycling of the construction and demolition materials. Exchanges of debris boxes can even be done same day. We now offer a full array of the following:

Temporary Fencing



Temporary Power Solutions



Portable Restrooms & Sinks



Recycling & Debris Boxes



Private Street Sweeping



Give us a call at 415-897-4177 or visit us at www.unicycler.com for more information

Single-Stream "Curbside" 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.

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.

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"





NOVATO'S OFFICIAL RECYCLING CENTER

7576 Redwood Blvd., next to Shamrock Materials

Open Tuesday - Sunday, 10am - 4pm



- ✓ Novato's original Recycling Center, established in 1993
- ✓ Novato's **authorized** CRV redemption center
- ✓ The **only** Recycling Center operated by Novato Disposal Service
- ✓ **Mandated and endorsed** by Novato Sanitary District
- ✓ Accepts **ALL** curbside recyclable materials listed above
- ✓ Also accepts latex paint, antifreeze, household and car batteries, fluorescent tubes and bulbs and used motor oil and filters

For more information use our new chat feature at unicycler.com or call Novato Disposal Service at 897-4177







Novato Disposal Service, Inc.

PO Box 3849
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

Tel (415) 897-4177
Fax (707) 586-5543

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

The Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility is open **only** to Novato residents. The HHW facility is located at the Novato Recycling Center at 7576 Redwood Boulevard (next to Shamrock Materials). No appointment is needed.

The HHW facility accepts the following, and other types of HHW, the first and third Sunday and Monday of each month from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm, excluding most holidays:

- Oil based paints, stains & thinners
- Engine cleaners & brake fluid
- Automotive and furniture polishes
- Pesticides, insecticides
- Pool chemicals
- Computer monitors & televisions
- Mercury thermometers & switches
- Propane tanks
- Sharps & lancets (in approved containers)

Ongoing drop-offs are also accepted Tuesday through Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm at the Novato Recycling Center. The following materials **only** are accepted:

- Latex paint only in original can
- Used motor oil & filters
- Antifreeze (5 gallon max)
- Automotive batteries
- Household batteries
- Fluorescent tubes & compact fluorescents

Questions? For questions about residential or household hazardous waste call the HHW Hotline at 892-7344.

HHW Facility Schedule

Open 8:30 am – 1:30 pm

2015

Sunday	Monday
October 4	October 5
October 18	October 19
November 1	November 2
November 15	November 16
December 6	December 7
December 20	December 21

2016

Sunday	Monday
January 3	January 4
January 17	January 18
February 7	February 8
February 21	February 22
March 6	March 7
March 20	March 21

Commercial Hazardous Waste Program



If your business uses products that are labeled corrosive, poison, reactive, toxic or flammable, then you are generating hazardous wastes. Wastes such as lab and photo chemicals, paints, solvents, pesticides, acids and printing inks are considered hazardous and require special handling.

The Commercial Hazardous Waste program is provided for eligible businesses to dispose of small quantities of hazardous wastes. It's a safe, legal and affordable way to dispose of these wastes. The drop-off program for businesses is available by appointment only on the first and third Sunday and Monday of each month. The Facility is located at 7576 Redwood Boulevard, toward the rear of the Novato Recycling Center. To confirm eligibility and schedule an appointment, call 415-892-6395.



Free! E-Waste Event

Saturday, October 10th- Monday, October 12th

10 am - 3 pm

Novato Recycling Center

7576 Redwood Blvd.

A three-day free drop-off event for Novato residents to recycle common electronic products will be held at the Novato Recycling Center. All types of household electronics will be accepted, such as:

- TV's
- Fax Machines
- Phones
- VCR's & DVD's
- Toasters
- Vacuums
- Other small household electronics
- Computers
- Radios & Stereos
- Microwaves
- Blenders
- Hair Dryers
- Coffee Makers

E-Waste is considered a hazardous waste and cannot be disposed of in the trash. Although both working and non-working electronics will be accepted at this event, please consider donating working equipment to a local charity or thrift store. Novato Disposal also offers free pick-up of household electronics for single family residential customers up to 4 times per year. Call Novato Disposal to schedule a pick up. For questions about the E-Waste event call 892-7344 or go to www.unicycler.com or www.novatosan.com for more information. This event is for Novato residents only. Novato businesses please call 892-6395 for more information.

Large appliances such as washers, dryers, stoves, refrigerators, water heaters, dishwashers or air conditioners will not be accepted at this event. Contact Novato Disposal Service at 897-4177 for a for-fee pick-up of these items. Please do not drop off these items at the Novato Recycling Center.



Safe Pharmaceutical Disposal

Drugs that are improperly disposed of can pollute our marine environment, soils and groundwater. Protect your family by keeping all drugs away from children and pets. Now you can safely dispose of your unwanted medications at the Novato Police Department, 900 Machin Ave., Monday - Thursday from 10am to 5pm in the bin located in the front lobby.

Acceptable items include:

- Prescription medications
- All over the counter medications
- Vitamins and supplements
- Medicated ointments
- Lotions and creams
- Liquid medications in leak-proof containers
- Inhalers
- Pet medications

Items not accepted include:

- Sharp items including needles
- IV bags
- Bloody or infectious waste
- Personal care products
- Empty pill containers
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Aerosol cans

Please remove all pills from containers and place in a Ziploc bag or small paper bag for deposit into the return bin. This will help keep the volume to a minimum. Bags will not be provided by the Novato Police Department.