



## Making the planet a better place

One of the most effective ways to help our planet be healthier is by adopting sustainable practices such as the **five Rs: refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle, and rot.**

### EARTH DAY IS APRIL 22

Honor Mother Earth every day by committing to avoiding waste.

Reuse is a simple yet impactful strategy. Repurposing containers, clothing, and furniture helps prevent items from ending up in landfills and decreases the need for resource-intensive manufacturing processes.

What could you do? Switch from a single-use product to a reusable one. Think long-term about what you purchase. Do you need it and how long will you use it?

Try fixing something before tossing it out. Donate usable items before trashing them.

### WHATBIN.COM

Recycling saves precious resources, such as water and trees, and reduces energy consumption. Materials such as paper, glass, and some metals and plastics are remanufactured and made into new products. Recology accepts a variety of materials for recycling.

The Recology website [whatbin.com](https://www.whatbin.com) is an excellent tool to know, without a doubt, what goes in which bin.

### FARMS, NOT LANDFILL

By participating in curbside collection for composting, you keep food scraps, yard trimmings, and food-soiled paper out of the

landfill, thus reducing methane emissions, a potent greenhouse gas.

Recology collects these materials and turns them into nutrient-rich compost that nurtures soils on local farms. In this way, composting helps close the loop on food production, making it an effective way to return valuable nutrients to the earth and promote healthy ecosystems.

Pick up Recology compost for use in your yard at 2021 Broadway, 8 AM – 3:30 PM Thursday – Saturday. Limit 2 bags while supplies last.

Reusing, recycling, and composting are powerful ways to take action and make a positive difference for the planet. Happy Earth Day! ■

SEE PAGE 2 FOR TIPS  
ON RECYCLING RIGHT



## CLEAR CLUTTER FOR *free*

Use your annual **Dump Coupon** or **one of your four free Bulky Item**

**Pickups** to remove big or heavy items that won't fit in your bins.

The Dump Coupon, which you should have received in the mail, is good for a one-time use at

the Devlin Road Transfer Station through the end of the year. You may drop off one load up to and not exceeding 1,000 pounds. The original coupon must be presented with an ID that matches the address of your Recology account.

A single-family residence Bulky Item Pickup is equivalent to 2 cubic yards (3ft x 3ft x 6ft): approximately 12, 32-gallon bags of trash **and** 3 oversized items such as furniture, mattresses, or a refrigerator. Freon removal charges apply. Schedule a pickup by calling **707.552.3110** or emailing [vallejocustomerservice@recology.com](mailto:vallejocustomerservice@recology.com).



## DID YOU *know*?

### YOUR PLASTIC BOTTLE CAPS CAN BE RECYCLED!



Once the plastic bottle is empty, screw the cap back on and put it in your blue bin.

Caps must be on the plastic bottle to be recycled, or they fall through the sorting machines and end up in the landfill.

### PET WASTE GOES IN THE LANDFILL BIN

Our cats' and dogs' poop can contain harmful parasites and bacteria. If flushed or composted, these can end up in our waterways or food systems. And no one wants that.



Please put pet waste in the gray bin, even kitty litter that may be labeled "flushable."

### COMPOSTABLE PLASTICS AREN'T

Compostable plastics are marketed as a green alternative to plastics.



They are supposed to break down into compost. However, the reality is that we do not yet have the infrastructure to break these materials down.

These items can't be recycled either because they are not plastic and should not be mixed with plastic. Please put them in the landfill bin. Better yet, employ reusable containers and utensils.

### LANDFILL FACTS

**When waste is sent to the landfill, nothing is sorted out.**

This is why it's especially important to keep recyclables, food scraps and other compostables, and hazardous waste out of the gray bin. Landfills can only hold so much material, and when they're filled up, more dump space must be found.

Putting recycling in the landfill means wasting a lot of materials that could be used for new products.

Putting food scraps, yard trimmings, and other compostables in the landfill increases emissions of harmful gases, such as methane.

Putting hazardous materials, such as paints, solvents, and batteries in the landfill can start fires and release toxic compounds into the air.

Sort your discards to get the full benefits of recycling and composting and help protect the environment.

### GREEN WASHING

**Greenwashing is when companies advertise products in a way that makes them seem more environmentally friendly than they are.** This may be done with imagery, vague or leading language, or stated business goals without follow-through.

Businesses may use the color green, use images of plants or trees, or use terms like "all-natural" to better sell their products to sustainable-conscious consumers. Sometimes a company will have some green practices or products to divert attention away from the not-so-green practices happening in operations.



Please do your research and don't take advertising at face value. Just because a company looks green, doesn't mean it is. Check what product materials are used and their sourcing, the company's other products and their recyclability, its emissions, and that certifications and standards are transparently available.

### CONTACT US!

*Se Habla Español*

*Nagsasalita kami ng Tagalog*

Recology Vallejo American Canyon  
2021 Broadway Street  
Vallejo, CA 94589

707.552.3110 Monday to Friday, 8 AM – 5 PM

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