

Mission Trail Waste Systems

Los Altos Quarterly Residential Newsletter



Proud to Serve the Los Altos Community

The Benefits of Curbside Recycling and Organic Waste Collection in the City of Los Altos

Mission Trail Waste Systems & City of Los Altos strive to meet ambitious environmental goals yearly, with curbside recycling and organic waste collection emerging as two of the most impactful & accessible ways for residents to make a difference. Proper use of the blue bin (for dry recycling) and green bin (for organics such as food scraps and yard waste) is helping reduce landfill waste along with reducing greenhouse emissions.

Keeping Recyclables Dry & Clean

The curbside recycling program for the residents of Los Altos is designed to capture valuable recycling materials. Paper, cardboard, metal, and certain plastics can be processed into new products or repurposed. When used correctly, the blue bin keeps these materials out of the landfill and reduces the need for new resources to be used to make similar materials. However, one common mistake threatens the effectiveness of this system; any wet waste in the recycling will compromise the good recyclables.



When food scraps or liquids are tossed into the blue recyclables bin they can contaminate entire loads of dry recycling, making it difficult for our facilities to process them. To maximize the impact of our recycling efforts, it's essential to keep the material placed in the blue bin clean & dry, placing all organic waste in the green bin.

The Power of the Green Bin

Curbside organic collection captures food scraps, soiled paper, and green waste like grass clippings, leaves, and pruned branches. These materials, when sent to landfill, break down anaerobically (without oxygen), releasing methane—a potent greenhouse gas over 80 times more powerful than carbon dioxide in the short term. By collecting organics separately and processing them through composting we significantly reduce methane emissions. This not only helps combat climate change but also creates nutrient-rich compost which supports healthy soils, water retention in our yards, and a robust agricultural sector.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Summer Sale

Downtown Los Altos, Main and State Sts.
August 1, 8:00 am - August 10, 5:00 pm

Ten days of sales (August 1st to 10th) throughout Downtown Los Altos. Come check out the bargains and specials as the businesses of Downtown Los Altos make way for the holidays.



Los Altos Rotary Fine Art in the Park

Lincoln Park, 199 University Ave.
August 9 - 10, 10 am-5:30 pm

Join the Los Altos Rotary Club for their milestone 50th annual Fine Art in the Park at Lincoln Park.



Corvette Spectacular

Downtown Los Altos, Main and State Sts.
September 21, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Come join the fun in Downtown Los Altos as Corvettes are on display over the full length of Main Street. Santa Clara Corvettes (SCC) hosts the 2025 Corvette Spectacular car show.

RECYCLING AT YOUR BBQ

Here are a few tips to keep recyclables in the blue bin clean and dry:

- **Recycle right:** Aluminum cans, glass bottles, and clean plastic containers belong in the blue bin.
- **No greasy or wet items:** Pizza boxes soaked in grease and paper plates covered in food can't be recycled—put those in the green bin.
- **Keep it dry:** Make sure recyclables aren't mixed with leftover drinks or food scraps, which can contaminate the whole bin.

Compost Food Scraps the Right Way

After the party, don't let food waste go to waste. The green bin is the perfect place for:

- Leftover meat, bones, and veggies
- Used paper napkins and compostable paper plates
- Corn cobs, watermelon rinds, and fruit peels
- BBQ skewers (wooden), coffee grounds, and tea bags

All of these can be composted through your curbside organic waste collection program, helping reduce methane emissions from landfills and returning nutrients to the soil.



1060 Richard Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050
650-473-1400
www.MissionTrail.com

Reducing Plastic Use: A Community Commitment

When shopping, try to avoid plastic packaging and choose fruits and vegetables without packaging whenever you can. Choosing items with no packaging or recyclable materials such as glass, aluminum, or paper sends a direct, powerful message to brands and packaging companies that consumers value sustainability.

Studies estimate that 8.8 million tons of plastics enter our oceans each year, negatively impacting fish, birds, dolphins, whales, and other marine life. Microplastics are now commonly found in food, water, and air. The City of Los Altos and Mission Trail Waste Systems are working together to reduce plastic waste and promote responsible recycling practices within the community.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine released a report titled 'Reckoning with the U.S. Role in Global Ocean Plastic Waste.' Its first recommendation was to reduce plastic production, particularly for plastics that are non-recyclable or non-reusable. A key strategy is to eliminate plastic altogether when shopping at farmers markets or local grocery stores by choosing loose produce and products in sustainable packaging.

Contact us:

1060 Richard Avenue | Santa Clara, CA 95050 | Office Hours: 8am-5pm | Monday-Friday
Phone: 650-473-1400 | Fax: 650-473-1300 | Web: www.MissionTrail.com