

Los Altos Quarterly Residential Newsletter



Proud to Serve the Los Altos Community

Give Reusable Items a Second Life

Before throwing out usable household items, consider donating them. Goodwill and The Salvation Army accept a wide range of gently used items—clothing, housewares, small appliances, and more—at convenient donation centers. Freecycle connects Los Altos neighbors to give and receive items for free—just join your local group at [Freecycle.org](https://www.freecycle.org), post what you're offering, and arrange a pickup.

Recycling Right: Avoiding Common Mistakes

Plastic bags and food-soiled paper are among the top contaminants found in recycling carts. MTWS would like to remind you that plastic bags go in the garbage and uncoated food-soiled paper in the organics.

Organics Recycling: Why It Matters

Help reduce methane emissions by diverting organic waste from landfills. Residents can support this effort by placing all food scraps, yard trimmings, and food-soiled paper in their green cart. Weekly collection ensures these materials become nutrient-rich compost.

Service Spotlight: Backyard Composting

MTWS will provide single-family customers upon request a backyard compost and/or worm bin free of charge. Contact us today and visit www.ReduceWaste.org for information on how to get started!

Residential Recycling Best Practices

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Disposal

1. Certain materials should never be placed in trash, recycling or organics carts.

Santa Clara County provides safe, free disposal options for residents that need to discard any hazardous waste materials. If you need to discard any of the following materials, please contact Santa Clara County hazardous waste at 408-299-7300.

- Paints, thinners, solvents, compounds and/or any hazardous waste liquids
- Batteries
- E-waste (electronics and cords)

2. Curbside Recycling Best Practices

- Plastics #1-7 are accepted. Focus on bottles, jars, tubs, and trays.
- Clean paper and cardboard (flatten boxes)
- Quick rinse all food soiled recyclables (plastic & glass)

Do NOT place these materials in the recycling carts:

- Plastic bags, shrink wrap, or film plastics, "compostable" bioplastics
- Mylar packaging
- Styrofoam or foam products
- Batteries

Important tips:

- Keep all cart lids fully closed to prevent any rain contamination
- Avoid placing wet paper or cardboard in the recycling to help preserve the dry recyclables
- Place all food scraps and yard trimmings in the green organics cart

3. Advanced Recycling & Zero-Waste Practices

- Bring e-waste recycling to an HHW facility
- Bring scrap metal to Danny's Recycling in Santa Clara, CA for recycling.
- Organics diversion (food scraps and food-soiled papers)
- Reuse and/or donate to reduce landfill waste

4. California Recycling Laws

- SB 1383: Requires all residents and businesses to separate organics and recyclables from trash to reduce methane emissions

Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose, Refuse, Repair and Rethink.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Head West Marketplace

March 22nd 11 am-5pm

Shop small with local makers, merchants, crafters, designers and artists, as Head West Marketplace returns to Downtown Los Altos on Sunday, March 22rd, from 11 am-5pm



Los Altos Farmers Market

April 30th 4pm-8pm
Main and State Streets

The Downtown Los Altos Farmers Market opens for the season along State Street on Thursday, April 30th, from 4-8pm. (The market returns to Downtown Los Altos each Thursday through October.)

Rebates are Live!

Los Altos is offering \$1,000 to residents who make the switch from gas water heaters and furnaces to heat pumps. Visit www.svcleanenergy.org, for more details and to apply today. Supplies are limited.

OIL JUGS

Are you changing the oil in your automobile? Contact Mission Trail & we will provide one-gallon used oil containers and heavy duty zip-lock bags for used oil filters. You can also use any clear container that has a screw top cap.



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MEMORIAL DAY

There will be **NO CHANGES** to the service schedule during the week of Memorial Day.

Contact us:

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