October 2026

Mission Trail Waste Systems

Los Altos Quarterly Residential Newsletter

Proud to Serve the Los Altos Community

CELEBRATING
END-OF-YEAR PROGRESS
Your Efforts Make a Difference

As the year ends, MTWS highlights community achievements: increased diversion rates, lower contamination, and expanded participation in reuse and organics programs. Every household and business contributes to a healthier, more sustainable Los Altos.

Holiday Waste Reduction Tips

- **Reuse and repurpose:** Save gift bags, bows, ribbons, and unripped wrapping paper to reuse next year.
- **Get creative:** Use newspapers, old maps, fabric, or scarves instead of traditional wrapping paper.
- **Avoid glitter and foil:** These materials make wrapping paper non-recyclable.
- **Make the packaging part of the gift:** Use a mixing bowl, coffee mug, or basket to hold smaller gifts

Recycling Tip: Keep Styrofoam Out of the Recycling Cart

Styrofoam (foam packaging, takeout containers, and block foam) cannot be recycled in your curbside recycling cart. Instead, place Styrofoam in the garbage. Keeping it out of the recycling cart helps protect the whole system!

Household Hazardous Waste: Handle It Safely

Items labeled Danger, Warning, Poisonous, or Flammable don't belong in trash, recycling, or organics carts. Mission Trail offers free curbside pickup for: batteries, cell phones/PDAs, used motor oil & filters, cooking oil, water-based paint, and CFL bulbs. Follow these quick steps:

- **Batteries:** Tape terminals, bag in clear zipper-lock, place on top of blue cart.
- **Cell Phones/PDAs:** Bag and place on top of blue cart.
- **Motor Oil & Filters:** Use Mission Trail containers; set next to the recycling cart.
- **Cooking Oil:** Seal in a labeled bottle with a tight lid; set next to the recycling cart.
- **Latex Paint:** Keep in original can with secure lid; set next to recycling cart.
- **CFL Bulbs:** Bag and place on top of blue cart.



UPCOMING EVENTS



DOWNTOWN LOS ALTOS
A BOO-tiful Downtown Halloween
October 30th @ 12:00 - 4:00 pm

DOWNTOWN LOS ALTOS
Small Business Saturday
November 28th



DOWNTOWN LOS ALTOS
Holiday Tree Celebration
December 4th @ 6:00 - 8:00 pm



170 STATE STREET, LOS ALTOS
Holiday Market
December 10th & 17th @ 4:00 - 8:00 pm



Increased Cardboard over the Holidays

If your household generates a large amount of cardboard from delivery service companies and holiday gifts these three ideas will help maximize space in your blue recycling cart.

1. Place all cardboard boxes in the blue recycling cart and please place discarded packaging tape in the black cart.
2. Please break down all cardboard boxes, flatten and cut into sizes that allow the cardboard to sit loosely in your recycling cart.
3. If your recycling cart is full but you still have extra cardboard to discard, please break the cardboard down and place into bundles no larger than 3ft x 3ft, that will fit nicely in your blue cart. Place the bundles next to your blue recycling cart on your service day. If the bundled cardboard is too large and won't fit in the cart, we cannot take it, because our drivers use your cart to move the cardboard bundles into the collection vehicle.

MISSION TRAIL
WASTE SYSTEMS

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Holiday collection schedule inside!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Mission Trail Observes the Following Holidays:

THANKSGIVING • CHRISTMAS • NEW YEAR'S DAY

Customers may experience a delay in service when a holiday falls on a weekday. During a holiday week, service preceding the holiday is unaffected. Customers whose regular service day falls on the holiday or after, however, will receive service a day late. For example, during Thanksgiving week, only customers with Thursday and Friday service are affected. Thursday customers will have their containers serviced on Friday. Friday customers will have their containers serviced on Saturday.

Contact us:

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