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WHAT DO WE DO WITH ALL THIS STUFF?

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

The Waste & Recycling Drop-off is located at 320 Harvest Drive. The Center is open Monday through Saturday from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The facility is closed on Sundays.

Aerosol Cans

Empty aerosol cans that contained food products may be placed in your blue recycling cart. All other empty aerosol cans, such as **empty** paint cans, should be placed in the garbage. Unwanted cans containing leftover material can be taken to the Waste & Recycling Drop-off at 320 Harvest Drive.

Acid & Alkali Solutions

Accepted as Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). Solutions such as chlorine for pools or hot tubs, sulfuric acid, ammonium nitrate, lime, fertilizer, etc.

Aluminum

Clean cans, pie plates, trays, and foil wrap (flatten and fold foil; do not ball up) are accepted in your blue recycling cart. For scrap aluminum, see also metals.

Ammunition and Explosives

Call 831-471-1151 for non-emergency law enforcement.

Answering Machines

See [E-Waste](#).

Antifreeze

Accepted at the at the Waste and Recycling Drop-Off Center. Place in a sealed, labeled plastic container. Do not mix with motor oil. Oil Can Henry's on Main Street also accepts antifreeze.

Appliances

Refrigerators, washers, dryers, toasters, etc. One of each free per customer per year at the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center. For those living in the City limits of Watsonville.

Asbestos

Not accepted.

Aseptic Packaging

Packages such as juice boxes or soy milk containers are not recyclable. Place in the garbage.

Asphalt

Accepted at the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center located at 320 Harvest Dr., for a charge.

Auto Batteries

Accepted at the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center at no charge from residential sources only. Do not place auto batteries in blue recycling cart.

Auto Products

Auto products such as aerosol cans, brake fluid, polishes or wax, degreasers, engine starting fluid, cleaners, etc. are accepted at the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center as HHW for no charge. Motor oil, antifreeze and oil filters are also accepted.

Bags

Buy reusable bags and use them over and over! Place paper bags of any color in your blue recycling cart. See also [Plastic Bags](#).

Batteries

Are accepted at the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center. Used batteries are considered hazardous waste in California. This includes AAA, AA, C, D, button cell, 9-volt, and all others, both rechargeable and single use. For less waste, use rechargeable batteries. Businesses selling rechargeable batteries must take them back for recycling. See also [Auto batteries](#).

Books

Accepted at any Library. Hard cover and soft cover books, original DVDs and music CD's (no copies), and books on cassette. Also local photographs and postcards are accepted (identifying information and dates appreciated).

NOT ACCEPTED: No catalogues, VHS tapes magazines, vinyl records, textbooks, or newspapers.

To donate historic items such as photos, videos, 16mm films, slides, historic newspapers, please contact the Library at 768-3400.

Also see [phone books](#) and [paper](#).

Bulky Household Items

Bulky items such as couches, dressers, mattresses or old tables are accepted for a charge.

Cardboard

Place smaller pieces into your blue recycling cart. Large amounts of loose cardboard are accepted at the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center. Wax or plastic-coated cardboard and oil or food stained cardboard is not recyclable. Wax coated or food stained cardboard such as pizza boxes may be composted in your home compost bin. Check out the **City of Watsonville's [Compost Bin Program](#) for more information.**

Chemicals and Cleaning Fluids

Items such as toilet cleaners, rug and upholstery cleaners, ammonia, disinfectants, glues, wood preservatives, oils, stains/finishes, lab sets, ceramic glazes, mothballs, oven-cleaners, solvents, polishes, paints, nail polish, bathroom cleaners, or pool or hot tub chemicals, etc., are accepted at the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center as HHW.

Christmas Trees

See [Holiday Trees](#).

Clean Fill

???

Computer Monitors & Televisions

It is illegal to landfill cathode ray tubes. Take monitors, computer processing units (CPUs) and peripherals to the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center at no charge.

Construction & Demolition Debris

The more you ????

Drugs

No drugs down the drain! See [medications](#).

Electronics (E Waste)

Discarded electronic equipment such as computer monitors, CPUs, printers, network equipment, cables, microwaves, televisions, telephones, video games, cell phones, radios, stereos, VCRs and DVD players, answering machines, printers, fax machines, and electronic toys should be taken to the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center.

Flammable Liquids

Flammable liquids such as gas, lighter fluid, turpentine, etc., should be taken to the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center as HHW.

Fluorescent Tubes & Bulbs

It is illegal to throw out fluorescent tubes, compact fluorescent bulbs, high-density discharge bulbs, metal halide bulbs, and sodium or neon bulbs. Do not put them in your garbage or recycling cart. You can also take your fluorescent tubes and bulbs to Orchard Supply Hardware and all The Ace Hardware stores.

Food Scraps

Place food scraps in the garbage.

Glass bottles & Jars

Beer, wine, and soda bottles, glass jars and food containers can be placed in your blue recycling cart. All colors of glass and caps and lids accepted. Paper labels are o.k. Rinse clean. No ceramics, window glass, mirrors, Pyrex or crystal.

Green Organic Material?

Holiday Trees

Holiday Trees are accepted in the following ways:

- **Curbside** – Be on the lookout for designated dates in which the City will pick up Holiday trees.
- **Watsonville Firestations #2** – 370 Airport Blvd. Watch for designated dates on which you can drop off for free
- [Buena Vista Landfill](#) – 1231 Buena Vista Dr., Watsonville

- **Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center** – 320 Harvest D., Watsonville
-

Household Hazardous Waste

Almost every home has common household products containing chemicals that are harmful to humans, animals and the environment. When these products are no longer wanted they become Household Hazardous Waste. It is both dangerous and illegal to dispose of HHW in the garbage, down any drain, or on the ground. Do the right thing and take your HHW to the nearest Drop-off facility – It's FREE!

- Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center – **320 Harvest Dr.**, You must live in the City limits of Watsonville
 - [Buena Vista Landfill](#) – **1231 Buena Vista Dr.** if you live outside the limits of the City of Watsonville (Santa Cruz County)
 - Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority (County of Monterey)
-

Junk Mail

Also see [paper](#). You may recycle junk mail in your blue recycling cart.

Manage Junk Mail:

- Eliminate unwanted mail by calling the sender's 800 number or writing "refused" on first class mail.
 - Eliminate duplicate mailings and subscriptions by returning labels to the sender requesting that all but one be removed.
 - For bulk mail, request removal of name. Purge your own mailing lists to eliminate duplication.
 - Re-use envelopes you've received by covering up the old address and postage, and affix new label.
 - Go on line at <http://www.donotmail.org>
-

Lumber

See [woodwaste](#).

Mattresses & Box Springs

Bulky items like mattresses and box springs are accepted for a fee at the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center.

Medications & Drugs

Bring in waste medicines and sharps to any of these convenient take-back sites around Watsonville:

LOCATION	SPECIAL NOTES	ACCEPTED
CVS Pharmacy 1966 Main St. Watsonville, CA 95076 722-1782	Drop off during business hours	Sharps Only
CVS Pharmacy 490 Rodriguez St. Watsonville, CA 95076 722-9454	Drop off during business hours	Sharps Only
Valle Verde Pharmacy 240 Green Valley Rd. Watsonville, CA 95076 728-2239	Drop off during business hours	Medicines & Sharps
Walgreens 1810 Freedom Blvd. Watsonville, CA 95076 768-0183	Drop off during business hours	Medicines & Sharps
Watsonville Pharmacy 1433 Freedom Blvd. Watsonville, CA 95076 728-1818	Drop off during business hours	Medicines & Sharps

Waste & Recycling Drop-off HHW* 320 Harvest Drive Watsonville, CA 95076 768-3133	2nd Saturday of each month 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	Medicines & Sharps
Watsonville Police Department 215 Main St. Watsonville, CA 95076 768-3300	Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.	Medicines Only
Buena Vista Landfill HHW* 1231 Buena Vista Dr. Watsonville, CA 95076 454-2606	Tues., Wed., & Sat. 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	Medicines & Sharps

Mercury Devices

Take any item containing mercury directly to the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center as they are Household Hazardous Waste. Place in clear, labeled plastic bag before transporting. Typical items are thermometers, thermostats, dental amalgam and fillings, barometers, manometers, old chemistry sets, and blood pressure measuring devices. See also: [fluorescent tubes](#) and [batteries](#).

Metals

Accepted at the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center: iron steel, stainless steel, copper, aluminum, brass, and bronze. Materials will go into a scrap metal pile. Items might include: lounge chairs, sheds, tubing, bed frames, bicycles, cast-iron sinks and bathtubs, cooking pots and pans, electrical wire, eyeglass frames, ladders, locks and doorknobs, pipe, re-bar, tools, telephone wire, doors, and window frames. Do not place scrap metal in blue carts.

Metal Cans

Such as aluminum, tin, steel, bi-metal, and food aerosol cans are accepted in the blue recycling cart. Containers must be loose, empty, and clean. Do not place cans in plastic bags.

Milk & Juice Containers

Was cardboard cartons and aseptic packaging (such as soy milk containers) are **NOT RECYCLABLE**. Do not place in the blue recycling cart! Place in garbage. Plastic milk jugs are accepted in the blue recycling cart.

Motor Oil

See [Oil and Filters](#)

Needles & Sharps

It is illegal to dispose of needles in the trash or recycling container.

To properly dispose of sharps and needles, place them in a dedicated, approved, red sharps container (found in pharmacies) and drop off the full container at one of the City of Watsonville's take-back participants listed in [Medications and Drugs](#).

Newspaper

Accepted in the blue recycling cart.

See also [paper](#).

Oil & Filters

Put used motor oil in a 2-1/2 gallon container provided by the City of Santa Cruz. Placed drained filters in zip-lock bag. Leave both next to blue recycling cart – not inside! Do not mix used motor oil with antifreeze, gasoline or other contaminants. To receive a free 2-1/2 gallon oil container, call 768-3133 or ask for one when you pay your utility bill. You can also bring used oil and filters to the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center (no drums). The following businesses also accept used motor oil:

- O'Reilly Auto Parts: 401 Rodriguez St. & 1626 Freedom Blvd.
 - Autozone: 1502 Freedom Blvd.
 - Firestone: 1099 S. Green Valley Rd.
 - Oil Can Henry's: 1409 Main Street
-

Ovens

See [Appliances](#)

Paint

If your paint can contains less than 2 inches of paint, open the lid and let the paint dry, then place the container in the trash. Bring excess oil or latex paint to the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center on the Second Saturday of every month from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and all Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Paper

White and colored paper, bond, typing, copier, all envelopes (windows and stamps are OK), fax paper, ream wrappers, brochures, catalogues, magazines, telephone books, newspaper (no need to bag or bundle with string), paper bags, manila envelopes and file folders are all accepted in your blue recycling cart. See also [shredded paper](#).

Paperboard

Cereal and shoe boxes, egg cartons, paper towel rolls, beer and soda packs, and manila and bleached file folders are all accepted in your blue recycling cart.

Phone Books

Phone books are accepted in your blue recycling cart.

Photographic Chemicals

Bring to the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center; there is no charge.

Pool & Hot Tub Chemicals

NEVER place these chemicals in the garbage or in your blue recycling carts. These acids are harmful to refuse and recycling workers. These should be brought to the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center as HHW on the Second Saturday of each month or all Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Pesticides

Bring to the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center on the second Saturday of each month and all Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Plastics

Plastic bottles, containers, and tubs (#2 1-5 and 7) are accepted in the blue recycling cart. Plastics must be clean. Caps are OK. Also see [Plastic bags](#). #6 Polystyrene (Styrofoam) is not accepted in the City of Watsonville recycling program.

Plastic Bags

Place dry, clean plastic bags into one sturdy grocery-sized plastic bag and tie the top using the bag itself. Place in your blue recycling cart. No single bags accepted! Single bags cause expensive damage to recycling machinery. Do not place loose or single plastic bags in any cart.

Only bags that are flexible, stretchable, thin plastic are accepted, including grocery and merchandise bags, produce and bread bags, ziploc bags, bubble wrap, dry cleaner bags, and plastic packaging like on cases of soda and water. NO hard or rigid plastics (see Plastics – Rigid). No six-pack rings, No Tyvek, No foam plastics, No strapping or twine, No contaminates, No woven plastic bags, and No tarps. Place those items in the garbage cart.

- Bags must be empty
- Bags should be clean, dried, bagged and tied
- No rubber bands, string, twist ties, or tape

You may mingle plastic bags and plastic film together in one bag. Say NO to plastic bags!

Plastic – Rigid

Items such as plastic lawn chairs, toys, buckets, storage containers, black nursery pots, and lids are accepted at the Waste and Recycling Drop-off Center for recycling. Do not place these items in your blue cart.

Polystyrene (Styrofoam)

Polystyrene is not recyclable in the City of Watsonville.

Block Styrofoam – place in garbage.

Peanuts – Save and use again, or take to a local mailing house such as the United Parcel Service (UPS) store located at 1961 Main Street.

Prescription Drugs

See also [medications](#).

Pressure Treated Wood

Not recyclable. Take to the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center on the second Saturday and all Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Printer Cartridges

Nearly 2 billion cartridges are thrown into our landfills every year. These cartridges are made of petroleum and non-biodegradable materials. They can be refilled several times before their useful life is up! Do your part to keep them out of the landfill! You can take your used ink cartridges to Staples.

Propane Tanks

Take these disposal precautions: do not place old tanks in your garbage; they can explode and cause serious injury! Than tank is empty of all propane, you may take it to the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center on the second Saturday of each month and all Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Recycling Guide – City of Watsonville

RV Sewage

It is illegal to put any raw sewage material in a gutter or down storm drains (only rain down the drain!). Failure to comply may cost you a Notice of Violation and a \$500 fine. Local gas stations may provide an RV discharge outlet, typically at a modest fee. If you see anyone discharging any material into a gutter or storm drain, dial 9-1-1- immediately!

Shredded Paper

Do NOT place shredded paper in your blue recycling cart. For disposal, seal the shredded paper in a paper or plastic bag and place in your garbage bag. This prevents the shredded paper from becoming litter. Shredded paper may be composted or vermi-composted (in worm bins). Check out the City's Home Compost Bin Program to get started composting. Shredded paper can only be recycled when dropped off at the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center.

Sinks

Accepted at the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center at no charge. Porcelain sinks should have the hardware removed (such as faucets) and are accepted at a cost.

Smoke Detectors

Accepted at the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center on the second Saturday and all Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Styrofoam

See [Polystyrene](#).

Televisions

It is illegal to landfill cathode ray tubes. Take to the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center.

Thermostats

See [Household Hazardous Waste](#) or [Mercury Devices](#).

Tires

Take to the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center.

- Under 36" without rim – Free- 9 per year. After 9 free, \$2 each without rim and \$5 with rim
 - Tires greater than 36" – \$10 each without rim and \$15 each with rim
 - Tires are not accepted from businesses
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Toilets

Accepted at the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center for a charge.

Tree Stumps

Accepted at the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center

Woodwaste

Un-Painted Wood, un-treated wood is accepted at the Waste & Recycling Drop-off Center.