

# West Valley Recycles!

Winter 2010

## Winter Pruning Tips

(Make yard waste fit with cart lids closed)

The best time of year to prune a lot of trees, particularly fruit trees, is the dormant season, December, January up until the middle of February. Pruning trees when there are no leaves makes it easier to see what you are doing and removal of dormant buds will invigorate growth in the buds left behind. When deciding which branch to cut and where to cut it, remember that topping a vertical

branch encourages growth and opens the tree to more sunlight. Topping horizontal branches renews fruiting wood and helps thin off excessive fruit. Horizontal branches left uncut will bear earlier and heavier crops.

When putting green waste in your cart, use clippers to cut branches into smaller pieces. All branches must be cut down to size to fit in your green waste cart.

Branches should NOT be sticking out of your cart. Be sure to close the lid securely to prevent debris from littering the streets. Thank you for your effort and congrats on the beautiful yard.



## Cart Smart

On collection day, a few simple steps can help to ensure that your garbage, green waste and recycling carts are collected quickly and efficiently and that our streets and communities remain clean, neat and litter free. Follow these guidelines:

- Place wheels against the curb and position carts 2 feet apart.
- Keep carts at least 5 feet away from parked cars.
- Keep area free of debris, and obstructions such as basketball hoops.
- Flatten and breakdown all cardboard. This will maximize the capacity in your recycling cart.
- Cardboard placed outside of carts **WILL NOT BE COLLECTED**.
- Do not overstuff carts
- Please be sure lids are closed without materials sticking out of the top.
- Keep recycling!

## Save Energy Right From Your Desktop

An easy way to save energy is to simply shut off your computer when you leave work. If everyone remembers to turn off their office computer at night, it could prevent the release of 39,452 tons of carbon-dioxide emissions, save \$4.7 million dollars in utility cost and reduce energy consumption by 54.3 million kilowatt-hours per day.

In fact, The Department of Energy recommends shutting off your monitor

if you are not going to use it for more than 20 minutes. Turn off the whole system if you're not going to use it for more than two hours. Give your computer the deserved time off and you'll actually extend the life of your machine.

### Manage Your Power

Here's another way to save energy on your computer: change the power settings. For a PC, go to the start menu and then click on the control panel. Double click on "power management."

Now, where it says "power schemes," choose "always on" from the drop-down list. Below the "settings for always on power scheme" tab, look for two drop-down lists, labeled "turn off monitor" and "turn off hard disks," respectively. From each list select the amount of time you want your computer to wait before entering energy savings mode. It's even easier for Macs, just go to the Apple pull-down menu, select "system preferences" and then choose "energy saver".

### Now, Monitor

Did you know that, in addition to looking good and allowing more desk space, the new LCD monitors save about 100 kilowatt a year of electricity. Could there be a better excuse to upgrade?



## BILL PAY THE EASY WAY

West Valley Collection & Recycling has made it easier than ever to pay your bill. Choose the method that works best for you.

**Mail it.** Make your check payable to West Valley Collection & Recycling. Be sure to include the payment stub to get credit for your payment right away. Use the pre-addressed envelope included with your bill.

**Drop it off.** We accept payments at our office Monday through Friday from 8 AM – 4:30 PM

**Deliver checks to:**  
West Valley  
Collection & Recycling  
1333 Oakland Road,  
San Jose, CA 95112

**Pay / View Your Bill Online.** Visit our new online payment system at [www.wasteconnections.com](http://www.wasteconnections.com); click on "Online Bill-Pay" and follow a few simple instructions. You must have your current invoice and credit card or debit card information available.

Home banking customers continue to use the remit address:

West Valley  
Collection & Recycling  
PO BOX 60248  
Los Angeles CA 90060-0248

You must have your current invoice available.

## Have questions about your recycling service?



## Ask Randy

**Q: How do you properly recycle your used motor oil to prevent it from leaking into our waterways and ground water supplies?**

**A:** West Valley Collection & Recycling (WVC&R) provides special oil jugs and filter bags FREE to customers who want to recycle their motor oil and oil filters curbside for convenience. These jugs and bags are designed to keep toxic materials safely contained and prevent leaks and spills. To recycle used motor oil and oil filters curbside, you must only use WVC&R-issued oil jugs and filter bags. Place filled oil jugs and filter bags on the curb near your recycling cart for collection. Call customer service at (408) 283-9250 to request your FREE oil jugs with filter bags.

**Caution!** Do not mix oil with antifreeze, transmission fluid, or any other automotive fluid. For safe disposal of other automotive fluids, contact the Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Program at (408) 299-7300 or visit [www.hhw.org](http://www.hhw.org) to schedule a free appointment.

To submit a question for "Ask Randy" send him an e-mail at [customerservice@westvalleyrecycles.com](mailto:customerservice@westvalleyrecycles.com) with "Ask Randy" in the subject line.

## Search [www.westvalleyrecycles.com](http://www.westvalleyrecycles.com)

It's a new year and your resolution was to put an end to junk mail once and for all—but how? You got a new computer for Christmas and want to donate your old one—but where? You heard that you can make compost using worms and you want to find out more—but why? Because it's 2010, and now more than ever, you want to take care how you impact your environment. So, where can you learn more?

A great place to start for all of these questions is the links page on the West Valley Collection & Recycling Website. Click on the Links button at the top of the page, and in addition to useful information about activities and events in your city, you'll find environmentally friendly ways to deal with pests, ways to save money, generate goodwill, help the environment by participating in recycling events and much more. Learn how to dispose of everything properly, including the cell phones you put through the wash, the VCR that is out of date and your

computer that has finally been replaced. Find out about where you can donate your older electronic components to schools and families in need.

Meanwhile, your child has a report due tomorrow and you need to find out how many pounds of post-consumer plastics were recycled in 2005—just click on [westvalleyrecycles.com](http://westvalleyrecycles.com) to find all the answers your looking for.



## IMPORTANT TO NOTE:



1333 Oakland Road  
San Jose CA 95112-9894

(408) 283-9250

[www.westvalleyrecycles.com](http://www.westvalleyrecycles.com)

[customerservice@westvalleyrecycles.com](mailto:customerservice@westvalleyrecycles.com)

**How To Eliminate Litter:** Remember to place all loose light items such as shredded paper, plastic grocery bags, styrofoam packing peanuts and any other items in a tied plastic bag before placing in your cart.

**Household Hazardous Waste:** Call the Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste Program at (408)299-7300

### Clean Yard Trimmings:

Keep your yard trimmings "Green" and your recyclables clean by keeping all garbage out of your yard trimmings and recycling cart. Garbage contaminates recyclable materials.