

# West Valley Recycles!

Summer 2008

## SPLIT BODY TRUCKS: Keeping Your Yard Trimmings and Garbage Separate

It's been more than a year since West Valley Collection & Recycling began the single-stream recycling program and rolled out our new split body trucks.

Our split body trucks have made a big difference in the neighborhoods they serve on trash day, because now in most neighborhoods one truck collects all garbage and yard trimmings, where previously two were needed.

Look for new labels on the back of the trucks identifying the material in each side. The collection compartment of these trucks are completely separate with garbage occupying 40% of the capacity, and yard waste filling the other 60%. The driver maneuvers the hydraulic arm to lift and empty the contents of your garbage and yard waste cart into the chute. After tipping the cart, the driver uses a toggle switch to direct the flow of material into the appropriate chamber, keeping the two materials completely separate. The

result of using split body trucks: fewer trucks moving through our neighborhoods on collection day, fewer trips to the landfill, less wear and tear on our roads, less pollution, and fewer greenhouse gasses. Next time you see these trucks on collection day, they may appear to be white, but now you know, they are really pretty green.

Remember, 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.



### KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

West Valley Collection & Recycling customers are loving single-stream recycling. The use of split body trucks mean less noise and pollution and the single-stream system means more efficient collection. Everyone is doing a great job.

Here are a few reminders to ensure collection days keep running smoothly and our neighborhood streets stay clean and neat too. Remember:

- Place carts with the wheels against the curb, at least two feet apart.

- Situate carts at least five feet away from vehicles and other obstructions such as basketball hoops.
- Secure light items such as plastic grocery bags and packing peanuts in bags to eliminate litter.
- Flatten and breakdown all cardboard. This will maximize the capacity available in your recycling carts.
- Do NOT overstuff carts.
- Please be sure lids are closed.
- Keep Recycling.

## Don't Get Stuck with Your Sharps—Dispose of Them Properly

### PROPERLY AND SAFELY DISPOSE OF YOUR SHARPS—HERE'S HOW:

- ◆ **Pharmacies, Doctor's Offices or Clinics:** Place your used home-generated sharps in a biohazard commercial sharps container and contact your Pharmacist, Clinic Administrator, or personal Physician, and ask if they have a take back program in effect. Sharps containers can be purchased at your local pharmacy.
- ◆ **Mail Back Services:** If you purchase sharps on-line, please remember to request a pre-addressed, prepaid mail-back box for your used sharps. A list of mail back services approved by the California Department of Public Health can be found at the following website: [www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/medicalwaste](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/certlic/medicalwaste)
- ◆ **Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program:** The HHW Program accepts sharps waste, pharmaceuticals (No Controlled Substances), and other household hazardous waste from Santa Clara County residents (except Palo Alto residents). For more information on pharmacies and other locations that accept used sharps or to make an appointment to dispose of your sharps, visit [www.hhw.org](http://www.hhw.org) or call **(408) 299-7300**. Remember, residents must place their used sharps in a biohazard commercial sharps container.

**H**ome generated sharps are needles, syringes, and lancets that assist people who use sharps or syringes at home to manage an illness. When sharps are improperly disposed of they pose a threat to sanitation workers, adults, children, and even pets with needle-stick injuries. Because of the high risk to the community and environment, Senate Bill 1305 was passed and will take effect on September 1, 2008. This law makes it illegal to place home generated sharps in the trash or recyclable containers.

## 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  
Dept. 1433  
Los Angeles, CA 90084-1433

You must have your current invoice available.

## Have questions about your recycling service?



# Ask Randy

### Q: What do I do with my used charcoal?

**A:** You can recycle charcoal. When you finish cooking, pour water on the briquettes. Let them dry thoroughly. Next time you grill, mix half new charcoal with half used.

The absolute safest way to dispose of ashes, regardless of whether they're red-hot or seemingly stone-cold, is to put them in a small, galvanized metal trash can that is dedicated to the purpose of ash storage. Keep the can away from any flammable materials, like your house, wood pile, dry grass, or weeds. Once ashes are completely cold bag them before placing into your garbage cart. If a dedicated ash container is not an option, stir through the ashes to make sure they are absolutely cold before placing them in the your garbage cart.

Remember, even ashes that seem cold on the surface may still be hot deep inside, even after sitting for two days, so wait at least 48 hours before disposing of them in the garbage.

## AT YOUR SERVICE: Curbside Collection for Used Motor Oil

Summer's here and time to get the car in tip-top shape. West Valley Collection & Recycling provides FREE containers for your used motor oil so you can keep your car running smoothly, and help our collection go smoothly, too.

Call customer service at **(408) 283-9250** to order your FREE OIL JUGS AND OIL FILTER BAGS and WVC&R will deliver them curbside on your next collection day.



### Schedule a drop off appointment for the items listed below by calling (408) 283-9250:

- ✓ Used motor oil and oil filters
- ✓ Water based paints
- ✓ Universal Waste = batteries, fluorescent tubes and bulbs and other mercury containing lamps, thermostats, electronic devices, electrical switches and relays, pilot light sensors, mercury gauges, mercury added novelties, mercury thermostats and non-empty aerosol cans that contained hazardous materials.
- ✓ E-Waste = televisions and computer monitors, CPUs, laptop computers, external computer hard drives, computer keyboards, computer mice, computer printers, DVDs and VCRs.

## 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)

### E-Waste Drop Off Event

E-Waste Drop Off Events will be taking place in West Valley cities soon. Please go to [www.westvalleyrecycles.com](http://www.westvalleyrecycles.com) to find the event in your community. Drop off E-waste such as computers, computer monitors, hard drives, TV's and VCR's absolutely FREE.

### 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.