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## We've Expanded Our Recycling Program to Include Greenwaste



### What is considered Greenwaste?



We are pleased to announce the expansion of our recycling program to include curbside greenwaste recycling in Palmdale. (Lancaster and Quartz Hill residents already have greenwaste recycling in place.) This new service expands our commitment to the environment by providing homeowners with a convenient way to dispose of grass, leaves, tree limbs and other yard waste.

With the addition of our greenwaste recycling services, Waste Management will now be providing you with the following services each week on your regularly scheduled service day:

- 1 - 96 gallon Trash Cart
- 1 - 64 gallon Recycling Cart
- 1 - 64 gallon Greenwaste Cart

Place greenwaste directly inside the cart. Do not use plastic garbage bags. Make sure that the cart lid is closed completely. Please place all three carts at curbside by 6am on your regularly scheduled service day. For more information on how to use our greenwaste recycling services, please visit our displays in the garden centers of Wal-Mart and Home Depot in Palmdale and Lancaster.

Recycling is an easy way to protect our environment and ensure the well being of our community for generations to come. However, the success of recycling depends on your active participation. By participating, you will be REDUCING the amount of trash that is disposed in the landfill, encouraging the REUSE of materials made from recycled products and continuing the RECYCLING circle.

We continue to work with our local community to introduce innovative initiatives to improve trash disposal and recycling services. Working together, we are strengthening the quality of life in the Antelope Valley.

For more information on curbside greenwaste recycling, please contact the Customer Service Department at (661) 947-7197 option 6 or visit [www.KeepingAVclean.com](http://www.KeepingAVclean.com).

## Trash Tip #23: Clean Carts

*Now is when those big residential waste carts start to remind us of their presence. That is, after a summer of baking in the heat, they can start to stink. Cleaning your waste carts periodically will keep them free of rodents, pests and odors.*

*Using a garden hose, spray the carts inside and out. Then spray them with a household cleaner. Let them sit for fifteen minutes, rinse them out again with the garden hose, and turn them over to dry. To keep them from getting stinky, you can pour a cup of borax or baking soda in the bottom.*



## Teach Our Kids About the Environment: Lead By Example - Reducing, Reusing & Recycling

For many Antelope Valley students, back-to-school means a trip to the mall to purchase new clothes, school supplies and more. Out go the old supplies; reams of torn notebook paper, chewed pencils, broken binders and candy bars of questionable age. In come the new supplies wrapped in plastic and cardboard.

At the landfill, all this trash is a reminder that it is once again time to educate our children about their responsibility to take good care of the environment that we are leaving for them. Waste Management will again be offering our Total Trash Out program to teach children about recycling while helping them to raise money for their schools.

For 13 years now, this fun and easy aluminum can collection contest has succeeded not only in gathering hundreds of tons of scrap aluminum that would otherwise have gone to waste, but it has also helped raise over \$329,000 for Antelope Valley schools.

We also want to remind teachers and principals to set a good example by making their school environmentally wise:

**Use email instead of paper memos**

**Set the default switch on the photocopier to double-sided**

**Post or circulate materials rather than making copies for each person**

**Share training manuals and internal documents**

**Place large documents on internal Web sites**

**Take outdated letterhead and other stationary to your local copy shop and use the left over paper to make notepads**

**Encourage students to write or draw on both sides of the paper**

**Place recycling bins in student lunch areas and near vending machines**

## Dispatch Operators "Go Go Go" on the Job

For Antelope Valley's three dispatch operators, a day on the job is a non-stop high-energy race to get all of Antelope Valley's trash picked up. Yolanda Clemente, MaryAnn Beban, and Sharlene Kilian (who have more than 40 years of combined experience at Waste Management) love what they do. Working in overlapping shifts (MaryAnn's day starts at 6:30am and Sharlene's ends at 8:30pm), they are the communications link between Customer Service and the drivers. It is up to them to make sure that everybody's trash gets picked up on schedule, and that problems get solved quickly.

Everyday is different, but there are always challenges and rewards. Sharlene once got a call from a frantic elderly customer, who had accidentally dropped her false teeth into the trash. The driver was alerted before he dropped his load and was able to divert his trash off to the side. Working together, the driver and the customer dug through six tons of trash and found her teeth.



WM Antelope Valley dispatch operators (seated) MaryAnn Beban, (standing, left to right) Yolanda Clemente, Sharlene Kilian

For MaryAnn, the greatest reward comes from making sure that the elderly and handicapped get the help they need to get their bins to and from curbside. Yolanda feels that the best part of the job is working with the drivers, "I couldn't have a better bunch of guys." All three of the women of Dispatch agree that they have the best job going; it is fast-paced, rewarding and all about teamwork. They love the way the time goes by quickly as they help the drivers to negotiate their routes, solve problems, and leave no trash bin unturned.

## Tis' the Season for Tree Recycling



Christmas trees present a significant seasonal addition to Antelope Valley's waste stream. Be part of the solution and recycle your Christmas tree through the Waste Management Christmas Tree Recycling Program. By recycling your Christmas tree you are doing your part to reduce the number of discarded trees that end up in landfills--thus increasing the usable life of landfills.

Waste Management's Recycling Program runs from December 27, 2004 to January 7, 2005. Antelope Valley's single-family home residents are asked to place their trees curbside next to their barrels on their regular service day or to cut trees in half and place them in their gray green-waste cart for recycling. Residents who miss their regular service day during this two-week period may cut the tree into smaller pieces and place them in their greenwaste cart or drop it off at a Waste Management office, 1200 W. City Ranch Rd., for Palmdale residents and 600 E. Avenue F, for Lancaster residents until January 21st. You must check in at the front office before dropping off your tree.

Residents of apartment, condominium, and mobile home parks that have commercial containers may place their trees in the trash area for collection. Be sure not to block the trash containers. Some complexes may opt to have roll-off containers at no cost, strictly for Christmas tree recycling. Please be sure not to contaminate these roll-offs with bulky-items or materials other than Christmas trees. If you are in doubt about your complex's Christmas tree pick-up schedule or location, check with your complex's management.

Christmas trees must be free of all ornaments, tinsel, lights, nails and tree stands. Flocked trees will be picked up, but they CAN NOT be recycled.



## Backyard Composting: An Easy Way to Preserve the Environment

Did you know that a large portion of our city landfill is filled with waste from our own backyards? Backyard composting is one of the easiest and most economical ways to keep that stuff from going into the landfill, while preserving natural resources.

Some easy methods you can use in your home and backyard include:

Keep a compost bin under your kitchen sink. Collect food waste such as vegetable and fruit trimmings from your cooking and add them to your compost pile. Don't put fat, meat, dairy or bones in your compost!

Leave your grass clippings on the lawn after mowing (called "grasscycling"), which helps fertilize your lawn and reduces waste, or use the greenwaste cart provided by Waste Management for processing.

Reuse composted yard trimmings in landscapes and gardens as mulch to protect the soil, suppress weeds and conserve water.

When food waste and yard trimmings compost together, they make a great natural fertilizer for your garden, and you don't need a lot of room.

Reducing the amount of materials going to landfills - through composting and recycling - is an important thing that all of us can do to help the environment - both the one in Antelope Valley and in your own backyard.

## Holiday Schedule



### Thanksgiving

We will be closed for business on Thanksgiving Day. If your regular disposal day is on Thursday, your pick up that week will be on Friday, November 26th. If your disposal day is on Friday, your pick up that week will be on Saturday, November 27th.

### Christmas

We will be closed for business on Christmas Day; however since Christmas falls on a Saturday, there will be no interruption of residential services.

### New Year's Day

We will be closed for business on New Year's Day; however since New Year's Day falls on a Saturday, there will be no interruption of residential services.

## Trash Tips for the Holidays

Are you starting to think about the holidays? We are, because every year the holiday season produces **6 million tons** of extra waste. So this year, as you give gifts to your family and friends, think about how to gift Mother Earth a little by reducing, reusing and recycling. It doesn't always take more effort -- and you might feel just a little better for doing your share.

Remember, you can fit more trash in your trash cart if you make doubly sure to use your recycling cart for everything that can be recycled (60% to 80% of household waste is usually recyclable). When entertaining, put out an extra can next to your trash can to encourage your guests to recycle. Break down all cardboard boxes that you can't reuse and place them in your recycling cart. If they don't fit, you may place bundled broken down cardboard next to your recycling cart for removal.



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www.KeepingAVclean.com

P.O. Box 4040  
Palmdale, CA 93590-4040

*From everyday collection to environmental protection,  
Think Green.™ Think Waste Management.*

**WM**  
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