



HAPPY NEW YEAR

All of us at Amador Valley Industries wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. We appreciate your support and look forward to serving you. Please visit our website or call our customer service department if we can be of assistance to you.



Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Danger!

No batteries should ever be placed in any trash, recycling or green cart! Due to the presence of corrosive chemicals, toxins such as mercury and lead, and charged electrodes, ALL batteries pose hazards and risk of fire, but the biggest risk lies with rechargeable batteries.

Many rechargeable batteries fall under a specific category of battery known as Lithium-Ion (also referred to as Li-ion battery or LIB). The Li-ion battery found in your electronics such as cell phones, laptops, pads, tablets, iPods, hover boards and digital cameras are probably the most familiar to you.



It is especially risky when Li-ion batteries are mistakenly put into a recycling bin and end up bouncing around in the back of a dry recycling truck. Pressure or heat (in the summer months our trucks can get quite hot) can cause them to spark, setting off a chain reaction which spells disaster when that battery is in the back of a full recycling truck, surrounded by dry paper and cardboard. In fact, Li-ion Batteries are one of the leading causes of recycling truck fires.

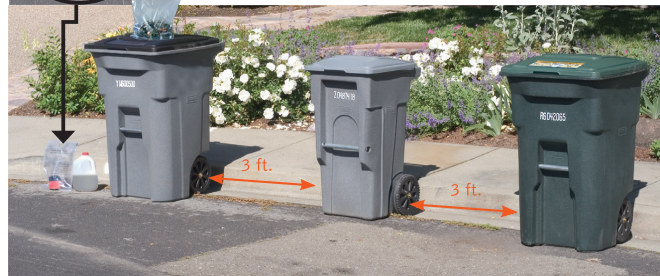
The rise of electronics being improperly disposed of in trash or recycling carts is troubling. We live in an age of technology where nearly everyone owns a cellphone, laptop, tablet, etc. and with updates and upgrades being required so often, we find the need to dispose of our older models what seems like... all the time. However, properly disposing of your cellphones and anything containing batteries, especially the volatile Li-ion variety, is crucial to avoid dangerous truck fires and ensure safety.

A suggested cause for improper disposal of Li-ions is likely due to a common misconception and mixed messaging. When an item states it is "recyclable" many assume that you can recycle it with your Recycling cart; this is not the case. **When an item is "recyclable", that simply means it can be recycled in some way; it doesn't mean it can be put in with your Recycling cart. Rechargeable, Li-ion can be recycled, but only at specified locations.** Visit StopWaste.org or call 1-877-STOPWASTE (786-7927) for safe disposal options.

We Want Our Service to Be The Best and You Can Help



Please place your carts at the curb edge with at least 3 feet of clearance from other objects, including other carts, basketball hoops and motor vehicles.



What Do I Put Into the Organics Cart?

The reason Organics Carts are so important is that using them helps divert materials away from our landfills which is better for the environment. Here is a list to help you use your cart efficiently. Thank you for helping us provide you with the best possible service.

Organics Acceptable List

- Grass and weed clippings
- Shrubs and tree prunings (less than 4" in diameter)
- Leaves, plants and flowers
- Food scraps and food soiled paper products

Non-acceptable Organics List

- No household garbage
- **No plastic bags**
- No dirt or rocks
- No overloading - lid must be closed

Amador Valley Industries

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New Years Trasholution Ideas

In our newsletter over the years, we have provided ideas for recycling for three main reasons: employee safety while handling the waste stream, preventing harmful chemicals from going into the landfill and shrinking the amount of waste that goes into our landfill.

We developed a mantra... “Stop, Think and Recycle” to give our community pause before putting harmful items in the trash and when you do you are protecting our AVI employees, reducing the size of our landfills and very importantly keeping toxic chemicals from being buried in the earth for decades. Please do not dispose of medical waste like sharps, all types of batteries, Household Hazardous Waste (paint, paint thinners, oil, oil filters, oil rags and insecticides), all types of electronics and fluorescent



lights. Imagine the “Toxic Soup” that can be created in our waste stream... items breaking open, combining together and loaded with sharp objects... they can cause chemical fires, cut employees and create toxic vapors. We ask you to join our efforts to create a safe environment for our employees and a safer environment at our landfill. Sometimes it is just in the little things, for example, gathering those household batteries and household chemicals together and taking them to the Livermore HHW site for free. (See StopWaste.org or call 1-877-STOPWASTE (786-7927) for directions and help. If you take one step toward our goal of protecting people and the environment multiplied by many others in our community we will all have a better New Year and better New Years for years to come. Thank you for your efforts to make our world a better place.

Water Contamination from Prescription Drugs

Testing of local waterways and the bay have shown trace elements from prescription drugs. Please don't “flush” unused prescription drugs into our water system. Medicines help treat diseases, manage chronic conditions, and improve health and well-being for millions of Americans. It's vitally important that patients take their medicines as prescribed by their health care provider. However, if you have expired or unwanted medication, proper disposal is important and easy. To keep the contaminants of prescription drugs out of our water please take them to the convenient drop-off sites provided by:

Dublin Police Services, 100 Civic Plaza, Dublin, CA 94568, (925) 833-6670, Monday through Friday: 8am - 5pm, closed Saturday and Sunday

Pleasanton Police Department, 4833 Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, CA 94566 (925) 931-5100, 24 hours a day, 7 days per week.

The new drop-off service provided by Proper Medication Disposal keeps medications out of California waters and landfills. The American Water Works Association said exposure to certain pharmaceuticals results in abnormal development and reproduction in fish and other wildlife, even at very low levels.



Stop Junk Mail, Spam and Telemarketers

Junk mail is a waste, and it costs real money to handle and recycle unwanted mail. It takes 17 trees to make a ton of paper. That means nearly 100 million trees get used for junk mail every year in the U.S.

To be removed from direct mail registries: register at www.DirectMail.com.

To discontinue unwanted catalogs: Remove yourself from specific catalogs at www.CatalogChoice.org or call unwanted catalogs to request removal.

To prevent automatic phonebook deliveries, opt out at www.YellowPagesOptOut.com



In the spirit of conservation we are providing our newsletter online, but please feel free to print it out.