



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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Your questions  
are answered.  
Look inside.



## What's Next After 50 Percent?

Congratulations San Diego! The City has recently surpassed the State-mandated 50% waste diversion goal. For 2004, the City exceeded the goal for the first time and reached a 52% waste diversion rate. The State mandate was set in 1989 to help California cities reduce their waste 50% by the year 2000.

Thank you San Diego for your hard work helping San Diego reach this goal! Even though the City has exceeded 50%, much more needs to be done. More than two-thirds of the material still being buried in the Miramar Landfill is recyclable. As Miramar Landfill and other local landfills continue to fill up, waste disposal will become more expensive. That's one reason recycling is so important.

Additionally, as more recycling options become available in San Diego, costs for recycling go down. This makes recycling even more cost effective as compared to landfilling waste. It is therefore essential to continue recycling to extend the life of the Miramar Landfill, protect the environment, and maintain a diversion rate of over 50 percent.

## Recycling Saves Resources

One ton of glass made from 50 percent recycled materials saves 250 pounds of mining waste (EPA).



If every plastic bottle in the nation was recycled, two billion tons of plastic would be diverted from landfills (Penn State).

Every pound of recycled steel saves enough energy to light a 60-watt bulb for 24 hours (Penn State).



Each ton of recycled paper prevents 60 pounds of air pollution (Center for Ecological Technology).



Every pound of recycled aluminum saves four pounds of bauxite (Reynolds Metal Co.).



## Protect Your Identity and Save Natural Resources

Is your mail box full of unwanted advertisements? To reduce the volume of solicitations sent via the U.S. Postal Service, contact the credit reporting agencies and the Direct Marketing Association and request to opt out of receiving mail advertisements. Opting out not only reduces the risk of identity theft, but also reduces pounds of unwanted mail, which in turn conserves resources by decreasing the use of paper and printing ink.

Reduce credit and insurance offerings by

calling the three top credit reporting agencies, Trans Union, Equifax and Experian at 1-888-567-8688.

Trim down direct mail advertisements by writing to: Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, P.O. Box 643, Carmel, NY 15012-0643. Request to "activate the preference service" and include your complete name, address and zip code.

For more information, go to: <http://www.creditsourceonline.com/opt-out.html> and <http://www.dmaconsumers.org/dmasponsorship.html>.

# Ask Bonita Blue Bin



**Dear Bonita Blue Bin,**

I recently learned that electronics and batteries are now considered something called "Universal Waste" and that residents can no longer put these items in the black trash containers or take them to any San Diego landfill. I know that they are also not recyclable in the blue bin, and I certainly want to follow the rules and protect the environment, but what should I do with these items?

Sincerely,  
Wired for Power

Have a burning question about the mysteries of recycling? E-mail Bonita Blue Bin at [recycleorelse@sandiego.gov](mailto:recycleorelse@sandiego.gov), or write to Bonita Blue Bin at City of San Diego Environmental Services Department, 9601 Ridgehaven Court, Suite 320, San Diego, CA 92123.

**Dear Wired,**

To answer your question, first let's define "Universal Waste." Universal waste is a type of hazardous waste that is commonly used by a wide variety of people in many locations. Universal waste contains heavy metals that may cause harm if released into the environment. Examples of universal waste include batteries, electronics, fluorescent light bulbs and mercury-containing items. California State law now bans these items from disposal in State solid waste landfills. Universal waste must either be recycled or disposed as hazardous waste.



## Proper Recycling or Disposal of Universal Waste

- **Electronic Devices:** Most electronic devices can be recycled for a small fee at the Miramar Recycling Center located at the entrance to the Miramar Landfill. Cathode ray tubes (CRTs), including TVs and computer monitors, are accepted free of charge.
- **All Types of Household Batteries, Fluorescent Lights and Mercury-Containing Items:** City of San Diego residents can bring these items to the Household Hazardous Waste Transfer Facility located at the entrance to the Miramar Landfill, by appointment only (call 858-694-7000). Businesses can obtain recycling and disposal information from the County of San Diego, Department of Environmental Health by calling 619-338-2231.
- **Cell Phones and Rechargeable Batteries:** Effective July 1, 2006, State law requires retailers that sell cell phones and rechargeable batteries to provide a recycling take-back program at no charge. Return these items to the location where you bought them or visit [www.rbric.org](http://www.rbric.org) for a nearby recycling location.

For more information about proper universal waste disposal and additional recycling locations, call Environmental Services Customer Service at 858-694-7000 or visit [www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/ep/hhwlinks.shtml](http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/ep/hhwlinks.shtml).

Thank you for protecting the environmental future of the planet.

Sincerely,

*Bonita Blue Bin*

Bonita Blue Bin



## Last Chance Recycling at the Miramar Landfill

If it has been a while since you have visited the Miramar Landfill, you will find a new feature there, just past the fee booths...the Last Chance Recycling salvage operation! This is your last chance to keep valuable materials out of the Landfill. This facility recycles:

- Scrap metal
- Clean wood
- Carpet
- Carpet pad
- Cardboard

Remember that every little bit that we can keep from being buried in the landfill adds up to quite a lot!



# Much Ado About Yard Waste

Each year, more than 100,000 tons of San Diego yard waste take up precious landfill space instead of being recycled into valuable soil amendments such as mulch, compost and wood chips.

If you have curbside yard waste collection, you can help avoid this waste by following the guidelines below for recycling at the curb. If you do not have curbside collection, you can compost yard waste right at home. Contact the Solana Center for Environmental Innovation at 760-436-7986 or [www.solanacenter.org/1sdcompost.html](http://www.solanacenter.org/1sdcompost.html) for composting supplies and assistance.



## Yard Waste

**YES** this Can be Recycled

Clean Wood: Lumber, Particle Board & Plywood

Leaves

Pine

Grass

Branches

(maximum 3 feet long by 4 inches wide)

Shrub & Tree Prunings

Flowers

## Recycling

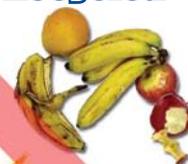
**NO** this Can't be Recycled



Palm Fronds



Yucca



Kitchen Scraps



Agave



Ice Plant



Banana Leaves



Bamboo

## Businesses Recycle too!

Businesses generate more than 60 percent of the waste produced in San Diego, yet a well-designed recycling program often reduces waste management costs. To facilitate recycling in the workplace, the Environmental Services Department offers San Diego businesses free waste audits to determine what materials a company should target for recycling. Then, recycling specialists can help design a collection system and find a recycler to collect the material. Call 858-492-5010. For business recycling tips, go to [www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recycling/business.shtml](http://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recycling/business.shtml).

In addition, the City recognizes businesses that successfully recycle through the Annual Waste Reduction and Diversion Awards Program. For application information call 858-492-5010. The next application will be available in January 2007.

## Customer Service

**Curbside Recycling**  
**Yard Waste Recycling**  
**Trash Collection**  
**Compost and Mulch Sales**  
**Household Hazardous Waste Disposal**  
**Appliance Recycling**  
**Electronics Recycling**  
**Battery Recycling**  
**Used Motor Oil & Oil Filter Recycling**  
**And More...**

**(858) 694-7000**  
[www.recycleorelse.com](http://www.recycleorelse.com)

# RECYCLING IN DETAIL

See if you know what **CAN** and **CAN'T** be recycled!

## Curbside Recycling

**YES** this Can be Recycled



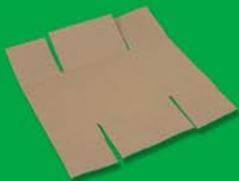
Glass Bottles & Jars



Empty Aerosol Cans



Plastic Bottles & Jars



Cardboard



Aluminum Cans



Paper Bags



Aluminum Foil, Foil Trays



Bagged Shredded Paper



Newspapers



Metal Cans



Phone Books



Paper or Frozen Food Boxes



Mail, Magazines, Paper & Catalogs

**NO** this Can't be Recycled



Milk Cartons



Clothing, Textiles & Shoes



Ceramics



Grocery Bags



Round Dairy Tubs



Plastic Pots



Batteries



Plastic Cups & Utensils



Glassware



Styrofoam Packaging



Toxic Product Containers