

RECYCLING

Hopefully, you are taking a moment to read this Sunday paper before you tackle the mound of boxes, wrapping paper and ribbon or take down the Christmas tree.

Here are a few reminders to make it easier for Recology Vallejo (Vallejo Garbage Service) to sort through all the holiday recyclables that you place in your blue recycling cart.

First: NO plastic bags. All bags need to be opened which slows the process down. Shredded paper can go into brown paper bags or your worm bin.

Second: Plastic bottles or yogurt containers only. Do not include any other plastic items such as toys, buckets, platters, drink glasses, or lids from drink cups. Just because the plastic item has a recycling symbol on it does not mean that there is a market for recycling it. There are hundreds of different plastics that cannot be recycled at this time.

Third: Wrapping paper and ribbon. You can include regular wrapping paper. Do not include foil wrapping paper, ribbon (which is made from polypropylene) or tissue (put that in your compost bin).

Fourth: Boxes. Remove any Styrofoam peanuts or packing forms. Remove plastic windows from chipboard boxes. VALCORE will take gift boxes and bags for reuse in their ReUse Barn.

Fifth: Christmas trees will be ground and used for mulch and compost. Please remove ornaments, nails, tinsel, stands, and metal spikes to protect employees and prevent damage to grinding equipment.

Flocked trees cannot be recycled and will be landfilled. Cut flocked trees to fit inside your garbage cart.

Nonprofit groups have divided up Vallejo and will be collecting trees in your neighborhood. Watch for a Treecycle ad in this paper or go to www.recycle-guide.com and scroll through the news items for Holiday Treecycling. These groups will be out collecting on January 2, 9, and 16 and are requesting a \$5 donation. Check out this website for Treecycle in all Solano County Cities.

You can also cut up your tree to fit inside your yard waste cart. Whole trees will not be picked up.

VALCORE will accept trees during regular business hours starting December 26 through

January 16. No flocked trees will be accepted. VALCORE will also accept your extra recyclables listed above.

REFLECTION

On behalf of the twelve member groups and three community members that make up the VALCORE Recycling board, I want to send out a heartfelt thank you to the Vallejo Mayor and city council along with Recology Vallejo and Vallejo's Recycling Coordinator for the sustained support that we have received from you. You don't know how much we appreciate all of our customers, volunteers, staff and the Vallejo Times-Herald. You have all truly made VALCORE a community recycling center.

My year has been filled with learning. Working on My Café, trying to salvage usable fixtures and recycling others, reminded me of just how much stuff is out there and how cheap and easy it is to just bury it in the landfill.

RESOLUTIONS

I am currently working part-time at Touro University on Mare Island. I have found that several staff and faculty live in my neighborhood. Since it is ten miles round trip to the campus, I have started carpooling. This year I resolve to encourage others to follow suit and encourage more green practices on campus.

I resolve to seek out more local recycling and reuse opportunities.

I have discovered a new warehouse in Sacramento opened by The Reuse People (TRP) of Oakland. It is located at 6350 27th Street and open Wednesday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You can call them at 916-556-1174. The store is filled with high quality, low priced used building materials.

They are also developing a training program to certify deconstruction contractors. That contact is Kristin Williams at 209 241-3614).
Late Breaking News:

You can now recycle your old Christmas lights at the Devlin Road Reuse and Recycling Center located at 889B Devlin Road just north of American Canyon. Their hours are daily 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

*VALCORE Recycling Board Secretary Jane Bogner's "A Sorted Affair" is published every other week in the Times-Herald. For recycling information call VALCORE Recycling at 645-8258 or visit www.VALCORErecycling.org.
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