



City of Davis Public Works Department

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Environmental Column

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By Jennifer Gilbert, Conservation Coordinator

DONATE YOUR STUFF, DON'T TRASH IT!

The annual turnover time is almost here! That crazy time of year when apartment leases end and it seems like half the town is moving. If you or someone you know is moving, please consider donating unwanted items instead of throwing them away. Each year, many people resort to “dumpster diving” to retrieve good items that were thrown away by residents that are in a hurry to vacate their homes before their lease is up. Instead of tossing your stuff in the trash, please donate it for reuse.

There are many places in Davis where you can bring your stuff for reuse. The SPCA Thrift Store, R & R Thrift Store and R & R Consignment all take previously owned items for reuse. Check out the City of Davis **Recyclopedia** online at www.davisrecycling.org to find local places to reuse and recycle over 150 different items, including refrigerators, clothing, home décor and furniture.

If you are planning some remodeling projects, Davis Waste Removal (DWR) can help you recycle your construction waste. Scrap metal (such as bed frames) and rigid plastics (such as plastic patio furniture) can be recycled for FREE 24/7 at DWR's recycling center, 2727 2nd Street. You can also contact DWR (756-4646) and ask for a large dumpster to recycle your wood, concrete, dirt or scrap metal.

A new construction and demolition sorting facility at the Yolo County Central Landfill has now made it possible to recycle a mixed load of construction and demolition materials. You can ask DWR for a large bin to recycle mixed construction materials including cardboard, carpet padding, drywall (gypsum/wall board), concrete, asphalt, dirt, soil, gravel, bricks, scrap metals, shrink wrap, plastic strapping & tubing, clean plastics comprised of PETE, HDPE, LDPE & PP, lumber & painted wood, branches & green waste, and wood pallets. Fees will apply. Please note that starting August 16, the City of Davis Construction and Demolition Ordinance will require projects of a certain size to divert 50% of all C&D waste from the landfill. Please contact the City Recycling Program (757-5686) or the City Building Department (757-5610) for more information.

Please dispose of household batteries responsibly. It is a violation of state law to throw batteries away in the trash or to place them in your recycling bin. Residents can dispose of their alkaline, lithium/button, and rechargeable batteries for free at these collection sites in Davis: Davis Senior Center, Longs Drug Stores, Rite Aid stores, Hibbert Lumber and Davis Ace Hardware. Rechargeable batteries can also be recycled in Davis at

Cingular Wireless, Kragen Auto Parts and the City Hall Finance Office. All batteries must be sorted by type (alkaline, lithium and rechargeable) BEFORE you bring them to a collection site. Place each type into a separate plastic baggie for easy handling. For more information about proper disposal of batteries, see www.davisrecycling.org.

CONSERVE WATER!

Some simple ways to save water include:

- Water lawns during the early morning hours when temperatures and wind speed are the lowest.
- Don't allow sprinklers to water your street, driveway, or sidewalk.
- Shorten your showers—even a one or two minute reduction can save up to 700 gallons per month.
- Turn off the water when shaving or brushing your teeth.
- Defrost items in the refrigerator or microwave instead of holding them under running water.
- Run the clothes washer and dishwasher with full loads.

Don't miss this month's free household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off events, August 8 and 9, from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Yolo County Central Landfill. Bring in your empty propane canisters, pesticides, fluorescent light bulbs, household cleaners, expired medicines and more for FREE and safe disposal. Mark your calendar for the HHW drop-off dates next month, September 12 and 13, from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Check out the reuse opportunities at the landfill as well. During each HHW drop-off event reusable items are available for FREE. Stop by the landfill during a HHW drop-off event to take your pick of free paints, fertilizers, household cleaners and more.

For more information, visit www.davisrecycling.org or email me at PWweb@cityofdavis.org.