



## City of Davis Public Works Department

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Environmental column

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### TOMORROW IS AMERICA RECYCLES DAY!

Log on to [www.americarecyclesday.org](http://www.americarecyclesday.org) and take the recycling pledge! While you're there, browse their website, they have a lot of interesting information! For example, did you know that recycling is one of the easiest ways you can help slow climate change and global warming? By recycling at home, you help significantly lower carbon emissions associated with extracting virgin materials, manufacturing products and waste disposal. Recycling one ton of paper, bottles and cans can prevent the release of 3 tons of green house gas.

Every community has its own guidelines for what should and should not be recycled, and how the process should take place. If you move to a new place, contact your local public works department or recycling organization to learn about recycling in your area. That way you can be sure you're doing your part, and doing it right. Recycling information for Davis is available online at [www.davisrecycling.org](http://www.davisrecycling.org).

In general, here are a few things to keep in mind: Cleanliness counts. Rinsing cans and bottles makes them easier to process. Also, pay attention to what goes in your recycling bin and be an accurate recycler. A cereal box is great to recycle, but a greasy pizza box isn't. Milk jugs are good, milk cartons aren't recyclable. For those of you with split-recycling carts, YES it DOES matter which side of the recycling cart you put your materials into. When the recycling truck empties the cart, the paper goes into one compartment of the truck, and the bottles and cans go into a separate compartment.

Just as a quick refresher, in Davis these items are recyclable: steel cans, aluminum cans, clean aluminum foil, aluminum pie plates, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, junk mail, phone books, office paper, plastic food and beverage containers (#1 and #2 only), milk jugs, glass food and beverage containers, cereal boxes, other clean and dry cardboard boxes. Shredded paper is still recyclable, and so are metal caps and lids.

These items cannot be placed in the recycling carts: plastic grocery bags, Styrofoam, light bulbs, food-soiled paper, wax paper, ceramics, plastic caps and lids and broken glass dishes. If you still have a question about how to recycle or dispose of something, check your recycling guide, go online to [www.davisrecycling.org](http://www.davisrecycling.org) or call Davis Public Works at 757-5686.

What gets recycled into what? Sometimes it's exactly what you'd expect. Old corrugated boxes are often turned into new corrugated boxes. Newspapers? Same pulp, different news. Glass bottles into glass bottles. But some of the end products may surprise you.

Glass beverage containers can be recycled over and over again. But they can also be used for other things you may not expect, like roads, marbles, decorative tiles, surfboards and a host of other products and materials. Recycled steel and aluminum finds its way into new cars, bikes, appliances, cookware and a whole lot more. Five PET bottles (plastic soda bottles) yield enough fiber for one extra large T-shirt, one square foot of carpet or enough fiber to fill one ski jacket.

Reminder: Autumn is here, and with it, tons of leaves are falling onto our streets and sidewalks. In order for Davis Waste Removal to pick up the many leaf piles around town, please be courteous and do NOT park your car on top of or close to the piles. Streets are usually swept the day after yard waste has been picked up. Leaf litter piled up in the gutters can impede drainage and lead to standing water. Please help us keep our streets clean and try to park your car off the street on yard waste pick-up and street sweeping days.

Don't miss this month's free household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off events, November 14 and 15 from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Yolo County Central Landfill. Bring 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, December 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](http://www.davisrecycling.org) or email me at [PWweb@cityofdavis.org](mailto:PWweb@cityofdavis.org).