



City of Davis Public Works Department

1717 Fifth Street Davis, CA 95616

530-757-5686 FAX: 530-758-4738

Environmental column

May 8, 2009

By Jennifer Gilbert, Conservation Coordinator

FREE SHARPS CONTAINERS

A California State Law enacted in September 2008, made it illegal to dispose of home-generated sharps waste (including hypodermic needles, lancets, etc.) in the trash, and requires that all sharps waste be transported to a collection center in an approved sharps container. Sharps containers may be purchased at most pharmacies and drug stores.

The County of Yolo received a hazardous waste grant from the State to purchase sharps containers that will be handed out to the public for free while supplies last at these locations in Davis:

- Davis Senior Center, 646 A Street
- Longs Drug Store, 1550 E. Covell Blvd.
- Longs Drug Store, 1471 W. Covell Blvd.

For more information about sharps disposal, see <http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/HHW/Sharps/default.htm>.

It's has been two years since Davis Waste Removal first began offering free drop-off recycling for rigid plastics #3, #5, #6, and #7 at their recycling center (2727 2nd Street). This includes plastic laundry baskets, buckets, flower pots, children's outdoor plastic toys (sandboxes, slides, play kitchens), PVC pipe, plastic outdoor furniture, and other household items.

What are rigid plastics? A RIGID PLASTIC is any plastic that is stiff, as opposed to FILM PLASTICS, such as plastic bags, film and wrap.

Although DWR can only accept plastics #1 and #2 in their curbside and commercial recycling carts, the drop-boxes at the DWR Recycling Center gives Davis residents a chance to recycle more plastics. Plastics #4 are not accepted because there are no local recyclers that will take the material for recycling. To determine what kind of plastic a product is made from, check the bottom or sides to find the chasing arrows with a number inside or just underneath it.

DWR's recycling center on 2nd Street offers 24/7 recycling of cardboard, plastics #1 and #2, rigid plastics, aluminum cans, paper, glass bottles, steel cans, scrap metal, used motor oil and oil filters.

Please be conscious when you turn on the tap that every drop is important. Please irrigate your landscape only when necessary and adjust your irrigation timers accordingly. Most landscapes do not need irrigation everyday. If your landscaper sets your irrigation timer, ask them to make sure it's only turning on 3 times a week. To save more water, apply mulch to your landscape. Many tree removal companies can deliver wood chips to your home for free. More water conservation tips are available online at www.cityofdavis.org/pw/water/conserve.cfm.

Instead of taking a plastic or paper bag from the grocery store, bring your own bag and help us reduce waste. Try keeping reusable bags in your bicycle basket or in your car as a reminder to bring them when you shop. If you have a bunch of plastic bags at home that you'd like to recycle, bring them back to the stores you got them from. Most grocery stores are required by law to accept their bags back for recycling. Look for the plastic bag collection container near the entrance to stores. The Nugget stores will take back produce bags and plastic bags from other stores too.

Don't miss this month's free household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off events May 8 and 9 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Yolo County Central Landfill! Bring in your paints, 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, June 12 and 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. During the HHW drop-off events 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.