



## City of Davis Public Works Department

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### ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF BATTERY AND MERCURY BAN

Every week in Davis, household battery collection sites gather gallons of batteries from Davis Residents. These dead alkaline, rechargeable and lithium batteries are not buried in the landfill—they are recycled and properly disposed.

It was a year ago today that the Department of Toxic Substances Control announced the landfill ban on batteries, florescent light bulbs, mercury thermostats, cathode ray tube devices (computer monitors, televisions), mercury thermometers, and other products containing mercury or other heavy metals.

Like used motor oil and paint, these items are hazardous waste. It is illegal to dispose of hazardous waste in the trash. These items contain chemicals that can be released into the environment and contaminate our air, water, and possibly the food we eat. Throwing hazardous waste in the trash can also cause additional hazards for your garbage handler.



Jesse Sareñana recycles used batteries at Davis Ace Hardware.

Household alkaline and lithium batteries (including button or hearing aid batteries) contain the toxic metals: cadmium, zinc, lithium, and nickel. Americans purchase approximately three-billion household batteries each year, or about ten batteries per person. Keeping them out of our landfill is important to protecting our groundwater from these heavy metals.

Davis residents can recycle 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, Davis Ace Hardware and Radio Shack.

Rechargeable batteries can also be recycled in Davis at Cingular Wireless, Kragen Auto Parts and the City Hall Finance Office.

Each of these battery drop-off sites can collect over a gallon of batteries a week from environmentally aware Davis residents.

The City of Davis has a contract with Yolo County to collect alkaline and lithium/button batteries from the eight sites listed above. The batteries are picked up by the county every other month, paid for by the City as part of the contract.

Household battery collection is not new in Davis. The City has had battery collections sites since 1996, long before batteries were banned from landfills.

When you bring your batteries to a battery drop-off site, please separate your batteries into three categories: alkaline, rechargeable, and lithium/ button batteries. These batteries are recycled separately, and should not be mixed. Alkaline and lithium batteries can occasionally produce a spark if they are stored together.

#### **ELECTRONICS, FLORESCENT BULBS AND MERCURY-CONTAINING ITEMS ALSO BANNED**

Electronic devices, including TV's, computer monitors, computers, printers, VCRs, cell phones, telephones and radios, often contain heavy metals like lead, cadmium, copper, and chromium. The Yolo County Central Landfill accepts electronics for free recycling on a daily basis. Recently, the electronics program at the landfill has expanded to include video and DVD players, cameras, blenders, vacuum cleaners, stereos, electric toothbrushes and more! Electronics are accepted for free at the landfill during normal business hours Monday-Saturday 6:30am-4:00pm and Sunday 9:00am-5:00pm.

Fluorescent tubes, bulbs and other mercury-containing lamps (high intensity discharge (HID), metal halide, sodium, and neon bulbs) have been banned from the trash because they contain mercury vapor that may be released to the environment when they are broken. Other mercury-containing devices that have been banned from the trash include mercury thermostats, switches, thermometers, pressure and vacuum gauges, and gas flow regulators used in older residential gas meters.

Many products in aerosol cans are toxic and some contain flammables, like butane, as propellants for products like paint. If your aerosol can is labeled with words like TOXIC or FLAMMABLE, don't put it in the trash unless it is completely empty. If they are completely empty, they can be recycled with metal cans. If they are still partially or completely full, bring them to a Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Day at the landfill for free disposal.

Yolo County residents can bring fluorescent tubes, bulbs, mercury-containing devices, non-empty aerosol cans and other household hazardous material to the Yolo County Central Landfill FOR FREE DROP-OFF during a Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Day. This month's free Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Days will be today and tomorrow, February 9 and 10, from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the landfill. The next drop-off days will be March 9 and 10.

For more information on the Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Days, call 666-8729, or visit [www.davisrecycling.org](http://www.davisrecycling.org).

Businesses in Yolo County can dispose of their hazardous waste through the Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) program at the Yolo County Central Landfill. For more information, call 666-8729, or visit [www.yolocounty.org/recycle](http://www.yolocounty.org/recycle).

For more information about batteries, electronics, and other household hazardous waste, see [www.davisrecycling.org](http://www.davisrecycling.org), or call the landfill at 666-8729. The City of Davis Recycling Program can be reached at 757-5686 or by email at [pwwweb@cityofdavis.org](mailto:pwwweb@cityofdavis.org).