

GreenWays

THE QUARTERLY RESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER FROM GREENWASTE OF PALO ALTO WINTER 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE: CLEAN UP DAYS

COVID-19 has resulted in many donation and reuse organizations closing or restricting the items they accept, including the ones that partner with GreenWaste through the residential Clean Up Day program.

To reflect these changes, the only items currently accepted for reuse in the Clean Up Day program are:

- » Clothing and textiles
- » Books
- » CDs/DVDs (only commercial recordings in original cases and in resale condition; no personal recordings)



Items that are no longer accepted for reuse – such as furniture, kitchenware, and generic household items – may still be set out for pickup. These items will be collected by GreenWaste and delivered to a processing facility instead. About 50-60% of the material such as metal, wood, and plastic will be captured for recycling.

Residents who have items in reusable condition are encouraged to donate them to neighbors through Nextdoor, Freecycle, or other channels. RecycleWhere.org has a list of reuse organizations that may take some of your items. Please contact them for a current list of acceptable donation items.

To view the updated Clean Up Day guidelines, visit the GreenWaste website at www.greenwasteofpaloalto.com/cleanupday.

GREENWASTE HIGHLIGHTS



- **COMPOST CHRISTMAS TREES:**
For the four weeks following Christmas day, Christmas trees will be collected curbside.
 - » Remove stands, decorations, and lights
 - » Cut trees into 4 ft. pieces
 - » Place trees at the curb next to your green compost cart
 - » Trees must be unflocked

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **GAMBLE GARDEN FIRST ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TREES:**
Saturday, Dec 5, 9am - 4pm
1431 Waverly St, Palo Alto
- **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE STATION:**
Every Saturday 9am-11pm,
First Friday of each month 3pm-5pm
2501 Embarcadero Way, Palo Alto
(HHW Station will be closed on Dec 26, Jan 1, and Jan 2 for the holidays)

Due to COVID-19, the following events may be cancelled or adjusted. Visit the website for more information.

- **DOCUMENT SHREDDING:**
www.cityofpaloalto.org/shred
- **COMPOST WORKSHOPS:**
www.cityofpaloalto.org/compost

ZERO WASTE & COVID : WASTE REDUCTION AND REUSE DURING THE PANDEMIC

COVID-19 has taken a significant toll on local and global waste reduction efforts.

While residents and businesses have rightly focused on keeping themselves and their customers safe, plastic pollution continues to be a significant environmental issue.

In Palo Alto, an increase in packaging waste, disposable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), cleaning supplies, and single-use items such as foodware has impacted our community's zero waste efforts.

However, aiming for zero waste while protecting against the spread of COVID-19 is possible and important to help us reach our zero waste goals.



Tips to reduce waste during the pandemic:

- » Reusable shopping bags: wash them frequently, keep them in your cart/basket, bag your own groceries.
- » Ordering takeout/delivery: when ordering, request no cutlery, plates, napkins, condiments, etc.
- » Sanitize with reusable cloths. Avoid disposable wipes!
- » Buy dry kitchen staples – like grains, beans, and spices – in bulk via online stores such as the Wally Shop.
- » Reduce food waste by trying storage tips from www.savethefood.com/storage to keep food fresh.
- » Opt for reusable masks unless medically necessary: clean them after each day of use.
- » Spruce up your self-care routine: use reusable cotton pads, face wipes, and cotton swabs. Try bamboo toothbrushes and metal razors.
- » When ordering products online, try to place one larger order instead of several small orders to reduce packaging waste.
- » Purchase concentrated/waterless cleaning products.

COLLECTION SCHEDULE CHANGES: HOLIDAY SERVICE DAYS



Mark your calendars for the holiday service schedule!

GreenWaste of Palo Alto is closed on Christmas (December 25) and New Year's Day (January 1). If your regular collection day falls on one of these holidays, your collection day will be moved to the following day (Saturday).

Remember to set out your carts by 6am on the date illustrated below. Happy Holidays!

DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
20	21	22	23	24	25	26

DECEMBER/JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

Regular collection schedules will resume the following week. Contact GreenWaste Customer Service if you have any questions.

ZERO WASTE CHEER FOR YOUR HOLIDAYS

We've made it through an unprecedented year – let's celebrate! Add some of these waste-free ideas to your holiday plans, and take comfort in reducing waste, pollution, and greenhouse gases!



- » Plan meal portions: try the Guestimator at www.savethefood.com.
- » Use cloth napkins and reusable dinnerware.
- » Save or repurpose your leftovers: the freezer is your friend!
- » Use reusable or compostable decorations such as pinecones, real foliage, and fruits.
- » In general, the fancier the wrapping paper, the less recyclable it is. Instead, try alternative gift-wrapping: cloth, newspaper, reusable bags.
- » Zero waste gift ideas: classes, park passes, self-care gift cards, dinner out at a restaurant, subscriptions for refillable products.

For more info and holiday Zero Waste tips visit: www.cityofpaloalto.org/zwholiday