

RETHINKER

Spring/Summer 2020

Batteries that find their way into the blue recycling or black garbage carts can cause serious problems. By understanding how to correctly handle your dead household batteries, you can make a positive impact on our environment and in our community.

It's time to #TakeCharge!
RethinkBatteries.org

DID YOU KNOW...

Batteries that end up in landfills can corrode, allowing harmful chemicals to leach into the soil and make their way into the water supply. They can also cause landfill fires, which release toxic chemicals into the air.



Printed on recycled paper with soy-based inks

The Rethinker newsletter is dedicated to educating residents and businesses regarding waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. With your help, we can meet our goal of diverting waste from the landfill and maintain healthy, livable communities.

RethinkWaste Administrative Offices
610 Elm Street, Suite 202 | San Carlos, CA 94070



CURBSIDE BATTERY COLLECTION PROGRAM

4 STEPS FOR RESPONSIBLE BATTERY DISPOSAL



STEP
01

STEP
02

STEP
03

STEP
04



1: COLLECT IT!

Do you have dead batteries collecting in a drawer somewhere in your home? **Collect ALL your household batteries** that no longer carry a charge.

2: TAPE IT!

Prevent battery fires by taping over lithium-ion and 9-volt battery terminals with **clear tape**. The terminals, or exposed metal parts, of certain batteries can rub together creating a spark.

3: BAG IT!

Put all your batteries into a **clear plastic zip-top bag**. Properly seal the bag to ensure no batteries fall out.

4: PLACE IT!

Place the sealed bag on top of your black garbage cart on your regular collection day. The Recology San Mateo County collection team will take the batteries for proper and safe disposal.

IMPORTANT TO NOTE: Lead acid and car batteries **are not accepted** through the curbside battery collection program. Residents may take these types of batteries to the Shoreway Environmental Center free of charge for proper and safe disposal.

Want more battery information? Visit RethinkBatteries.org today!

Remember to Keep Recyclables Clean & Dry!



If you've been on one of our tours at the Shoreway Environmental Center, you've seen how your recycling goes through a complex process of screens, scanners, air jets, magnets, and people to sort and separate out all the non-recyclable materials and contamination. Inevitably, some non-recyclables slip through this process. Here are 3 simple things you can start doing today to reduce contamination in your **blue recycling cart**:

1. **PLACE recyclables loosely in cart** (please no plastic bags).
2. **EMPTY your containers of all food residue and liquids.**
3. **CLOSE your cart lid completely.** Open lids can cause materials to get wet or blow away, impacting the recyclability of materials and causing litter on our streets.

For up-to-date info about recycling, visit RethinkWaste.org/news.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Events

GOT HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE? SAN MATEO COUNTY WANTS IT!

This includes paint, pesticides, household cleaners, fluorescent lights, and propane tanks. San Mateo County's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program offers FREE neighborhood drop-off events to all County residents. To participate, you must schedule an appointment at smhealth.org/hhw or call (650) 363-4718, select option 3.

MONTH	DAY	LOCATION *
May	9	Redwood City
May	30	East Palo Alto
July	25	Redwood City
Aug	22	Menlo Park
Sept	26	Redwood City
Nov	14	Redwood City



**Specific location will be disclosed after your appointment is made.*
 San Mateo County's permanent facility in the City of San Mateo is open Thursday through Saturday 8 a.m - 2 p.m. by appointment only.

Looking for some quick and easy tips on how to reduce and reuse in your every day lives? Here are some easy tips that you can start implementing today!

Small changes from everyone add up to a big impact!



Easy Tips to Reduce & Reuse!

- **Invest in reusable and durable products** while avoiding single-use disposal items. Whether it be reusable grocery bags, produce bags, utensils, or mugs, choose items that can be reused over and over.
- Next time you make a purchase, **ask yourself if you really need the item** and if you do, consider shopping at a second-hand store or seeing if it's an item you can borrow from a neighbor or friend.
- **Think before you toss!** If you have items you want to get rid of that still may be of use to someone else, such as furniture, clothing or other household items, please consider donating these usable items to a friend, local charity, or non-profit organization.
- When you do need to go shopping, **look for items with minimal or no packaging.**



PROGRAM INFORMATION:

RethinkWaste is your regional public agency* that owns the 16-acre Shoreway Environmental Center in San Carlos and manages our two major contractors: Recology & South Bay Recycling.
 RethinkWaste | (650) 802-3500 | rethinker@rethinkwaste.org | Rethinkwaste.org

For questions about your garbage bill or to schedule services:
 Recology San Mateo County | 225 Shoreway Rd, San Carlos | (650) 595-3900
carts@recology.com | Recology.com

For questions about the Shoreway Environmental Center including hours of operation, materials accepted, rates, etc.:
 South Bay Recycling | 333 Shoreway Rd, San Carlos | (650) 802-8355 | SBRecycling.net



- *RethinkWaste Member Agencies:**
- Atherton
 - Belmont
 - Burlingame
 - East Palo Alto
 - Foster City
 - Hillsborough
 - Menlo Park
 - Redwood City
 - San Carlos
 - San Mateo
 - County of San Mateo
 - West Bay Sanitary Dist.

Sign up to receive the Rethinker newsletter electronically! Visit RethinkWaste.org/rethinker
 Follow us on social media to get the latest eco-tips and information.

