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(209) 577-5200 • TDD (209) 526-9211



January 2015

Going Green with Recycling in 2015!

It's so easy to **go green** in the City of Modesto. Modesto offers residents a variety of ways to reduce-reuse-recycle their waste items. Listed below is a summary of the garbage and recycling programs available to all Modesto residents and businesses. "Residential" garbage customers are defined as having black and green waste containers while "Commercial" garbage customers have bins.

Residential Organic Waste:

Residents should fill their green organic waste containers with small prunings, grass clippings, leaves, weeds, all forms of food waste, cardboard, and paper waste. Paper waste includes newspapers, magazines, phone books, junk mail, paper towels, and napkins, etc. All the material is recycled into compost at the City's Compost Facility. Please, do not put plastic bags, diapers, dirt, sod, rocks, concrete, animal feces, household garbage, or wood in your green container. For information on where to purchase the City's compost product, Mo-Gro-Pro, please call (209) 571-5144.

Residential & Commercial Buy Back Centers:

Residents can recycle their California Redemption Value (CRV) beverage containers and some scrap metal items at any of our many convenient buy back centers throughout Modesto. For a current list of locations, call 1-(800)-Recycle or go to <http://www.modestogov.com/prnd/recycling/buyback.asp>

Residential Bulky Item Collection:

Modesto residents can dispose of large household items at the curb two times per calendar year. Call your garbage company for an appointment; place the items in the street the night before the appointment. No items will be picked up without an appointment. For safety purposes, remove doors from all large appliances. Take care not to block fire hydrants, storm drains, etc. Call your garbage provider for program restrictions.

Bertolotti Disposal: (209) 537-8000

Gilton Solid Waste: (209) 527-3781

Residential Green Waste & Leaf Collection:

Large prunings are picked up January through November from your street or alley. Prunings should be less than six feet in length and no single piece should weigh over 50 pounds. Place material 1 ½ feet from the curb or fence. *Note: dirt, sod, grass clippings, and concrete will not be picked up. The City is divided into four service areas; set out and pick up times depend on your location. Most of the materials are sent to the Compost Facility for processing. To determine the schedule for your area, please call the Green Waste Division at (209) 577-5463 or go to http://www.modestogov.com/prnd/trees/green_waste.asp

December is leaf season only; green waste will not be collected. Leaves are collected from the street only. Piles of leaves with pruned refuse mixed in will **not** be collected.

Residential Used Motor Oil and Filter Collection:

The City of Modesto has two options for used motor oil and filter collection. Curbside collection by appointment or you can drop off the used oil and filters for money at Certified Collection Companies. For more information on these programs, please call (209) 577-5493.

Residential & Commercial Household Hazardous Waste:

All area residents and "registered small quantity generator businesses" can dispose of hazardous materials at the Stanislaus County HHW Facility. Materials such as paint, solvents, used oil, batteries, brake fluid, antifreeze, fluorescent lights, and electronic devices (computers, monitors, TV's, VCR's, etc.) **cannot** be put in the garbage and must be disposed of properly. The facility is located at 1710 Morgan Road and is open Friday and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. For additional information, please call (209) 577-5493.

Commercial Organic Food Waste Program:

If you are a local Modesto business and generate compostable materials, you may be eligible to participate in the City's Organic Food Waste Program and receive a 25% discount off the standard garbage rate for your compostable materials. All contents of the food waste bins are taken to the City of Modesto's Compost Facility. The organic material is composted, and then made available for sale to the general public. For additional information and to see if your business qualifies, please call (209) 577-5495.

Residential Waste Tire Recycling:

Modesto residents are eligible to participate in a grant-funded program that allows each resident to recycle up to 9 waste tires at no additional cost. For program guidelines and how to receive a coupon, please contact the Solid Waste Division of the City of Modesto at (209) 577-5494.

If you have questions about these or any other garbage or recycling programs, please contact the Solid Waste Office at (209) 577-5494 or visit our website at www.modestogov.com/prnd/recycling

SEWER PROBLEMS?

CALL US FIRST

577-6200



Help Prevent Sewer Blockages & Overflows

Especially during the winter months, it is important to remember the following:

Grease is often washed down the kitchen sink and into the plumbing system. Even a small amount of grease in sink drains can cause serious blockages in home plumbing or, even worse, a sewer overflow in your home or yard. The substances also cause clogging in Modesto's wastewater collection system, causing overflows that are messy, costly, and a potential threat to your health and the environment.

Here are some ways you can help protect the environment, your pipes, and Modesto's sewer collection system:



- Never pour grease material down sinks, drains, or toilets.
- Scrape grease material from all cookware and dishes into a can or the trash for disposal, prior to washing. Don't rely on detergents to dissolve grease: they may just pass it down the line and cause problems in other areas.
- Use strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain strainers into the trash for disposal.
- Cooking grease should be placed in the black curb container with the normal weekly garbage. It would be advisable to allow the grease to cool so as to not melt plastic garbage bags.

Call the City of Modesto 24/7 at (209) 577-6200 to report a sewer blockage or overflow

Great Job Modesto!

Since May 2014, the City decreased water use by an overall average of 10%. We watered our lawns less, took shorter showers, fixed our leaks, and turned off the water when we brushed our teeth. Every effort helps us use less water and conserve more. Let's continue to work together to make a bigger saving in 2015.

The City of Modesto will continue to offer the High Efficiency toilet rebate program and the High Efficiency Washer rebate program. The rebate will be available until June of this year. If you have not taken advantage of these two rebate programs, please read below for more details.

High Efficiency Toilet Rebate Program

The City of Modesto is offering a rebate for qualifying High Efficiency Toilets purchased between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.



Toilets are the biggest water user in your home! They account for nearly 30% of a home's indoor water use. If you replace an "old water guzzler" with a new "Water-Sense" labeled high efficiency model it can decrease your water use by 11 gallons per toilet each day.

City of Modesto residential customers in single and multi-family homes may be eligible for a rebate when replacing an old high-water-use toilet. For complete guidelines and application for the program, please visit the City of Modesto Water Conservation Program website: www.modestogov.com/savewater or call (209) 342-2262.

High Efficiency Clothes Washer Rebate Program



The City of Modesto is offering a rebate for qualifying clothes washer machines purchased between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015.

Clothes washers are typically the second largest user of water indoors. Replacing your old washer with a new high-efficiency model can save water.

City of Modesto residential customers in single and multi-family homes may be eligible for a rebate. For complete guidelines and application for the program, please visit the City of Modesto Water Conservation website www.modestogov.com/savewater or call (209) 342-2262.

City of Modesto UTILITY BILLING *Other ways to pay*



Pay by Phone
(209) 577-5395, Option 4



Pay Online at
www.modestogov.com



Pay using your
Mobile Device
Download the Check app TODAY!
available on the Apple App Store
or Google Play



Authorized Pay Station
List of authorized pay stations
available on back of bill.

LED Streetlights Scheduled to Light Up Modesto!

The City of Modesto's Department of Public Works recently launched the Light Emitting Diode (LED) Streetlight Conversion project with plans to replace 9,500 High Pressure Sodium (HPS) streetlights with LEDs. Tanko Lighting of San Francisco will conduct a Geographic Information System (GIS) audit to identify, locate, and characterize the City's existing streetlights. This process should last about 30 days, then installation of the LED fixtures is expected to take place and be completed by July 2015.

The benefits of LED lighting include: less maintenance due to a significantly longer lifespan, high energy efficiency (double that of fluorescent) leading to fewer greenhouse emissions, and directional lighting which offers more light than the current HPS lights, creating safer nighttime streets.

For more information, contact Traffic Engineer, Jeff Barnes at (209) 577-5214 or jbarnes@modestogov.com