

# WASTE REDUCTION GUIDE

## for New Residents

### Welcome to your new home.

As you settle into your new home, you may have questions about how to reuse, recycle, or dispose of various items in Cupertino. The resources below should help. Thank you for helping Cupertino reduce waste!

### Cupertino's 3 Bin System

Cupertino's three bin waste collection system offers recycling, composting, and garbage service to all residents. Collection services are provided by the waste hauler, Recology. Visit [www.recology.com/cupertino](http://www.recology.com/cupertino) for full list of recyclable and compostable items.

#### Recycling

Paper, bottles, cans, glass, and all plastics (including flower pots, buckets, party cups, bubble wrap, plastic bags, film plastic) go in your blue cart or bin. Contents are collected and taken to a materials recovery facility.



#### Compost

Food scraps, food-soiled paper, and plants go in your green cart or bin. Contents are collected by Recology and used to create compost for gardens.



#### Landfill

Ceramics; expanded polystyrene (commonly referred to as styrofoam™); chip, candy bar, and granola bar wrappers; juice boxes; broken glass; kitty litter; pet waste; and rubber must go in your gray cart. Contents are collected and taken to the landfill.



For more information, contact us at:

City of Cupertino | [environmental@cupertino.org](mailto:environmental@cupertino.org) | (408) 777-3243  
 Recology Cupertino | [www.recology.com/cupertino](http://www.recology.com/cupertino) | (408) 725-4020



# It's easy to compost in Cupertino.

## STEP 1: Collect in your home.

Store food scraps and wet or food-soiled paper from your kitchen in a pail or other container.

## STEP 2: Empty into your outdoor compost cart.

If contents are bagged, use clear plastic bags. No black bags.

## Get your FREE kitchen pail!



All residents may receive a free container to collect their food scraps from their kitchens (one per household). If you have not yet received one, please contact your property manager, City of Cupertino at [environmental@cupertino.org](mailto:environmental@cupertino.org) or (408) 777-3243, or visit [www.cupertino.org/foodscraps](http://www.cupertino.org/foodscraps) to coordinate delivery.



## Frequently Asked Questions About Recycling & Composting



### Q: Do I need to rinse my jars and containers before I put them in the blue recycle bin?

A: Empty all liquids and scrape as much food as possible from the inside of all containers and jars. If you have scraped out most of the food (enough that food and liquids are not going to fall out of the container and contaminate the rest of your recyclables), no rinse is necessary.



### Q: Can I recycle or compost styrofoam™ (such as meat trays, cups, and packing peanuts)?

A: No, all expanded polystyrene (commonly referred to as styrofoam™) is not recyclable or compostable and must be placed in your gray landfill bin or cart.



### Q: Do liquids need to be emptied from bottles, cans, and containers?

A: Yes, please empty all liquids prior to recycling bottles, cans, cups and cartons. This helps prevent contamination of paper recyclables. Liquid cleansers, garden chemicals, and automotive fluids must be disposed of as hazardous material (more info on page 3).



### Q: How is this compost program different than backyard compost piles?

A: Compostables are collected and delivered to a facility in Gilroy where they go through a high temperature industrial composting process. This means that, unlike your backyard compost pile, you can put all cooked and uncooked food scraps (including meat, dairy, grains) into your compost bin.

### Q: Do I need to use a compostable bag to collect my food scraps?

A: No, a compostable bag is not necessary. You can use a clear plastic bag or paper bag to collect your food scraps, or no bag at all. Many residents use produce bags and bread bags they already have in their home.



### Q: Plastic is not compostable. Why am I allowed to use a clear plastic bag to collect my food scraps?

A: All plastic and compostable bags are removed at the facility during the composting process.



# Other City Programs & Events

## Household Hazardous Waste

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), such as paint, pool chemicals, pesticides and household cleaning solvents, are not accepted in any landfill and should NOT be placed in the trash, recycling or compost or poured down the drain. All Cupertino residents can conveniently and safely dispose of HHW through our partnership with the Waste Management At-Your-Door Collection Program (WM).

### How it works

Residents call Waste Management at 800.449.7587 and schedule an appointment. A collection kit containing a 14-gallon plastic bag, zip tie, and instructions will then be mailed out in advance of the collection date. The bag is then filled with the HHW, sealed with the zip tie, and placed at your doorstep (not at the curb) by 7 a.m. on the morning of the collection appointment. Waste Management will collect and safely dispose of the material. This program is available to all Cupertino residents. Coordination with your property manager may be required.



**For more information:**  
[www.wmatyourdoor.com](http://www.wmatyourdoor.com)  
(800) 449-7587

### Accepted Items

Check [wmatyourdoor.com](http://wmatyourdoor.com) for full list of acceptable and unacceptable materials.



Paint Products



Computers & Electronics



Household Cleaners & Garden Chemicals



Fluorescent tubes, CFLs, and batteries



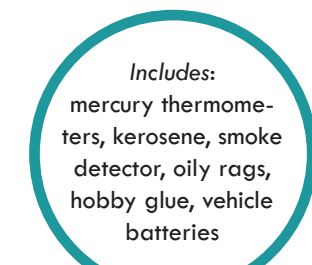
Sharps & Needles



Pool Chemicals



Auto Products (gasoline, oil, etc)



*Includes:*  
mercury thermometers, kerosene, smoke detector, oily rags, hobby glue, vehicle batteries

Other materials

## Medication Drop-Off



**DO NOT flush medications down the toilet.** Medications are not completely removed when passing through waste water treatment plants and are harmful to marine life. Please bring any unused or expired prescription drugs or over-the-counter medications to:

**Sheriff's Department West Valley Patrol Station**

1601 S De Anza Blvd

(408) 868-6600

Hours: M-F, 8am-5pm



# Other City Programs & Events (continued)

## Shredding & Environmental Recycling Days

The City of Cupertino and Recology host four shredding and environmental recycling events per year to prevent valuable resources from being sent to the landfill. Residents must provide a personal identification to verify residency. Residents are responsible for unloading their own materials.

### Accepted Items

Check [www.cupertino.org/environmentalday](http://www.cupertino.org/environmentalday) for a full list of acceptable items.

**For Donation:** Reusable items. NO dirty, broken, stained, or torn items. No mattresses.



### Event Dates & Location

Events occur at De Anza College in Parking Lot "A" from 9am-1pm on the following dates:

- Saturday, January 20, 2018
- Saturday, April 14, 2018
- Saturday, August 18, 2018
- Saturday, November 10, 2018



Furniture



Clothing & Shoes



Plastic toys and play structures

### For Shredding:

2 box limit

**For Recycling:** No appliances that contain freon.



Confidential Documents



Computers & Electronics



Appliances



Fluorescent tubes, CFLs, and batteries

For more information visit [www.cupertino.org/environmentalday](http://www.cupertino.org/environmentalday) or call Recology at (408) 725-4020

## Get your Free Compost!

Food scraps, food-soiled paper, and yard waste collected from Cupertino's residential and commercial composting programs (like the one at your complex!) are made into compost for gardens. Some of this compost is taken to the City's compost site where residents can pick it up at no charge. Identification is required to verify residency.



For full list of procedures:

[www.cupertino.org/compost](http://www.cupertino.org/compost)

(408) 777-3354

### Hours & Location

Fridays & Saturdays, 8am-12pm  
March 30th - October 27th, 2018

@ 12100 Stevens Canyon Rd

Across from the Stevens Creek Reservoir

**Note:** The compost site is CLOSED during rainy weather or muddy conditions to comply with state stormwater requirements. Call (408) 777-1320 to check the status.



# Other City Programs & Waste Reduction Tips

## On-Call Collections

Got junk? Use an on-call collection. All Cupertino Recology customers are eligible for 2 free on-call collections of bulky goods per

## Accepted Items

Visit [www.recology.com/cupertino](http://www.recology.com/cupertino) for full list of accepted items.



Worn & Damaged  
Furniture



Computer  
Monitors & TVs



Refrigerators, Air  
Conditioners, &  
Other Appliances

## Rules & Restrictions

- 3 item limit per pick-up
- No items with oil, diesel, or gasoline
- No hazardous waste
- No pressure treated wood

**Call Recology at  
(408) 725-4020**



to arrange for an on-call collection. Advance notice of 24 hours is requested. Coordination with your property manager may be required.

## Donate Usable Goods

If your items are still usable and might find a new life, please consider donating them to one of the many non-profits in Santa Clara County instead of using an on-call collection. You will help divert valuable resources from the landfill and contribute to your community. Access a list of local donation agencies online at [www.cupertino.org/nowaste](http://www.cupertino.org/nowaste).

## Tips for Zero Waste Living in Cupertino

The City of Cupertino has a vision of a zero waste future and has set a goal to divert at least 75% of materials from the landfill. Help Cupertino achieve this goal by adopting zero waste practices in your own daily life.

### Save the food.

According to Food Shift, Americans throw away an estimated 25% of the food they bring home. Save money and resources by minimizing food waste:

1. Assess what is in your fridge and pantry weekly and identify which items need to be eaten first.
2. Learn how to keep your food fresh longer with storage tips at [food-shift.net/reduce-your-waste](http://food-shift.net/reduce-your-waste)
3. Learn about food dates at [eatbydate.com](http://eatbydate.com). 'Use by' and 'sell by' dates do not always accurately indicate food safety.
4. Give leftovers a new life with a little creativity. Visit [saved-the-food.com/cook-it](http://saved-the-food.com/cook-it) for recipes and tips.



### Go reusable & say no to packaging.

Going reusable stretches beyond bringing your own bag to the grocery store. Ditch single-use, disposable foodware, drinkware, cutlery, produce bags, and even napkins and paper towels for reusable counterparts. Say no to one-time use items such as cutlery, straws, and bags when offered to you at restaurants and stores.

*While supplies last, Cupertino residents can pick up one free reusable produce bag from City Hall. per visit.*



### Donate and buy used.

Donate usable furniture, clothes, toys, and electronics to a local charity organization or sell or share them through websites or mobile apps such as craigslist, freecycle, or LetGo. To make the process full circle, buy or acquire used furniture, clothing, and other items when possible.

### Ask manufacturers to make better products.

Are there items you love that are hard to recycle or come packaged in unnecessary packaging? Tell the manufacturer how you feel. Products won't change until they hear feedback and support from their customers.

