



July - September 2024

# Pleasanton Garbage Service Inc. Multi-Family News

## What is the Impact of Recycling Paper?

Sending paper to the landfill wastes natural resources, consumes landfill space, and creates greenhouse gas emissions.

Because paper is made from trees it is organic matter. When organic matter breaks down in a landfill it creates methane emissions. Methane is a greenhouse gas that is much more potent than carbon dioxide.



**If you don't recycle paper, start today!** Want to go beyond recycling? Try going paperless whenever possible. Preventing waste in the first place is the most environmentally sustainable option.

One way you can go paperless today is by switching your property's garbage bill to paperless billing. Don't want to miss out on receiving our newsletter? Rest assured – our newsletters are available on our website at [www.pleasantongarbage.com/newsletter](http://www.pleasantongarbage.com/newsletter).

## Paper Recycling Facts

- Americans use 85 million tons of paper per year which is about 680 pounds per person.
- Recycling one ton of paper saves 7,000 gallons of water and saves 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space.
- Each ton of recycled paper can save 17 mature trees.
- Recycling a stack of newspaper just 3 feet high saves one tree.
- Approximately 1 billion trees worth of paper are thrown away every year in the U.S.



## Did Your Property Receive a Stop Waste Notice of Violation or Citation?

Multi-family properties that do not have adequate recycling and food/green waste collection service are subject to enforcement action and fines.

If you receive a Notice of Violation, this is your final warning before you will receive a Citation Letter. If you receive a Citation Letter, a fine is being assessed for not subscribing to adequate food/green waste and recycling collection services after a Notice of Violation was sent.

You must increase service so that all of your tenants have access to compost and recycling.

Contact PGS today and we will help you create a plan to increase your service. To avoid future fines, complete 3-steps by the due date listed in your citation letter. Visit [www.Stopwaste.org/rules/enforcement-and-violations/citations](http://www.Stopwaste.org/rules/enforcement-and-violations/citations) to complete the 3-step process.

| Violations<br>(Each violation constitutes its own fine)   | Fine Level Category              | 1st Citation | 2nd Citation | 3rd and Subsequent Citations |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lack of compost service</li> <li>Lack of recycling service</li> </ul>              | Less than 2 cubic yards per week | \$50         | \$100        | \$250                        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inaccessible or inadequate collection containers with sufficient labels</li> </ul> | 2 or more cubic yards per week   | \$100        | \$200        | \$500                        |

## Hazardous Waste Service

Helping a tenant prepare to move in or out? Or wondering what to do about the old chemicals and what-nots others have left behind?

Disposing of any hazardous waste in the garbage - including common items such as batteries, fluorescent lightbulbs and paint - is prohibited. Proper management of these materials protects the environment and is required by law.

Alameda County offers hazardous waste drop off service for businesses, organizations, and agencies to drop off small amounts of hazardous waste safely and affordably. Multi-family properties are considered businesses under the law.

The drop-in service makes it easy for businesses to drop-off latex paint, fluorescent lamps, batteries, and aerosol cans.

Information on how to participate in the program is available at [www.stopwaste.org/at-work/business-hazardous-waste/small-business-hazardous-waste-service](http://www.stopwaste.org/at-work/business-hazardous-waste/small-business-hazardous-waste-service).



## Avoid Costly Plumbing Blockages by Encouraging Tenants to Compost

Costly plumbing blockages are created in multi-family buildings when tenants put food scraps down their garbage disposals. These blockages can affect entire buildings, leading to increased complaints from tenants.

**You can help prevent plumbing blockages by encouraging your tenants to compost.**

Inform your residents that they can help the environment by choosing to compost instead of putting their food scraps down the garbage disposal.



Food scraps contain a high amount of nitrogen. Excess nitrogen is harmful to aquatic life. This means that putting your food scraps down your garbage disposal can negatively impact our waterways.

Hard materials such as eggshells, fruit pits, and bones can damage garbage disposal units, further increasing maintenance costs at multi-family properties. Call PGS today for free assistance promoting composting at your property.

## Collection and Sorting Guides

California Senate Bill 1383 and the Alameda County Organics Reduction and Recycling Ordinance require multi-family property managers/owners to educate tenants about proper waste separation rules at least annually and check containers periodically to ensure proper sorting.



Tenants must be informed of the rules no later than 14 days after move-in and at least 14 days before move-out.

Visit [www.resource.stopwaste.org/curbside/pleasanton](http://www.resource.stopwaste.org/curbside/pleasanton), for downloadable guides and collection options for all your tenants needs.

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