

Upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Recycling

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The locations and times for household hazardous waste appointment-based drop off opportunities vary depending on where you live. The Ventura County Pollution Prevention Center and the Santa Clara River Valley Household Hazardous Waste Facility both accept appointments from residents of Fillmore, Ojai, Santa Paula, and unincorporated areas (areas outside cities). The former – located between Ventura and Ojai - is open the fourth Saturday of most months, and the latter is open on the first Saturday during the months of April and October. Appointments for both can be made at 805/658-4323.

City of Ventura residents may make appointments for a designated portion of the Gold Coast facility in their city, the third Saturday of most months, by calling 805/652-4525.

The City of Thousand Oaks facility, which is also available to unincorporated area residents, is open nearly every weekend except holidays. Appointments can be scheduled at 805/376-5007.

A publicly sponsored facility in Camarillo, operated by Clean Harbors Environmental, accepts appointments for residents of Camarillo, Moorpark, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula, Thousand Oaks, and unincorporated areas. Their events are held the second Friday and Saturday of most months and can be reached at 805/987-0717.

In Simi Valley, a facility serving city residents is also open to Moorpark residents and up to 10 unincorporated residents per event. Appointments for the third Saturday of January, March, May, July, September, and November may be made by calling 805/583-6321.

To save public funds, avoid the hassle of appointments, and reduce the risk of waiting in line, you can find more convenient alternatives for safe disposal of many types of toxic materials banned from curbside carts. Monday to Friday, 8 AM to 7 PM, or Saturday, 8 AM to 5 PM, at a designated portion of the Gold Coast Recycling Facility, 5275 Colt Street, residents of Camarillo, Ojai, and Ventura may drop off antifreeze, auto and household batteries, oil, oil filters, latex paint, high intensity lamps, fluorescent tubes and electronics. Residents of Oxnard and Port Hueneme may drop off those same items at a designated section of the Del Norte Recycling Facility, 111 Del Norte Boulevard, Oxnard. Del Norte is generally open Monday to Saturday, 7 AM to 4 PM.

Due to legislative mandates and incentives, some businesses also accept motor oil, paint, fluorescent bulbs, and batteries from the public. For example, most large auto parts stores and businesses performing oil changes accept waste oil from do-it-yourself car owners who bring in waste oil in sealed containers. Large retailers selling fluorescent bulbs accept old ones for recycling (most ask that bulbs arrive in sealed plastic bags, so mercury is less likely to spread if the bulbs break). Several paint stores accept old paint for recycling. Businesses selling rechargeable batteries accept old ones for recycling.

Properly managing household hazardous waste is important because it reduces risks of materials harming waste industry workers or getting into the environment, where your toxic waste could come back to harm you. Even better than managing these items as waste is preventing them from becoming waste in the first place. Buying in small quantities, sharing leftover material with neighbors, and finding safe substitutes are good practices to avoid waste.