

You can't flush a toilet down the toilet

By David Goldstein, Ventura County PWA, IWMD

Most people give little thought to recycling or disposing their daily discards. But when consumers have to discard a large, heavy item, questions arise about handling.

In Ventura County, most single family homes subscribing to curbside refuse service have access to at least one free annual bulky item collection by the hauler contracted to their city or the County. If you call the number on your refuse bill and request your free bulky item collection, you can get rid of most items.

Here are tips for managing some large waste items in Ventura County.

Mattresses: The best option is have your retailer pick up your old mattress when delivering a new one. Although internet vendors of mattresses delivering via common carriers (e.g. UPS, FedEx) are exempt, local stores are required by state law to provide free recycling collection service when delivering a new mattress. (If they do not, then call me; the California Mattress Recycling Advisory Board is collecting information for follow up.) Also, mattresses in separate loads (not mixed with other items) are accepted free at Gold Coast Recycling and Transfer (Ventura), Del Norte Recycling and Transfer (Oxnard), or the Simi Valley Landfill.

Tires: Gold Coast, Del Norte and the Simi Landfill are also options for tires, but they charge at least \$5 for each car tire. The best option is to turn in your old tires when buying a new one. Tire dealers serving their customers, sometimes helping even months after a sale, generally charge less than \$3. Some good used tires can be sold on-line.

Windows: If your window breaks, do not attempt to recycle the glass by placing it in your curbside recycling cart. Window glass has a different melting temperature than bottle glass, and window glass can ruin an entire load of bottle glass if it gets mixed. Dispose of glass in garbage carts. Metal window frames can be recycled at scrap metal yards. Only high quality, dual pane, standard size windows are accepted for re-sale at Habitat for Humanity's ReStores in Oxnard and Simi Valley.

Phone books: These are still delivered in some Ventura County neighborhood, despite the popularity of on-line searches. They can be recycled with paper in curbside carts.

Toilets: Local companies making road base meet specifications prohibiting porcelain, so the nearest company accepting toilets for use in road base is Filter Recycling Services Incorporated, in Colton. This distance makes recycling impractical unless, like the city of Oxnard several years ago, your toilet replacement is part of a large program replacing hundreds of toilets at a time. Only the highest quality, clean, low-flow toilets are accepted

at Habitat for Humanity's ReStores. Otherwise, toilets must be discarded in a curbside bulky item program or hauled to a disposal facility.

Use caution when moving bulky items. Some items, especially toilets, are sharp and dangerous if they break.

into road base do not accept toilets. Crushed porcelain , and in more recent years, Oxnard used when they had to discard 200 toilets a few years ago. Oxnard contracted with Filter Recycling Services Incorporated, in Colton. They crush toilets to quarter inch aggregate and use the material for roads on a landfill. They charged Oxnard a \$100 per ton tip fee to accept toilets and \$75 per hour for hauling, so if you get together with a water district's toilet replacement project, this could be an option for you (jim@filterrecycling.com, or call at 909 721-2036).

Hey David. Thanx for such a thorough response. The old toilet is not low flow (almost 40 years old), that's why I'm replacing it. After speaking with my plumber, he said the best option was just to put it in the dumpster, which he did. At least the new toilet will conserve water. Today is my last day; perhaps I'll see you around. Take care. Colleen.

From: Goldstein, David
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 12:03 PM
To: Bruns, Colleen <Colleen.Bruns@ventura.org>
Subject: RE: Recycling

Hi Colleen,
If your toilet is low flow and in perfect condition, there is a chance Habitat for Humanity's ReStore (981-2268) might pick it up from you within a few weeks, depending on how many they already have in stock. If not, you will have to call your curbside hauler and use one of your free annual bulky item curbside pickups.

Years ago, inert recyclers like Hansen and Vulcan accepted toilets for crushing into road base. No more. Now the standards for Class 3 base do not allow porcelain.

I also checked with Simi Valley Landfill. It is possible the landfill operation there will divert toilets after charging the gate rate. Many landfills use crushed toilets along with other crushed inerts for wet weather roads on the landfill. Porcelain shards can be sharp and dangerous to tires, but a D9 at a landfill should be able to crush it by running over it without any problems.

Unless SVLRC staff reply with good news, that leaves only one option for diverting the toilets, and it is too far away and too expensive to be practical for just one toilet. This is the option that Oxnard used when they had to discard 200 toilets a few years ago. Oxnard contracted with Filter Recycling Services Incorporated, in Colton. They crush toilets to quarter inch aggregate and use the material for roads on a landfill. They charged Oxnard a \$100 per ton tip fee to accept toilets and \$75 per hour for hauling, so if you get together with a water district's toilet replacement project, this could be an option for you (jim@filterrecycling.com, or call at 909 721-2036).

Please let me know how it goes so I can better advise others. I'll get in touch with you again if I hear back with good news from SVLRC.

REgards,
D.G.

From: Bruns, Colleen
Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 8:31 AM
To: Goldstein, David <David.Goldstein@ventura.org>
Subject: Recycling

Hi David. I'm having a new toilet installed and I'm wondering if there's someplace to take the old toilet to be recycled. I'd rather not send it to the landfill if there are other options. Colleen.

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Laurie,
Are you affiliated with a government agency, non-profit group, or business that benefits the environment? Would you like to write a guest column, with your name as the byline, letting people know what they can do about their toilet?

Guidelines:

Either around 550 words or 750 words
Avoid opinion
Avoid jargon and acronyms
Target 8th grade reading level
Focus on local information
Give people ways they can do something
No commercial promotion

Please call or e-mail and let me know.

Thanks,
D.G.

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>>> "Laurie Burke" <laurie805@gmail.com> 05/17/2009 9:55 AM >>>
David,
Has the Star thought about publishing a story on the rebates and vouchers for discounts on purchasing a WaterSense approved toilet?

To apply for a rebate, homeowners were told they would have to wait till May 1 to apply for a rebate voucher. A homeowner residing in Liesure Village, Camarillo and another homeowner in Pasadena had the same problem. They called in first thing in the morning, May1, and were told the allotted amount of rebates for the month were all handed out by 9 or 10am, May 1.

How is that possible?

Thought it would be an interesting story to pursue. There are various rumors spreading around, that even if you bought a WaterSense toilet and installed it before you got a rebate voucher, that you may not be entitled to the rebate. It's time to set the story straight.

Thanks for your time,
Laurie Burke