

REDUCE, REUSE, RETHINK BURBANK

PUBLIC WORKS NEWSLETTER



Burbank Landfill: Breaking New Ground by Using Less Ground

Traditionally, landfills have not been known as bastions of conservation, but the Burbank Landfill is one of the most innovative in the country because of the focus on preservation. Unlike for-profit landfills, where the economic model relies on consistent trash flows to make money, the City-owned facility is not for-profit



The Burbank Landfill is a model for innovative, low-impact, sustainable City infrastructure. This compactor with spiked wheels saves time, money, and space.

and only for Public Works internal use and trash collection. Therefore, landfill staff have created inventive practices to decrease the volume in order to maximize its lifespan.

Tucked away in the Verdugo Hills, the landfill opened in 1972 and was designed to operate for 50 years. Instead of being close to filling up by 2022 as originally projected, the landfill is now estimated to last through 2083 or beyond.

The basic management of a landfill goes like this: trash is delivered to the site, the material is compacted with heavy machinery, and then it is covered with a layer of soil and other inert materials to trap blowing litter, minimize odors, reduce hazards, and deter wildlife. What makes the Burbank Landfill stand out is the use of a tarp system to keep the material contained, which uses less soil (otherwise known as fill). Using less soil as fill preserves space.

Recently, City landfill staff have implemented “reduce and reuse” practices to save precious space while lowering operational costs.

Reduce Machine Time, Increase Compaction

A recent analysis determined that use of bulldozer-type compactor

equipment could decrease machine time from seven hours per day to three and yet lead to better compaction at a higher density. This switch saved \$70,000 per year in operating costs while freeing up staff time for work on other projects.

Reuse Existing Soil

This higher compaction technique is also applied to redo older areas of the landfill to preserve more space and free up soil. Equipment excavates and removes excess fill material and then recompacts the existing trash. This excavated fill is used on new active areas of the landfill.

Reduce Mattresses

The introduction of California’s state mattress recycling program, “Bye Bye

Mattress,” in 2016 has significantly reduced mattresses and box springs that end up in the landfill. In 2018, the City will collect over 4,000 used mattresses to be recycled instead of going to the city landfill. Mattresses are notoriously difficult to manage because they tend to make their way back to the surface after being buried, and the springs can damage landfill machinery.

So remember, when your trash is picked up and taken “away,” you’ll know the landfill staff are working hard to be a best-kept secret.

“No one knows where it’s at, which means we are doing our job,” says Curtis Jordan, City of Burbank Landfill Supervisor.



Not your parents’ “dump” – the management of the Burbank Landfill strives to reduce waste and increase efficiency, making the most of the precious space. For instance, the use of a tarp to cover and contain material requires far less soil.

New Year, New Waste Reduction Policies

Several state laws will affect residents and businesses in 2019. Here are the highlights:

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 40
GARDENA, CA
ECRWSS

Postal Patron



Straws Upon Request – Assembly Bill 1884 goes into effect on January 1st. After that date, sit-down restaurants will provide straws only by request in order to reduce their use and bring awareness to the problem of single-use disposable plastic straws, especially in marine litter.

Drugs and Sharps Take-Back Program – Senate Bill 212 was signed by Governor Brown establishing a medication and sharps (needles) industry-run take-back program for convenient and responsible disposal. Some pharmacy retailers already offer drop-off collection of medications, so check with your local store for participation information.



Mandatory Commercial Organics Recycling Expands as of January 1st – Per Assembly Bill 1826, businesses generating 4 or more cubic yards of solid waste (trash) weekly must start recycling their organic waste, such as landscape trimmings, food scraps, and food-soiled paper products. Contact your waste hauler to set up an organics collection program to ensure compliance.

Burbank Recycle Center offers free technical assistance. Contact Recycling Specialist Amy Hammes at AHammes@burbankca.gov.

UNDERSTANDING THE C

The China Syndrome



For many years, China has been the primary buyer of California's recyclables. Recently, China and many other Asian countries have imposed strict contamination standards and import bans, limiting the types of plastics and other commodities they will buy and requiring near-perfect sorting. These countries' strict demands have created a glut of materials, with few places to go — causing commodity prices to plummet.

At the same time, packaging is less valuable, with more single-use, flimsy, or combined materials, like metal and paper, together. With the changes in markets and materials, it's difficult for the recycling industry (and Burbank Recycle Center's sorting equipment) to keep up.

Recycl-"able" vs. Actually Recycled
 Meanwhile, packaging often comes with false or misleading recyclability claims that don't match local realities. Many residents are confused about what goes into recycling bins and what doesn't.

This lack of clarity leads to "wishful recycling" where non-recyclable items, such as chip bags, toys, packaging foam, or single-use coffee cups, are put in the blue cart with hope that they'll be recycled. (They won't be.) Contamination (from both non-recyclables and dirty recyclables) adds cost for recycling operators and further decreases commodity value and profitability.

YOU can reduce contamination by knowing what is truly recyclable in Burbank and how to prepare it for the cart.



Back to Recycling Basics

- Recycle clean paper, cardboard, glass, metal cans, and plastic containers, such as bottles, jugs, jars, and tubs.
- Not all plastics are recyclable! The City of Burbank only accepts #1, #2, #4, #5, and #7 plastic containers. Check plastic bottles and containers for the resin identification number inside the chasing-arrows recycling symbol.
- Follow the "less is more" rule when shopping. Is there a way to reduce disposable or problematic packaging? (Try bulk shopping.)
- "When in doubt, throw it out" to avoid "wishful recycling" — items one hopes are recyclable but end up as contaminants, such as toys.
- Always check the Recycle Center's Accepted Materials guide (available on the City website). Don't rely solely on package label claims or symbols. (For example: Milk cartons, juice boxes, and similar packaging may have a recycle logo on them, but they are not accepted for recycling in Burbank.)
- Keep recyclables loose in the cart. There is no need to bag your recycling. (Plastic bags are the top problem in recycling operations and result in the most contamination.)
- Shredded paper must be bagged, tied shut, and dropped off at Burbank Recycle Center. (This is the one exception to the plastic bag rule!)



Keep in mind, market forces and new packaging challenges mean what is recyclable will continue to evolve. Check BurbankRecycle.org or the Burbank Recycle Center's Facebook page for the latest updates on what is recyclable.

Plastic Container Guide



Look for these symbols and codes on plastic containers. In Burbank, only clean plastic bottles, jugs, jars, and tubs with #1, #2, #4, #5, and #7 are allowed. Other plastics, such as flimsy bags, hard plastics, toys, to-go ware, and hinged clear produce "clamshells," go in the trash.

Toys are not recyclable and are considered a contaminant. Please place old toys in the trash bin or, better yet, donate them.



Shredded paper
 Bag and drop off at the Burbank Recycle Center.

HANGES IN RECYCLING



Other Recycle Bin Tips

- Keep caps on bottles. When caps are on bottles, both bottle and cap are recycled. Orphan caps become trash.
- Plastic take-out and produce containers marked with #5 are accepted for recycling. (Take-out and produce containers marked #1 are not.)
- Remove and discard plastic windows from paper envelopes and from boxes that held dolls or action figures.
- Glass bottles and jars are accepted in your curbside cart. However, it is better to drop off glass at the Recycle Center to prevent breakage and protect worker safety.



Keep it loose!
Don't bag recyclables in your cart!

PROHIBITED: Recycle Bin Dirty Dozen

Unless otherwise directed, these are trash:

- **Cartons (milk, juice, soup, etc.) and juice boxes**
- **Disposable paper beverage or coffee cups**
- **Undesirable plastics**, such as toys, snack food wrappers, black plastics, and items marked with a #3 or #6
- **Take-out food or produce containers** (unless marked with #5)
- **"Compostable plastics"** of any kind
- **Food and food residue** — As needed, wipe out or rinse items, such as yogurt cups.
- **Meal kit or grocery home delivery packaging** (Only the cardboard box is recyclable.)
- **Foam (EPS) or polystyrene plastic (#6)** products of any kind, such as red party cups, packing peanuts, packaging blocks, or food containers
- **Fabric, textiles, and clothing** (Repurpose or donate instead.)
- **Household glass**, such as windows, mirrors, picture frame glass, dishes, or glassware
- **Biohazards** — Diapers must go into the trash. Needles require special handling (see section above right).
- **Plastic bags** — Loose bags hurt recycling equipment and cause street litter during transit.



Drop-Off for Hazardous or Problematic Waste

Never in recycling or trash!

- **Needles and Sharps** – Place needles and sharps in a red sharps collection box that you purchase at a pharmacy. Take your full container to the nearest S.A.F.E. Collection Center (see below).
- **Medications** – Unused prescriptions and other medications (tablets or pills) can be dropped off at the CVS Pharmacy, located at 511 Hollywood Way. Do NOT flush medications down the toilet or put them into the trash or recycling.
- **Tanks with helium, propane, or other gases** – Drop off at S.A.F.E. Collection Center (see below).
- **Paint** – Drop off at a local store participating in the PaintCare program. Visit PaintCare.org to find locations and other details.
- **Batteries, Electronics, Bulbs, and Used Motor Oil** – Drop off at the Recycle Center's Monday-Friday Drop Zone (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m., closed weekends) or at a S.A.F.E. Collection Center (Saturday and Sunday).



Avoid the Spark

All batteries are hazardous waste — NEVER put them in the trash or recycling bins. Batteries must be dropped off at designated collection facilities, such as the Burbank Recycle Center or a S.A.F.E. Center. Improper battery disposal is the most common cause of fires at recycling facilities and in collection vehicles. Certain consumer batteries, like lithium ion (found in rechargeable tools and electronics), pose a risk if damaged or the terminals touch. These batteries, like rechargeables, small discs for hearing aids, and camera batteries, should be placed in plastic bags or the terminal ends taped to prevent a possible spark. Do not remove lithium ion batteries from your rechargeable electronic devices unless damaged and then place them into a plastic bag for drop off.



Los Angeles S.A.F.E. Collection Centers

For household hazardous waste (HHW) and other items that aren't accepted for drop off at the Burbank Recycle Center or in your recycle or trash carts.

Saturdays and Sundays, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Locations:

Northeast Los Angeles: 4600 Colorado Blvd., 90039

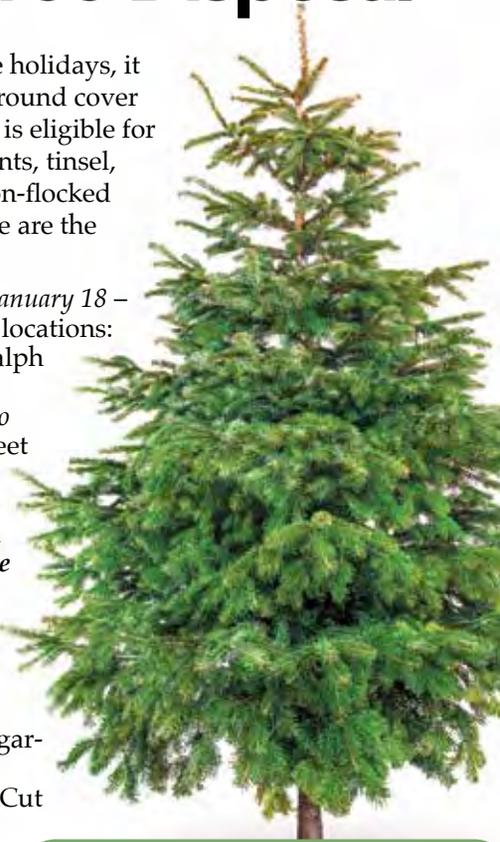
Sun Valley: 11025 Randall St., 91352

12 Days of Christmas – 34 Days of Tree Disposal

If you recycle your live tree after the holidays, it will live on as compost, mulch, or ground cover in the new year. To ensure your tree is eligible for recycling, remove all lights, ornaments, tinsel, garland, and the stand. Only cut, non-flocked trees are accepted for recycling. Here are the dates you need to know:

- **Self-haul:** *December 26 through January 18* – Available anytime at three park locations: McCambridge, Verdugo, and Ralph Foy
- **Curbside pickup:** *December 31 to January 18* – Trees taller than 5 feet should be cut into lengths of 5 feet or less. Pickup requests placed from January 19 through January 31 will result in *a charge of \$8.23*. No City tree pickup is offered after February 1.
- **Green cart:** *Anytime* – Clean trees and wreaths may be cut into pieces to fit inside the bin with the lid closed, or ask your gardener to perform this service.
- **Black (Landfill) cart:** *Anytime* – Cut flocked trees and wreaths into pieces that will fit inside the cart with the lid closed.

Other holiday waste, such as nonmetallic wrapping paper, holiday cards, gift boxes, cardboard boxes, tissue paper, and gift tags, can be recycled in your blue recycling cart. Remember, ribbons and bows are not recyclable. Reuse them or place them into your black trash cart.



What About Flocked Trees?

Flocked trees are NOT accepted in the tree recycling program nor in your green bin. The fake snow used to flock trees cannot be mixed with mulch or compost. Flocked trees must be cut up into pieces and disposed in your trash.

Free Sandbags for Storm Prep

During Southern California's rainy season, the Burbank Public Works Department offers up to 25 free sandbags to city residents and businesses. Sandbags may be picked up (with proof of residency and while supplies last) at the Field Services Administration Office, 124 South Lake Street, weekdays between the hours of 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. If you have questions, please call 818-238-3800.

Plan ahead for rainy season now by clearing bench drains, gutters, and roof drains. Check sump pumps and drain lines for underground parking areas, too.

Gift-Giving with Just as Much Cheer But Less Waste

- Give experiences, such as theater tickets, a zoo membership, music lessons, cooking classes, or a kayak tour of the Los Angeles River. Consider personal coupons for doing the dishes, walking the dog, a home-cooked meal, babysitting, or hugs and kisses.
- Try canning excess produce from your garden as yummy gifts, sauces, salsas, and jams.
- Instead of buying new, consider repairing something broken.
- Avoid plastic gift cards, which are made from PVC plastic and are not recyclable. A digital gift card can be printed on recyclable paper or delivered via email or app. Or consider giving cash — it fits everyone and is reusable!
- For those who have everything, donate something in their name. Search online for local non-profits that plant trees or those abroad supplying a farm animal or micro loan to help families become self-sustainable.
- Reconsider the family gift exchange. Instead, pool money and plan a fun outing or donate as a group to a favorite charity.
- Get creative with wrapping. Reuse gift boxes, bags, wrap, and bows. Or incorporate the gift into the wrapping by using a scarf, tie, cloth bag, shirt, or hat.



Waste Warriors Return



This popular, free, Zero Waste training (formerly known as the Master Recycler Program) will welcome its 2019 class in the new year. The training is now expanded to eight sessions that run from January 12 to April 6. Join your fellow Burbankians for lively discussions, hands-on learning, tours, guest speakers, and instruction from the professionals at the Burbank Recycle Center. Class size is limited! Registration is now open at BurbankRecycle.org.

"FLUSHABLE" & "DISPOSABLE" WIPES ARE NOT FLUSHABLE!

WIPES

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
818.238.3915
WWW.BURBANKCA.GOV/SLURP

SLURP: Don't Let Your Sewer Take "Root"

According to Burbank Municipal Code 8-1-107, the property owner must clean, maintain, and repair their sewer lateral from the house connection to the City sewer main. A lack of maintenance allows roots and other flushed items to obstruct private sewer laterals over time, potentially resulting in costly repairs.



The City's Sewer Lateral User Rebate Program (SLURP) is designed to assist single-family and duplex properties with maintaining and repairing their private sewer laterals. To learn more about SLURP, visit BurbankCA.gov/slurp or contact the Public Works' Wastewater Division at 818-238-3915.

City of Burbank
Mayor: Emily Gabel-Luddy
Council Members:
Bob Frutos
Timothy M. Murphy
Sharon Springer
Jess Talamantes
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Public Works Customer Service
Public Works Field Services:
818-238-3800

Distribution and collection of trash, green waste, and recycling bins and carts

Bulky Item Pickup:
818-238-3805

To request pickup of oversized furniture and appliances only

Burbank Recycle Center
500 South Flower Street, 91502
Recycling and Redemption Center
Hours:
Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Saturday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
(Closed Sunday)
Monday–Friday Drop Zone:
Closed Saturday

BurbankRecycle.org
Recycle Center: 818-238-3900
Recycling, donation options, hazardous waste, composting

Facebook.com/BurbankRecycle