

REDUCE, REUSE, RETHINK BURBANK

PUBLIC WORKS NEWSLETTER



Burbank Recycle Center Debuts Online Answer Guide



What should I do with leftover paint? Why can't I put plastic bags in my recycle container? These are just two of the common mysteries Burbank residents face when they want to discard household items in a responsible manner.

The City of Burbank Recycle Center is making it easier to find these answers with a new comprehensive, easy-to-use online guide. The "Where It Goes" guide will help local residents and businesses learn how to properly recycle or dispose of hundreds of different items and packaging materials. This resource will also provide tips to reduce waste, live more sustainably, and help residents understand *why* materials are or are not recyclable. The guide will be an important tool in easing confusion about how recycling works in a global economy flooded with increasingly complex packaging.

The Burbank "Where It Goes" guide, found at Whereitgoes.Burbankca.gov, is a 24/7 self-service resource, allowing you to find answers anytime. That's why we call it "Answers at Your Disposal." Here's some of what you'll find in the guide:

- **Comprehensive materials list** – Local instruction for 300+ different items
- **Alternative recycling options** – You can't recycle everything at curbside, but there are many alternative drop-off, donation and mail-in options for hard-to-recycle items like athletic shoes, shredded paper and contact lenses.
- **Ways to reuse and reduce** – Hate trashing things that are useful? You'll find easy tips to help you ditch the "pitch," from how to make your own artificial flowers out of scrap paper to clever ways to reuse silica packets.
- **Fun facts** – Learn more about commonly used items, such as how quickly a recycled aluminum can could end up back on the shelf as a brand-new can. (Answer: 60 days!)

"It's not just a recycling guide. We created 'Where It Goes' as a one-stop resource to help ease confusion while planting the seeds to 'reduce, reuse, *then* recycle,'" said Burbank Recycling Specialist Amy Hammes. "Equipped with the knowledge of how the business of recycling really works, consumers can look for more responsible packaging and reduce plastic when shopping."

The City of Burbank developed the new "Where It Goes" answer guide in partnership with Recyclist, a startup company based in Truckee, California that provides turnkey digital communications solutions to solid waste and recycling program managers.

How to Use the "Where It Goes" Guide

- Go to Whereitgoes.Burbankca.gov on your phone, tablet or computer. (This link will also give you access to the Burbank Recycle Center home page.)
- Look up any item in the main search bar to find disposal information.
- Click on a category, such as "Recycle Container" or "Trash Container," to see a list of accepted items.
- Click on a category, such as hazardous waste or electronics, to see a list of items that require a special, non-curbside disposal method.
- Click on a category, such as paper or plastic, to see how to dispose of all the different items made out of that material.



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Knowing what items go where will help reduce "wishcycling" and eliminate other contaminants that muck up our recycling (blue lid) and organics (green lid) bins. The cleaner our streams, the lower the costs of our operations and the more items we can successfully recycle and compost.

Help Make the Guide Even Better

Although "Where It Goes" was heavily researched, there are sure to be pieces of information that may need clarification or correction. We welcome community input and reuse suggestions, so we need to hear from you! If you see something that is missing or confusing, please let us know.

As we add more information, the guide will become even more valuable and comprehensive. That is why we need the Burbank community to help us continue to build this resource together, especially regarding reuse and donation options. If you see any information that needs clarification or know of any non-profits or groups that accept certain items for donation, please contact Recycling Specialist Amy Hammes at ahammes@burbankca.gov.

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like REUSE!



**FREE
GUIDED
DISASSEMBLY
REPAIR EVENT**

**Santa's
FIXIT
CLINIC**

**SUNDAY
DEC. 8
NOON - 3PM**

REGISTER:
BurbankRecycle.org

**BURBANK
RECYCLE
CENTER**

500 S. Flower Street
Burbank

**Open it up,
see how it
works, and
hopefully
FIXIT!**

Rethink Wrapping Paper

As you prepare for the holidays, you're creating guest lists, planning menus, making or shopping for gifts, and wrapping everything that is going under the tree. This year, avoid purchasing wrapping paper and instead make your own or get creative. Here are some ideas:



- Repurpose gift bags from past years.
- Decorate paper shopping bags with holiday stamps.
- Wrap gifts in old maps.
- Select a tote bag that can be both wrapping and part of the gift, such as filling a decorative tote bag with books for a child.
- Wrap kitchen gadgets in dish towels.
- Make a cloth drawstring bag, called a Santa Sack, and reuse it each year.
- Learn the Japanese art of Furoshiki to create beautiful gifts using squares of reusable fabric, like the one pictured here. To see how to wrap gifts using Furoshiki, visit Youtu.be/Wj0Vj08wIBQ.
- Use pine clippings, boxwood, holly, cedar, pine cones and rosemary to make beautiful, sweet-smelling and compostable package decorations.



Mag Park: A Local Treasure

In this age of online everything, the art of shopping local is slipping away. Reclaim it this holiday season by selecting unique gifts from the small businesses dotting Magnolia Boulevard. Home to Burbank's first "green" district, Magnolia Park is filled with businesses that reduce, reuse, repair and recycle. Instead of the hustle and bustle that make the holidays stressful, meander along Magnolia Boulevard, taking in the variety of locally owned shops and offerings to find something unique for everyone on your list. Learn more at Visitmagnoliapark.com/green-district.

Tinkerers Wanted!

Our Fixit Clinic needs volunteers to coach at our December 8 clinic. Being a Fixit Coach is easy — just bring your tools and mad skills! To sign up, contact Recycling Specialist Amy Hammes at ahammes@burbankca.gov.

The Purge Scourge

If your resolution involves some purging to "tidy up" around the house, you should be aware that major thrift stores and charitable organizations often receive far more used items than they can actually sell or give away. Sometimes, your "donations" may just be taking a detour to the landfill.



While donating is still a great option, check with the store or organization to find out what they accept and, more importantly, what they WANT. When you drop off items they can't reuse, the best of intentions actually result in making their work more difficult and more costly.

Here are some other ways to avoid the purge scourge with your old clothes:

- Create a clothing swap event with your friends and neighbors.
- Find a local clothing swap event at Meetup.com/topics/clotheswap/us/ca/los_angeles.
- Post items you would like to give away on community sites like Buy Nothing Burbank or Nextdoor.
- Avoid buying "fast fashion" and invest in well-made pieces

- of clothing that are functional, beautiful and interchangeable.
 - Repurpose an old item. If you don't sew, find a friend who can help you, take a class or watch online tutorials.
 - Remove buttons and zippers and use old clothing items as rags.
 - Use old unsaleable clothing and bedding as stuffing for pet beds. For ideas, visit Mollymutt.com.
 - Donate dress clothes to groups like Dress for Success or directly to smaller non-profits.
- Remember, if you are trying to REDUCE your stuff, you can't keep buying more "stuff" that fills your home back up!

Oh, Christmas Tree

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 disposal dates you need to know:



- **Self-haul:** December 26 through January 17 – Drop off anytime at these three park locations: McCambridge, Verdugo and Ralph Foy.
- **Curbside pickup:** January 6 to January 24 – Trees taller than 5 ft. should be cut into lengths of 5 ft. or less.
- **Green cart:** Anytime – Clean trees and wreaths (no metal) may be cut into pieces to fit inside the bin with the lid closed. Ask your gardener to help.
- **Black (landfill) cart:** Anytime – Cut flocked trees and wreaths (no clean real trees or wreaths) into pieces that will fit inside the cart with the lid closed.

Take Out the Single-Use

The City of Burbank has begun researching a proposal to ban polystyrene and other single-use plastics that are commonly used as takeout or grab-and-go containers by restaurants and other food service providers. Similar bans are already in place in other communities in California, as well as in other states and countries.

The Burbank City Council unanimously approved the Recycle Center's recommendations



Credit: uncle_daeng | iStock | Getty Images Plus

to begin working on a plan to prohibit polystyrene and other single-use plastic packaging, replacing it with more recyclable and compostable alternatives, and encouraging reusables over disposables.

The proposal would also include bans in all City buildings and at City events. The Council was impressed with the overwhelming support for this effort from the public, as well as the Burbank Chamber of Commerce and many restaurants.

A New Look at the Recycle Center

Our drop-off bins have been painted blue and have new signage to reflect the materials that are now accepted. These updates will make it easier for recyclers at the Burbank Recycle Center to understand what materials are accepted for recycling. (We no longer accept plastics #3, 4, 6 and 7; we now accept only clean plastics #1 [bottles and jars], #2 and #5.) To learn more about what Burbank now accepts for recycling, visit Whereitgoes.Burbankca.gov.



What a Tangled Mess They Weave

Plastic film, such as bags, shrink wrap and package overwraps, are a nuisance and the #1 contaminant at the Burbank Recycle Center. Loose bags and film tangle in our equipment so they have to be manually sorted out — and then landfilled. This is why we do not accept these items in the curbside cart, in commercial recycling bins, or at the Burbank Recycle Center.

When it comes to plastic bags and film, here are your options:

- **Just Say No:** Avoid getting new plastic bags wherever possible by practicing *refuse, reduce and reuse*.
- **Retailer Drop-Off:** Some retail locations accept empty, clean plastic bags and film for recycling. To find drop-off locations, as well as a list of items accepted, visit Plasticfilmrecycling.org.
- **Keep 'Em Loose:** Please do NOT bag your recycling in plastic bags. Clean recyclables should be loose in carts and bins. (These bags have to be broken open which causes more work and adds costs for the Recycle Center.)



Plastic bags and other plastic film get tangled in the moving parts of the Recycle Center machines, gumming them up and requiring the recycle line to stop so workers can cut the bags loose several times each day. This is a dangerous and costly task, and the bags then have to be disposed of anyway.



At a City Council meeting in November, Recycling Specialist Amy Hammes (left) presented Sarah Andrews (right) with the Burbank Recycle Center's 3 Rs Award. Sarah was recognized for raising awareness about the problems of polystyrene and single-use plastics and her five years of advocacy for a local ban on these materials.

People Power: Meet Sarah Andrews

Sarah, who is a leader of Girl Scout Troop 2406 and founder of the Planetary Hazard Awareness Team (P.H.A.T.), was instrumental in encouraging the City of Burbank to ban polystyrene foam products.

How did you get involved with this effort?

I started my mission to reduce and remove single-use plastic when I competed in a Lego Robotics team with my girls. We worked on a project where we followed our trash from the moment we throw it away to the ocean.

How long have you been working on this effort?

I've been pushing the City of Burbank to ban polystyrene and other single-use disposable ware for about five years with my girls. We got all of our schools involved in raising awareness.



Who else has been involved?

Burbank Planetary Hazard Awareness Team (P.H.A.T.) has so many girls who have learned from robotics competitions, as well as organizations like Algalita. They have spread their knowledge to school classmates, on social media, and to their family and friends. Without these young women by my side, we wouldn't have gotten where we are now. I'm happy to have them on my team and in my troop.

What do you hope this proposed policy accomplishes?

I hope the polystyrene policy will get rid of all single-use polystyrene

cups, containers and much more, so that we can move toward a plastic-free Burbank.

Any other thoughts?

I would also like to acknowledge and thank my family and friends, Burbank Recycling Coordinator Kreigh Hampel, the Burbank Sustainability Committee, and many other activists and environmental organizations who have supported this effort.

The Few, the Proud, the Waste Warriors

Our popular zero waste training for Burbank residents returns, beginning Saturday, January 11! Join our elite team of alumni who care about the same issues you do — understanding how to live more sustainably and helping others with your knowledge. The class is limited to 25 people, so register now at Burbankrecycle.org.



Once a Waste Warrior always a Waste Warrior! Alumni hosted neighborhood zero waste information tables in coordination with National Night Out events this past August. Volunteer events and quarterly alumni get-togethers are scheduled to inspire warriors and allow them to network and continue their learning journeys.

Is Your Home Landscape Regenerative?



Use these tips to grow fresh food, reduce toxins, restore habitat and harvest rainwater:

- Grow California native plants for pollinators.
- Include a bird bath and grow foods for birds.
- Eliminate toxic herbicides and pesticides.
- Return nutrients, such as clippings and leaves, to the soil by composting.
- Spread wood chips to hold water in the soil and protect plant roots from drought.
- Harvest rainwater with a rain barrel or a rain garden.
- Conserve water by shrinking your lawn area.
- Join a food growers' exchange.

- Learn to prune and care for native plants.
- Be generous and share your produce and plant starts.

To learn more, ask neighbors about their healthy landscapes or visit these websites:

- Free Mulch – Burbankca.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/parks-facilities/forestry-services/free-mulch-program
- Native Plants – Theodore Payne Foundation, Theodorepayne.org/plants-and-seeds
- Habitat – Audubon, Ca.audubon.org
- Rare Fruit – California Rare Fruit Growers, Crfg.org

Paying It Forward

Recently, the City of Burbank Field Services staff received a call requesting cleanup of an illegal dump on the 400 block of Tujunga. Normally a special handling fee is charged for certain bulky items. The caller graciously offered to cover these costs and even sent a check to the Public Works Field Services office. Although this was a very kind gesture, Public Works can't charge a single individual for an illegal dump site. Public Works returned the check and suggested the resident donate the money to one of our local non-profits. The caller ended up donating the money to the Burbank Temporary Aid Center. This donation is a great example of Burbank's robust services and strong community values.



"Root" Out Sewer Problems

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.



One Person's Trash Is a Coyote's Treasure



Overflowing trash bins left outside may be attracting coyotes into Burbank neighborhoods, which then poses a threat to pets. Coyotes are extremely adaptable animals and can learn to live comfortably alongside humans. When coyotes have easy access to garbage, they begin to associate people with food. Their natural wariness of humans decreases and sightings in residential neighborhoods may increase. To safely coexist with our indigenous wildlife while keeping pets and children safe, make sure trash is secured and not easily accessible. Remind neighbors to keep a tight lid on their trash cans.

Be Ready for Rainy Season

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.



Bulky Item Program

As of July 1st, Burbank's Bulky Service has instituted a special handling fee on items that have higher collection and disposal costs. In the past these costs were spread across all ratepayers, even those who never used the service.

Acceptable Items with Special \$8.39 Handling Fee Required: Air conditioners, air compressors, dishwashers, drinking fountains, freezers, gas chainsaws, lawnmowers, gas leaf blowers, mattresses/box springs (no charge if dropped off at Burbank Recycle Center), refrigerators (empty and doors removed), stoves, tires, washers/dryers, water heaters and water softeners

Acceptable Items with No Special Handling Fee: Bed frames, chairs, couches, cribs, dressers, furnaces, large plastic toys, metal furniture, propane/oxygen tanks (emptied, with valve removed), tables and TVs

Prohibited Items: Auto parts, construction materials and hazardous wastes

For Bulky Item Pickup:

818-238-3800, Mon. – Fri., 7:30 – 4, 1 business day's notice needed
bulkyitemcollection@burbankca.gov, 2 business days' notice needed

[Learn more: Burbankca.gov/departments/public-works/bulky-item-pick-up](http://Burbankca.gov/departments/public-works/bulky-item-pick-up)

City of Burbank

Mayor: Emily Gabel-Luddy
Vice Mayor: Sharon Springer

Council Members:
Bob Frutos
Timothy M. Murphy
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:
818-238-3800

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.

Monday–Friday Drop Zone:
Closed Saturday

BurbankRecycle.org

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

Whereitgoes.Burbankca.gov

Facebook.com/BurbankRecycle