



# Waste Wise

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle

A Public Service Of Tillamook County Solid Waste • May 2017

## WHAT'S IN YOUR HAZARDOUS WASTE?

Tillamook County is proud to have the first permanent Hazardous Waste Facility on the Oregon Coast. What this means to our residents is that they have a place to take their household hazardous waste locally and free of charge. But what is hazardous and what isn't and who can bring materials in?

The Saturday collections held nine times a year are for residents only. If you have a business, you are not eligible for the free collection and must make special arrangements to come on the business or Conditionally Exempt Generator (CEG) days, offered three times per year.

What types of things can be brought in to the collection? Basically, anything that is labeled with **DANGER, WARNING, CAUTION, FLAMMABLE, IGNITABLE, POISON, TOXIC, COMBUSTIBLE, CORROSIVE, or OXIDIZER.** "Essentially, if you are uncomfortable, or unsure, bring it in," states David McCall, Tillamook County Solid Waste Program Manager, "we'd rather you err on the side of caution," and adds, "and never take chances with unknown substances by smelling, or touching them. It's just not worth the personal risk."

Of the approximately 1,000 residents who take part in the collections each year, most of them bring household paint. "Probably the most common comment I hear is that 'I just bought this property and the previous owners left all this for me,'" states Sue Owens, Solid Waste Outreach and Education Coordinator. "It's either that or they are cleaning out a deceased relative's property. It can be kind of scary the things people leave behind for someone else to clean up." Both McCall and Owens stress they'd like to see more efforts made by realtors to help buyers and sellers be aware of this all too common complaint.

## WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE OLD MEDICINES AND SHARPS

"We frequently get the question of what to do with medical waste and sharps," states Sue Owens, Tillamook County Solid Waste Outreach and Education Coordinator. "It's a problem many County residents have and one that is not easily addressed."

Drugs and sharps have specialized handling and disposal methods so they are not classified as a hazardous waste, so they cannot be accepted at the regular Household Hazardous Waste events, nor should they be put in regular garbage.

Improperly disposed of drugs, such as those flushed down the toilet, are detrimental to the environment, affecting the environment and even eventually humans. Unused drugs can be stolen and used in illicit ways. What is a person to do with them?

Federal law mandates that controlled substances must be disposed of through the custody of law enforcement officials so for Tillamook County residents, that means your old medicines (NOT sharps, or bio-hazard items) can be taken to the County Sheriff's Office on Long Prairie Road, or to the Tillamook City Police Department on Madrona Avenue (see side bar). There is a locked box provided where you can safely drop off your old medicines. It is recommended that you leave medicines in their original containers with the label intact but remove or cross out any personal information.

Sharps can be taken, for a fee, to Fred Meyer and also City Sanitary Service in Tillamook. In North County, Recology, Western Oregon garbage customers may schedule pick up by calling their business office. South County residents can take sharps to the Nestucca Valley Sanitary Service office for a fee as well. Any person with sharps to dispose of also has the option of mail-in disposal resources.

## MICROPLASTICS

This past winter was a wet one, with several storms. Those storms left another layer of microplastics on Oregon beaches, potentially endangering humans, birds and fish. "Now that the winter storm season is over, we can better identify those areas of beach that were hit hardest by the microplastics surge, so that we can concentrate our efforts on those areas where the contamination is highest," said David McCall, Tillamook County Solid Waste Program Manager, who has been supporting volunteers on Tillamook County beaches during the past two summers.

Microplastics are pieces of plastic less than 5mm in diameter. As plastics in the ocean are subjected to UV rays, they break down, and the small pieces eventually get caught up in storms and wash up on beaches. The process may take decades to occur, but sooner or later, those plastics will break down and wash up on shore. Because of the constant winds, microplastics are often covered or nearly covered with a thin layer of sand, and often go virtually unnoticed to the casual observer.



Sifting for microplastics

During the past two summers, over 200 volunteers have invested their time in cleanup events at beaches in Manzanita and Neskowin, removing over 700 pounds of debris from the sand. In the first cleanup event of this year, a dozen foreign exchange students gathered at Cape Kiwanda on Earth Day to clean up debris from the shore. Unfortunately, the rain and wind arrived at the same time, and the cleanup got washed out, and will be rescheduled. "Working together in small groups to filter microplastics out of the sand brought us a little closer together and helped raise our awareness of environmental issues," said Franziska Hutterer, who is from Germany. Ehtesam Utsho from Bangladesh said, "These types of activities help to keep the environment sustainable for all of us." Walid Zarrad from Tunisia said, "We braced the rain together and we celebrated Earth Day as well as we could." He was also very grateful to Pelican Pub for providing lunch and shelter from the wind and rain. These students are here on CBYX and YES scholarship programs and are currently living in the Portland area with host families. The Columbia-Pacific AFS team hosts approximately 60 students a year in the southwest Washington and northwest Oregon vicinities.

"In addition to Cape Kiwanda, we are planning on organizing microplastics cleanup events this year in Manzanita, Rockaway Beach, Bayocean, Oceanside and Netarts," said McCall. "The rain has been delaying our events, so once it stops raining, we really need to organize quickly, and see if we can get the major microplastics sinks removed from our beaches in May and June."

If you are interested in participating in a microplastics cleanup event, contact the Solid Waste Department. If you are interested in hosting an AFS exchange student, email Julia Kettner at [TillamookAFS@gmail.com](mailto:TillamookAFS@gmail.com).

## PLACES TO DISPOSE OF OLD MEDICINES:

**Tillamook County Sheriff's Office**  
5995 Long Prairie Road, Tillamook • 8am - 8pm daily  
**Tillamook Police Department**  
207 Madrona Avenue, Tillamook • Monday-Friday, 8am - 4pm

## PLACES TO DISPOSE OF SHARPS: (Charges apply)

**City Sanitary Service**  
2303 11th Street, Tillamook • 9am - 5pm, Monday-Friday  
**Tillamook Fred Meyer**  
2500 Main Avenue N., Tillamook • During Pharmacy Hours  
**Nestucca Valley Sanitary Service**  
31405 Hwy 101 South, Hebo • 9am - 3pm, Monday - Friday  
**Recology Western Oregon**  
Customers call for pick up at 1 (866) 908-1183

## GARDEN BEDS ARE GROWING AT NESKOWIN VALLEY SCHOOL

On Monday, April 3, six new garden beds appeared at Neskowin Valley School. Delivered to the students by Tillamook County Solid Waste staff, the garden beds were the award for collecting mountains of plastics and Styrofoam for the annual America Recycles Day collection held in November of 2016. "We hold this, or a similar collection every November," states Sue Owens who coordinates the collection, "it's our way to help schools earn things they want or need while raising awareness about recycling—all in the name of fun."

"We visited the school in late November to pick up the final load of plastic and Styrofoam the students had collected. It was fun to see the excitement about what they were doing," states Owens, "it was obvious they made the connection between collecting the recyclable materials and earning a reward for doing it." Other schools that participated in the collection were South Prairie (4), Nestucca Valley Early Learning Center (1), Tillamook Headstart (1), East Elementary (2) and Tillamook Jr. High (1). All of the garden beds were assembled from recycled plastic lumber by Master Recyclers John Goertzen and Roger Miller.



April 2017: Neskowin Valley staff and students accept their new garden beds and demonstrate the "circle" of recycling.

What makes the award more exciting is the fact that Neskowin Valley is a certified Oregon Green School, meaning they have committed to being more environmentally aware and raising awareness in their community. In addition to the garden beds, the school was gifted a lunchroom recycle center to help facilitate their recycling efforts.

On hand to accept the new garden beds for Neskowin Valley were Executive Director Kelly Ellis, staff and students, and Farm-to-School program staff. "We are so excited to help the schools earn garden beds and that they are now partnering with the Farm to School program to grow things for the school," Owens states, "it's rewarding to partner with other organizations to better benefit the schools." According to Rachel Petit, Food Roots Farm to School Program Coordinator, this program will provide gardening-focused, after school programming this spring using the new garden beds. Students will have the opportunity to explore soil, seeds and plants through hands-on, outdoor activities.

David McCall, Tillamook County Solid Waste Program Manager adds, "We are very supportive of our local schools and are open to conversations about other recycling educational ideas and possibilities. If you have an idea please contact Sue or me."

For more information about America Recycles Day activities or Oregon Green Schools, contact Owens at (503) 842-3419 x 3104 or email her at [sowens@co.tillamook.or.us](mailto:sowens@co.tillamook.or.us).

## MASTER RECYCLERS DO A RECYCLE SHACK MAKEOVER

Residents of Rockaway Beach and Bay City may have noticed something different about their recycle shacks recently. "Our Master Recyclers had noticed that the shacks were in need of attention," noted Sue Owens, Master Recycler Program Coordinator, "so they took them on as a project, rebuilding and repainting. We just didn't find a very dry weekend to do the work," Owens stated. Master Recyclers Bob Jeans and wife Denise, Roger Miller, and Robyn and Kevin Jolly joined Owens and Tillamook County Solid Waste Program Manager, David McCall for a full weekend of repairing and painting. "We didn't quite finish due to the weather, but you can't help but notice an improvement," McCall states, "we will come back soon to finish Rockaway Beach."

Improvements include a fresh coat of color-coordinated paint and signage to match the county-wide separation methods. A large blue sign and blue paint mark the paper corner; yellow signage and walls for the plastics; red for the metal bin; and, an entire wall of green is designated for glass. The Rockaway Beach shack got new siding as well. Users of the shacks who visited while work was commencing were very happy with the attention and thankful for the service.

"The shack in Garibaldi needs attention too," states Owens, "but we're waiting for more consistent sunshine."



The interior of Rockaway Beach's shack with a fresh new look.



Master Recycler Robyn Jolly paints the interior of the Bay City shack

All of the shacks are managed and maintained by R-Sanitary Service based in Rockaway Beach who expressed appreciation for the work the Master Recyclers did.

David McCall adds, "We are very proud of and excited about our Master Recyclers. They are an energetic and supportive group of individuals who are passionate about recycling and making a difference in their communities."

If anyone is interested in more information on becoming a Master Recycler, they are encouraged to contact Owens at (503) 842-3419 x 3104 or email her at [sowens@co.tillamook.or.us](mailto:sowens@co.tillamook.or.us).

Convenient collection for the **SAFE AND PROPER DISPOSAL** of common household items. (See our website for a list of items.)

at the **Tillamook Transfer Station**  
1315 Ekloff Road, Tillamook  
9:00am to 1:00pm

**PLEASE** separate hazardous waste from other items in your vehicle prior to arriving at the event.



This facility **DOES NOT ACCEPT** Ammunition, Explosives, or Medical waste

Tillamook County Solid Waste Department  
503 Marolf Loop, Tillamook, OR 97141  
Phone: 503-815-3975 • Fax: 503-842-6473  
E-mail: [recycle@co.tillamook.or.us](mailto:recycle@co.tillamook.or.us)  
[www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste](http://www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste)

**HAZARDOUS WASTE**

2017 Household Hazardous Waste collection dates

Jan./none  
Feb. 4  
Mar. 4  
Apr./none  
May 6  
June 3  
July 1  
Aug. 5  
Sept. 9  
Oct. 7  
Nov./none  
Dec. 2

Taking part in a collection is easy. Simply bring your materials of concern to the Tillamook Transfer Station on Ekloff Road between 9 am and 1pm on a designated Saturday. "We have to pack all the collected materials up for shipping after the event," states Owens, "So we have to be very strict on our hours."

Those bringing materials to the collection event are asked to make sure to have their materials easy to access for the safety of the unloading staff. Those with inaccessible loads will be asked to come back when it is. Drivers are asked to turn off their engines so as not to asphyxiate workers and keep noise levels manageable. For safety reasons, people are asked to remain in their vehicles. "Basically, all people have to do is sit there while we unload them," Owens said. "It can't get any easier than that!"

Empty paint cans, or ones that have hard, dry paint, can be tossed in the garbage as the paint is no longer hazardous when dry. Similar actions can be taken with plastic jugs used to hold lawn and garden chemicals—once the jug is empty, rinse three times, using the residue as you would the original substance, and then the jug can be tossed in the garbage or recycling.

"We always encourage people to find safe alternatives to using hazardous materials," states Owens. "There are many things that are not only safer but generally cheaper that can be used instead."

## COMMUNITY RECYCLING EVENTS:

Offered to you as courtesy of the Tillamook County Master Recyclers and Tillamook County Solid Waste

### NEHALEM

Downtown Parking Lot  
Noon to 2pm  
May 21 • June 18  
July 16 • August 20

### WHEELER

By the Post Office  
9am to 11am  
May 21 • June 18  
July 16 • August 20

### ROCKAWAY

3rd Street,  
By Public Works  
8am to 10am  
May 7 • June 4  
July 2 • August 6

### GARIBALDI

By Parkside Cafe  
11am to 1pm  
May 7 • June 4  
July 2 • August 6

### BAY CITY

Off Hwy 101,  
By Ortiz Signs  
2pm to 4pm  
May 7 • June 4  
July 2 • August 6

### BEAVER

Beaver Thrift Shop  
11am to 3pm  
May 18 • June 15  
July 20 • August 17

### NESKOWIN

Neskowin Wayside  
9am to 1pm  
May 20 • June 17  
July 15 • August 19



For more information, call the Tillamook County Solid Waste Department at 503-815-3975 email [recycle@co.tillamook.or.us](mailto:recycle@co.tillamook.or.us) or see us online at [www.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste](http://www.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste)

