

# Waste Wise

Reduce • Reuse • Recycle

A Public Service Of Tillamook County Solid Waste • December 2018



## 2019 Household Hazardous Waste collection dates

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

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

**PLEASE** separate  
Hazardous Waste  
from other items  
**PRIOR** to  
arriving at the event.



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

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



**CEG/Business event dates: March 1, May 31, Oct. 4**  
Registration & Fee Required  
This residential service is provided free by the:  
**Tillamook County Solid Waste Dept.**  
503 Marolf Loop, Tillamook, OR 97141  
www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste  
503.815.3975 or recycle@co.tillamook.or.us

## DEAR MS. WASTEWISE

**Dear Ms. Wastewise:**

Why is recycling so important? – “Litterbug”

Dear “Litterbug”: Recycling is extremely important because we are living in a consumer-driven world, and there is more waste now than ever. Although, recycling does not solve the problem it does alleviate some of the immense waste our societies create and conserves our natural resources. Examples are paper and plastic water bottles and household jugs.

• Paper is originally produced from trees and it will decompose, but the life cycle of paper is extended when our recycled paper is used to produce more paper, newsprint, and cardboard.

• Unfortunately plastic water bottles and jugs do not biodegrade but the recycle process uses less fossil fuels and energy to produce the same or another form of plastic. Recycling plastic water bottles produce other water bottles, clothing, and carpet. Recycling of heavier plastics such as laundry and milk jugs and household cleaner bottles produce lawn furniture, plastic lumber and playground equipment.

Recycling reduces the processing of raw materials which creates air and water pollution. Recycling not only supports the environment but lessens the amount of waste.

So, dear “Litterbug” I hope you will recycle.

**Dear Ms. Wastewise:**

How long does it take for a plastic bag to decompose? – “Polly”

Dear “Polly”: The apparent decomposition time of a plastic bag depends on the type of polyethylene (plastic) used to make the bag. There are three basic types of polyethylene bags:

- Low-density (LDPE) the clear, light weight type such as sandwich and dry cleaner garment bags
- Linear-density (LLDPE) type for stretch wrap and bags
- High-density (HDPE) types for milk jugs and thick bags

Some bags take 20 - 30 years and others over 100 years to appear decomposed. Although, visually it requires many years for a plastic bag to decompose it never fully degrades. The polyethylene breaks down into microscopic plastic particles, leaving an endless impact on the earth. Those microscopic pieces stay around forever.

Dear Ms. Wastewise is brought to you by the Tillamook County Master Recyclers and is offered on a non-professional, volunteer basis. If you'd like to ask a question, please email us at [recycle@co.tillamook.or.us](mailto:recycle@co.tillamook.or.us)

## GREENING THE HOLIDAYS

Have a very merry and green holiday season with these tips and alternatives from the Tillamook County Master Recyclers!

This is only a sampling of things you can do to both have a wonderful holiday and help the environment. I'm sure you can think of many other ideas. Please share them with us at [recycle@co.tillamook.or.us](mailto:recycle@co.tillamook.or.us) or on our Facebook page, we'd love to hear how you are making a difference!

**GIFT WRAP:** Wrap gifts in newspaper or other paper you may have on hand. It can be used plain or decorated with your own flair or for a quick and easy flash, use the comic section. Let's face it, purchased gift wrap maybe pretty or cute, but it is expensive and many of the fancy foil lined ones are not even earth friendly. Why spend money on paper you'll just be throwing away?

Reuse boxes, jars, and gift bags. Be creative and put your gifts in odd shaped containers, it will be earth friendly AND keep the recipient guessing what is inside. Not feeling creative? Reuse the cute bag you got last year—see how many years' worth of use you can get from a bag! Don't like wrapping odd shaped packages, try reusing a cereal or shoe box that you've painted or decorated.

Wrap the gift in itself or another gift. Use a towel, or shirt or another secondary gift for a cute and practical wrap job. Consider using a pair of socks to wrap smaller items. Why not give a gift that keeps on giving with a reusable shopping bag!

**FOOD:** For many of us tradition says we must have food and lots of it. But, we need not get carried away. Food and other organics make up most of what we as humans dispose of the most. Prepare only what you can reasonably consume (including some leftovers) but not so much you are cleaning up hairy remains from the fridge weeks later.

Much of what we don't consume can be composted. Why pay to throw it in your garbage when you can help your garden grow? If you don't have your own compost, ask friend or neighbor if you can add to theirs.

**DISHES:** Using disposable dinnerware is so much easier than doing dishes, but think of what you are doing to the environment! If you take a few minutes to run your dishes through the dishwasher, you are literally keeping tons of waste out of the landfill. Besides, sometimes the best together time is the time spent cleaning.

**GETTING NEW ELECTRONICS FOR GIFTS?** Donate usable old ones to non-profit organizations that can put them to good use. If they can't be reused, consider donating to the local high schools senior SAFE E-waste collections on Saturday, January 5 at each of the local transfer stations. They'll also take your Styrofoam there! (See accompanying advertisement)

**TIME:** No, this doesn't impact the landfill, but time spent with friends and loved ones is never wasted and so very vital in today's world. Turn the phones and other electronics off for awhile and focus on the people surrounding you. Time is the best gift that can be given, give it freely.

**Joyous holidays to you from the Tillamook County Master Recyclers and the Tillamook County Solid Waste Department!**

## SAVE THE DATE!

The next Master Recycler class will be  
Saturday, February 9,  
Thursday February 14 and  
Friday, February 15  
Contact our office for more details!

## RECYCLE YOUR HOLIDAY TREE



**FREE!**

At your local  
Transfer Station  
Thru January 12, 2019  
**With this coupon**

**BARE TREES ONLY:**  
Please remove all tinsel  
lights & decorations, etc.  
Limit 2 trees per coupon

**Pacific City Transfer Station**  
38255 Brooken Road, Pacific City  
(503) 965-6898  
9am - 4pm / Fri - Sat & Mon  
Closed Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>

**Manzanita Transfer Station**  
34995 Necamey Rd., Manzanita  
(503) 368-7764  
10am - 4pm / Thur - Sun

**Tillamook Transfer Station**  
1315 Ekloff Road, Tillamook  
(503) 842-2431  
9am - 4pm / Everyday  
Closed Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> and Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>



**REMEMBER:**  
E-waste drive to benefit local high schools  
Saturday, January 5, 2019, 10am - 2pm  
Computers, TVs, monitors, printers,  
scanners, keyboards, mice, etc.



Tillamook County Solid Waste, 503 Marolf Loop, Tillamook  
www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/SolidWaste, 503.815.3975

## LEARN ABOUT THE IMPACT OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS ON OUR ENVIRONMENT, OUR HEALTH AND WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT

**Tillamook City Council & County Commissioners Joint Briefing & Informational Meeting:**

**Tuesday, January 22 at 6 pm**  
2311 3rd Street, Tillamook (911 Center)

## WHAT TO DO WITH FIDO'S POO?

By now you've probably heard at least a little bit of the community discussions about eliminating single-use plastic bags like they give us at the grocery store. Ironically, one of the most often noted concerns about getting rid of these nuisance bags is, "If we get rid of plastic bags, what will I use to pick up dog poo?"

Seriously? Yes, seriously.

I gave this question some significant thought because it is for many an important and legitimate concern. I went to the internet and Googled "what to do with dog poo" (yes, I really did this AND got legitimate responses!). You would be amazed at the solutions that are out there.

You can buy "green" biodegradable bags which is an easy and friendly solution if you have a hefty pay check. (These bags are actually made of plant resin, not plastic.) There were MANY options, including reusable ones, where you could pick up, dump, wash and re-use. Or, you could bypass the bag and collect it in a single bin and dump a week's worth at one time. And there is a selection of no-touch scoops where you follow your dog around and catch them as they are in the act. (Doesn't that sound like fun for both you and your dog?) But my favorite? It was a suggestion to use the plastic liner that comes with your favorite breakfast cereal. Why not? It's a plastic bag that is being thrown away, why not use it one more time before tossing it into the garbage can where it is already destined for the landfill.

This idea prompted me to dig through my own personal garbage to see what else I'm already throwing away that could be used as Fido's poop-scoop. It didn't take long to start seeing my garbage in a new way. Right on top was the empty coffee cup from this morning's java run. Complete with lid, this would make a perfect scoop, just remember to drink triple lattes to accommodate the larger dog. Burrowing deeper, I found cereal bags, potato chip bags, and the plastic wrap from the toilet paper -- all of which could be used in the same way we use the plastic grocery bags. And, toilet paper? Why not, if it works to clean up after people, why not dogs? The newspaper, yogurt and cottage cheese containers, crowned my growing pile of viable poop-scoop alternatives.

Proudly, I shared my treasure pile with my husband who lovingly, and ever so patiently peeked over his glasses at me, "There's only one problem with it," he drawled, "we don't have a dog." The moral of this article is for all of the responsible dog owners out there who pick up after you dog, don't despair. There ARE alternatives to the plastic bag, just take a dig through your garbage. I bet you will find something that will do the job just as well and maybe even better.

**Thank you for picking up by the way!**

Contributed by Sue Owens, Solid Waste Outreach Education Specialist at Tillamook County Solid Waste.

**Manzanita Transfer Station (CARTM)**  
34995 Necarney Rd., Manzanita  
Sponsored by the  
Neah-Kah-Nie Sr SAFE Committee

**Tillamook Transfer Station**  
1315 Ekloff Road, Tillamook  
Sponsored by the  
Tillamook Sr SAFE Committee

**Pacific City Transfer Station**  
38255 Brooken Rd, Pacific City  
Sponsored by the  
Nestucca Valley Sr SAFE Committee



## E-WASTE & Styrofoam COLLECTION!

Sat., Jan. 5, 2019  
10:00 am to  
2:00 pm

**Accepted E-Waste**  
CPUs, Keyboards, Laptops/tablets,  
Computer Mice, Monitors (CRT/LCD),  
Printers, Scanners, Televisions (Complete)  
**Other items may be accepted**  
at staff discretion.

**Styrofoam** must be the white,  
bulky packaging kind and clean.  
**NO PEANUTS or FOOD TRAYS.**

All proceeds collected from these collections benefit local school activities.  
Offered in partnership with Tillamook County Solid Waste Department. For  
information about a Tillamook County collection event please contact the  
Tillamook County Solid Waste Department at 503.815.3975 or visit our  
website at: [www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste](http://www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste)

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)

