

# Stanford Recycling News



Peninsula Sanitary Service, Inc. & Stanford Recycling Center Publication November 1999

## Stanford's Holiday Collection Schedule

Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 25, 1999  
Curbside Recycling, Yard Waste Collection, Street Sweeping  
and Garbage Collection has been rescheduled



to  
Wednesday, November 24, 1999

Please call 321-4236, Monday thru Friday

8:00 am - 4:00 am

if you have any questions.



## Questions and Answers

**Q:** What types of plastic can be recycled?

**A:** Only #1 PETE and #2 HDPE plastic can be recycled at this time. Look for the number inside a triangle of chasing arrows. Please remove plastic lids and place them in the garbage. Rinse and crush container before putting it in the recycling bin.


**Q:** What happens to the plastic bottles that are collected.

**A:** We bring them back to our processing line and separate out the different containers and ship them to a processor. In one application, the processor has the bottles ground by machine into 3/8 inch chips called "flake". Air jets separate impurities and a scrubber washes the flakes to remove dirt, glue, food residue, and other contaminants. The flakes are melted and forced through molds to create hairlike fibers. These are spun into polyester carpet or other end products.

**Q:** I am cutting a tree down. Can I recycle it?

**A:** Most of the tree should be recyclable. Leaves, twigs, and small branches should be placed in your yard waste cart. Call PSSI for a wood waste box to be delivered to your home for any material that does not fit inside the yard waste cart, including large tree branches and stumps. We will collect the material and take it to a compost facility. Call PSSI for rates.

**Q:** Why are some things recyclable and others not?

**A:** As technology improves more materials will become easier to recycle in communities nationwide. In order for materials to be recycled, markets must exist and there must be a demand for the end products. If stable markets don't exist, materials are often stock-piled and could ultimately end up in the landfill. PSSI wants to ensure there is a stable market for a particular material before collecting it. 

## What Do Those Numbers Mean?



Do you know what the numbers on the bottom of the plastic containers mean? They identify the type of plastic the container is made of.

There are seven types of consumer plastics, but only certain types of plastic are currently recyclable. It is important for us to know what each container is made of.

Below describes what the number stands for and some common uses of the container.

#1 PETE: Polyethylene Terephthalate  
Commonly used in soft drink, juice and cough syrup containers, and microwave trays.

#2 HDPE: High Density Polyethylene  
Commonly used in milk jugs, and detergent and shampoo bottles.

#3 V: Polyvinyl Chloride  
Commonly used in film for meat packaging and some rigid plastic containers.

#4 LDPE: Low Density Polyethylene  
Commonly used in newspaper and grocery bags and butter cup lids.

#5 PP: Polypropylene  
Commonly used in yogurt and pancake syrup containers and deli trays.

#6 PS: Polystyrene  
Commonly used in plastic cups, cutlery, and plates and to-go containers.

#7 OTHER: Other Resins  
Commonly used in mixed plastic containers like orange juice.



## New Collection Truck

Have you noticed the new collection truck on the road? No, we are not mixing garbage and yard waste together! Our new truck #10, driven by long-time garbageman Walt Fletcher, is a co-collection truck. Half of it holds yard waste and the other half holds garbage with out mixing them

together. When the truck is full, we take the garbage to the landfill and the yard waste to the compost facility. There will be one less truck on the residential



streets. You will probably notice that we will be taking a little longer to complete the garbage and yard waste route as Walt learns the new truck and route. Pat Beim will be collecting curbside recyclables and other garbage from campus. We hope with this new vehicle we can serve you better.



## Before the Holidays

We will create an extra 7 million pounds of waste between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. How you shop, what you give, and how you reduce, reuse and recycle this season is important.

To reduce waste during the season consider giving gift certificates, tickets to an entertainment venue, live plants



gardening tools, compost bins, cloth diaper service, bicycle or walking accessories, time with friends and family, donations to non-profit group in a friend's name, membership in environmental or other non-profit organizations.



Don't forget to wrap these gifts in a wasteless manner. Try decorating grocery bags for gift bags, wrap gifts in news-

paper, comics, and magazine pages, and use reusable package decorations such as yarn, pine cones, or holly.



Make the wrapping a part of the gift - decorate pillow cases, cloth napkins, scarves, baskets, and tins, or make reusable cloth bags - save from year to year for your family. Finally, if you buy gift wrap and cards, make sure they have post-consumer recycled content.



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Happy Thanksgiving!!

