

Western

DISPOSAL SERVICES



SUMMER 2009

A QUARTERLY UPDATE FOR OUR CUSTOMERS

Win One Month Free Trash Service

Several lucky residential customers will receive one month of free trash service for finding their names in this newsletter!



If you find your name, call our Customer Service Department at 303-444-2037 to receive credit on your account for one month of free service. Sorry, names mentioned as part of the stories are not eligible.

Holiday Schedule

For up-to-date information about our holiday schedule, call our Holiday Hotline at 303-448-2280 or look it up at www.westerndisposal.com.

The following holidays are observed by Western Disposal:

- Independence Day 7/04/09
- Labor Day 9/07/09
- Thanksgiving Day 11/26/09
- Christmas Day 12/25/09
- New Year's Day 1/01/10
- Memorial Day 5/31/10

E-Minders

Subscribe to Western Disposal's E-Minders Program. This program sends you e-mail reminders of upcoming holidays, programs and other useful information. You can join by calling us at 303-444-2037 or on our web site at www.westerndisposal.com.

New: Special Event Services

Due to the many requests we have had this past year for "zero waste" services at special events, we have purchased new waste stations with the help of a grant from Boulder County and have initiated a whole new service.

More and more meetings, conventions, fundraisers, etc., are striving to make and market their events as "zero waste" events, but most facilities do not have the special containers, the expertise or the collection services necessary to accomplish their goal. Events which are indoors also require more aesthetically pleasing, higher quality and cleaner waste stations than those used for outdoor events.

That's where our new service comes in. We are now specializing in "zero waste" services for indoor events. As you can see, our containers are three-in-one: single-stream recyclables, compostables and trash (as a last resort for those few items that cannot be recycled or composted), an all-in-one convenient "zero waste" station on wheels. No more separate, large plastic carts or metal frames with clear plastic liners stretched over them. Nguyen Xinh. Our "zero waste" stations will look great in your meeting room, your ballroom or your convention center.



If you desire, we can provide:

- up to eight "zero-waste" stations
- posters and signage
- recycling and composting guidelines
- staff training
- liners for the waste stations
- collection of the three materials
- a summary of waste volumes

Please call us at 303-444-2037 for pricing or questions you may have about our new service. Prices will vary depending upon the size of your event and the extent of the services you request.

Dress up your next special event with our new zero waste stations and zero waste services. Move toward zero waste with Western Disposal!

Crayons to Calculators Thanks Western Employees

by Francie Anhut, CEO for Impact on Education

Western Disposal, the corporate sponsor of Crayons to Calculators (C2C) – a collaboration among six area non-profits, Boulder Valley and St. Vrain School Districts organized by Impact on Education – focused on providing students from economically challenged homes with backpacks of school supplies – dramatically expanded its network of support this year. In addition to the company donation of \$30,000, which includes an employee match, Western Disposal employees contributed thousands of dollars through the company's annual giving campaign and employee-organized events. A Chili Cook-Off, featuring over 30 delicious chili entries donated by employees, and including a raffle and games attracted entire employee families. Together with a lunch and auction held last month supported by Western Disposal suppliers, Western employees raised \$40,000 more for Crayons to Calculators for a total of over \$75,000. Three cheers for Western Disposal, its employees and suppliers!!! Due to their creativity, hard work and generosity, over 1,400 children in BVSD and St. Vrain schools will start school in August with school supplies! On behalf of all the C2C partners – Education Foundation for St. Vrain, FISH of Broomfield, Foothills United Way, I Have A Dream, Impact on Education and Sister Carmen Community Center – THANK YOU!!!



Gary Horton, president of Western Disposal, displays check to be presented to Crayons to Calculators

Plastic 101 The following information was summarized from internet sites and Boulder County Recycle Center handouts

What Plastics Can and Cannot Be Recycled at the Curb

In general, plastics #1-#7 can be recycled at the curb with the following exceptions:

No plastic bags: Plastic bags are by far the WORST contaminant in the recycling bin. Plastic bags collected at the curb get caught in the sorting equipment at the recycle center, cost our program money and are not recycled. Please do not put plastic bags in your bin and please do not bag any materials. Clean, dry and empty plastic bags with #2 or #4 can be recycled at the CHaRM or at participating grocery stores.

No plastic lids, caps or pumps: Whether or not your caps, lids or lotion and soap pumps have a number or a recycling symbol, they are not accepted and are not recyclable. Please continue to toss them in the trash.

No foam: While white foam cups and containers often have a #6 on the bottom, they are not a recyclable plastic.

No #7 PLA bottles or containers: The #7 category was designed as a catch-all for polycarbonate (PC) and "other" plastics. Unfortunately, compostable plastics, made from bio-based polymers like corn starch, are in this category. They have the initials PLA (polylactic acid) on the bottom near the recycling symbol and can be put in your COMPOST collection bin.

No flats: Flat lids on plastic containers, i.e. cottage cheese containers, salad containers, etc., cannot be recycled. The sorting equipment sensors "read" these items as paper, not plastic, and they end up in the wrong bin.

For every **1 ton of plastic** that is recycled we save the equivalent of energy use for two people for 1 year, the amount of water used by 1 person in 2 month's time and almost 2000 pounds of oil.

Why Can't All Plastics Be Recycled?

Plastic recycling affects a range of products, from drink containers to shopping bags to pipes. The use of plastic in the majority of products makes recycling plastic very important.

Curbside programs make recycling plastic containers, as well as other plastic products, easy. Though some plastics are not accepted in a curbside program, many of these materials are recyclable at a qualified center.

To know the best way to recycle these products, it's best to learn more about their life cycles, including what types of plastics are used for different products.

Plastics are divided into two distinct groups: thermoplastics and thermosets. The majority of plastics are thermoplastic, meaning that once the plastic is formed it can be heated and reformed repeatedly. Celluloid and polyethylene are thermoplastics. This property allows for easy processing and facilitates recycling.

The other group, the thermosets, cannot be re-melted. Once these plastics are formed, reheating will cause the material to decompose rather than melt. Examples of thermoset plastic are epoxies, polyesters, silicones and vulcanized rubber (tires). In terms of effectiveness and economy, thermosets fall far behind thermoplastics, and they are not readily recyclable. For instance, tires cannot be melted down and reformed; they must be ground up and then used to manufacture other products.

Why are most plastics marked with a **number** inside a recycling symbol? The simple answer is that each number represents the *type of resin* used to produce the plastic. Because each resin is different, these numbers affect how and where you can recycle plastics.

#1 PETE (easily recyclable)

Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET or PETE) is clear, tough and has good gas and moisture barrier properties making it ideal for carbonated beverage applications and other food containers. Its heat resistance and microwave transparency make it an ideal heatable film. It is also used as fiber for clothing and carpets, bottles, food containers, and strapping.

#2 HDPE (easily recyclable)

High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) is used for many packaging applications because it provides excellent moisture barrier properties and chemical resistance. However, HDPE, like all types of polyethylene, is limited to those food packaging applications that do not require an oxygen or CO2 barrier. In film form, HDPE is used in snack food packages and cereal box liners; in blow-molded bottle form, for milk and non-carbonated beverage bottles; and in injection-molded tub form, for packaging margarine, whipped toppings and deli foods.

#3 PVC (not easily recyclable)

Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) has excellent transparency, chemical resistance, long-term stability, good weatherability and stable electrical properties. Vinyl products can be broadly divided into rigid and flexible materials. Rigid applications are concentrated in construction markets, which include pipe and fittings, siding, rigid flooring and windows. Bruce and Michelene Fast.

#4 LDPE (not easily recyclable)

Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE) is predominantly used in film applications due to its toughness, flexibility and transparency. LDPE has a low melting point making it popular for use in applications where heat sealing is necessary. Typically, LDPE is used to manufacture flexible films such as those used for dry cleaned garment bags and produce bags.

#5 PP (recyclable)

Polypropylene (PP) has excellent chemical resistance and is commonly used in packaging. It has a high melting point, making it ideal for hot fill liquids. Typical applications include ketchup bottles, yogurt containers and medicine bottles.

#6 PS (recyclable)

Polystyrene (PS) is a versatile plastic that can be rigid or foamed. General purpose polystyrene is clear, hard and brittle and used in medical and food packaging. Expandable Polystyrene (EPS) is commonly extruded into sheets for thermoforming into trays for meats, fish and cheeses and into containers such as egg crates.

#7 Other Plastics

There are many other plastics beyond the most common ones described above, for example nylon, ABS copolymers, and polyurethanes.

What Happens to the Recyclables After They Are Collected?

Roughly 60 percent of the U.S. population—about 148 million people—have access to a plastics recycling program. The two common forms of collection are curbside collection (approximately 8,550 communities participate in curbside recycling) and drop-off centers (approximately 12,000 nationwide). Once collected, the plastics are delivered to a material recovery facility (MRF) or handler for sorting into single resin streams to increase product value. The sorted plastics are then baled and shipped to reclaimers who clean the materials and prepare them for reuse.

Bottled Water

The Cost of Convenience

- ◆ In 2006, Americans drank about 167 bottles of water each but only recycled an average of 23 percent. That leaves 38 billion water bottles in landfills.
- ◆ Bottled water costs between \$1 and \$4 per gallon, and 90 percent of the cost is in the bottle, lid and label.
- ◆ According to the Beverage Marketing Corp, the average American consumed 1.6 gallons of bottled water in 1976. In 2006 that number jumped to 28.3 gallons.
- ◆ It takes over 1.5 million barrels of oil to manufacture a year's supply of bottled water. That's enough oil to fuel 100,000 cars.
- ◆ Eight out of ten plastic water bottles become landfill waste.
- ◆ In 2007 we spent \$16 billion on bottled water. That's more than we spent on iPods or movie tickets.
- ◆ Plastic bottles can take up to 1000 years before they begin to decompose once buried.

E-bill and E-pay

Western Disposal offers simple and convenient billing and payment options designed with your convenience in mind. Check out the following options below to see which ones work for you!

Billing Options

- **NEW!** Electronic – Register your Western Disposal account with our online E-Billing service and we will notify you via e-mail when your statement is ready. You'll also have the opportunity to view the Western Disposal newsletter online.
- Traditional – Receive your regular paper statement and newsletter in the mail.

One-Time Payment Options

- **NEW!** Electronic – Pay online using credit card or e-check (using your bank's routing and account numbers).
- Traditional – Mail a check with your statement's stub or pay by phone using your credit card.

Automatic (Recurring) Payment Options

- **NEW!** Electronic – Register online using a credit card or ACH withdrawal from a checking or savings account.
- Traditional – Mail in the completed form found on our website under the Billing and Payment section for automatic payments using a credit card or ACH information from your checking or savings account
- Traditional – Call our Customer Service Department and set up automatic credit card payments over the phone.

(If you do not sign up for electronic delivery of your statement, you will continue to receive it via postal delivery.)

Registration for new E-Billing and E-Payment options must be completed on our website at www.westerndisposal.com. Click on the Billing and Payment section and follow the directions for account registration. If you have any questions, please call our Customer Service Department at 303-444-2037.

Electronics Recycling

Western has an electronics recycling drop-off at our Trash and Recycle Center. (We also offer a pickup service for an additional fee. Residents or businesses with multiple items may find this most economical. Bruce and Nana Jacquemard. If you would like to schedule a pickup, please call 303-444-2037 and ask for our Customer Service Department.)

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING PRICE LIST

(Pricing effective through December 31, 2009)

Item	Price
Computer Monitor.....	10.00
Computer tower/CPU	8.00
Desktop copier.....	20.00
Server	8.00
Laptop computer	4.00
All in one (computer/monitor)	14.00
Desktop Printer: Inkjet.....	8.00
Dot Matrix	8.00
Laser.....	8.00
Scanner	8.00
Fax machine	12.00
Keyboard, mouse and cables	no charge
Land line phone.....	4.00
Cell phone	no charge
VCR, DVD, home stereo components (no speakers are accepted).....	8.00
Car stereos.....	4.00
Software	no charge
Palm Pilot, PDA	2.00
Universal Power Supply (UPS).....	8.00
Video game system.....	4.00
Video and digital cameras	4.00
Televisions: 13"-32".....	15.00
36"-46"	30.00
59".....	35.00
Console TV	35.00
Projection TV	35.00

If you would like to bring your electronics to our Trash and Recycle Center, we are located at 5880 Butte Mill Road (58th and Valmont). Hours: 7:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday-Saturday. Winter hours (November-March) are 7:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday-Friday and 7:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday.

Extra Trash Stickers



TO REORDER: 303-444-2037
www.westerndisposal.com
Extra Trash Prepaid Tag Recycling Saves You Money!

Prepaid residential trash stickers are now available for all of our service areas. If you have regularly scheduled trash service, you may purchase prepaid trash stickers for \$3.00 each and save 25% over the on-route price of \$4.00 per extra 32-gallon bag.

Stickers can be acquired in a number of ways (minimum order of five, unless purchased in person):

1. In person: Western's Admin. Bldg.
5880 Butte Mill Road
2. By phone: 303-444-2037
3. By fax: 303-444-7509
4. By electronic mail:
contact@westerndisposal.com
5. Via web site:
www.westerndisposal.com
6. By mail: P.O. Box 9100
Boulder, CO 80301

Western
DISPOSAL SERVICES
Serving Boulder County
Since 1970

Ways to Reach Us...

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20% Post Consumer Waste