

# "TRASH TALK"

An El Dorado Disposal Newsletter – Winter '25 Edition



## Seasonal Tips and Reminders

The holiday season is upon us and with that comes good food, gift giving, hopefully lots of joy, and well... extra stuff to get rid of. As we enter the holiday season, there are few useful tips we wanted to share to help guide you on how to properly get rid of some of that extra stuff you will acquire this season.



## All These Leftovers – What to do?

The holidays often bring fun gatherings that are accompanied by lots of food and treats. If you're wondering what to do with Thanksgiving scraps or Christmas leftovers, rather than letting it sit in your fridge for a couple weeks too long or throwing it in the trash, freeze your meals for later consumption! Or- Get creative with your leftovers. A Thanksgiving dinner in a sandwich is always the best! If you are unable to store all the leftovers, you can throw your food scraps and excess food waste in your organics cart! All that extra food will eventually become compost rather than getting buried in a landfill somewhere! But what about these pumpkins that are left over from fall and starting to rot? You can also throw in any pumpkins or fall organic decor (hay, gourds, cornstalks, etc.) in your organics cart.



## Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree!

We are happy to provide a few different options to help you get rid of your Christmas tree after the holiday celebrations have ended. If you have curbside service, natural Christmas trees can be picked up from the curb during your normal yard waste collection week. To prevent issues with recycling the natural trees, the tree must be free of tinsel, lights, ornaments, and stands. Additionally, flocked trees are not recyclable and have to be placed in the trash. If you choose to use the curbside collection option, please cut the tree into pieces no longer than 3' and no more than 18" in diameter. Bundle the pieces with twine or rope, and place bundles on the ground next to your cart if they cannot fit inside the cart. For El Dorado Hills and Cameron Park residents, contact your CSD to inquire about the special collection event that helps support local boy scout troops.

*If you do not have yard waste collection in your area, we will arrange to pick up the Christmas trees curbside between **Dec. 29th, 2025 – Jan. 30th, 2026**. Additionally, you can bring your tree to our Material Recovery Facility (4100 Throwita Way, Placerville) and dispose of it for **FREE** from **Jan. 2nd – Jan. 16th**.*

## BEWARE! Hot ashes!

It's the time of year that many of us enjoy gathering around the fire – whether indoors around the fireplace or outdoors around the fire pit. Wherever you are enjoying the fire, be sure to safely dispose of all ashes. Hot coals and ashes should never be placed directly into your curbside cart. Improperly discarded material can pose a fire risk and jeopardize the safety of our drivers and the public. Coal and ashes can remain hot enough to start a fire for many hours, perhaps days, after you think the fire is out. As a safety precaution, treat all coal and ashes as hot.

### Follow these guidelines for safe disposal:

- Allow coals to burn out completely and let ashes cool.
- Never place hot ashes and coal in any curbside carts. Ashes should be cool enough to handle without gloves before you prepare to dispose of them.
- Please bag cooled ashes in a paper bag, and place in your trash cart.



# The Recycling Conundrum



We've all been there – you have a piece of trash that you think might be recyclable, or you see that logo that has universally been identified as the recycling logo, you're convinced that item should go into the recycling. You're not 100% sure, but you toss it in the recycling cart just in case. It's the thought that counts, right? Unfortunately, that logo has created a lot of confusion for the consumer while also creating problems for post-collection operations. We are fighting against what we refer to as "wish-cycling". Due to the nature of the ever-changing recycling markets, we often see items in the recycling that are not recyclable. As our world continues to lean into consumer convenience and expedited delivery of products, packaging continues to be problematic for our industry. Plastic bags, plastic wraps and film, large or rigid plastics (i.e. storage containers, plant pots, etc.), plastic toys and assorted metals continue to contaminate the recycling waste stream and cause various issues during post-collection processing. If you're looking for a bagging alternative to maintain cleanliness or avoid clutter on the counter, paper bags serve as a great option and can usually be easily tucked away!

## Delivering the Holiday Cheer!

Waste Connections is proud to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of our Annual Holiday Bike Build, a tradition that has brought joy, generosity, and community spirit to thousands of children across the United States and Canada. Thanks to the incredible support of our employees and vendor partners, last year El Dorado Disposal staff members built and delivered 180 bikes to children in need. This milestone reflects the heart of our company and the power of giving back. Part of our culture is our commitment to our communities. El Dorado Disposal's personal goal is to buy, build, and deliver at least 185 bikes this year. We need your help to achieve this goal. If you would like to donate towards the purchase of bikes and helmets, please visit our website to make an online donation or contact our office at 530-626-4141 or 916-985-1162.



## Save Time – Use the APP!

Our App can be a useful tool if you're pressed for time and can't talk to one of our office personnel or just appreciate the convenience of being able to gather information from your mobile device. Via the El Dorado Disposal App, you can view your service schedule which can be a helpful reminder during the holiday seasons, access your billing information, and schedule a specific type of service such as bulky item removal, pick-up of old batteries, or disposal of used motor oil/filters all done at your curb for your convenience. Lastly, if you're ever scratching your head on where to toss a certain item, our App has a "Waste Wizard" tool that can guide you on how to properly dispose of some of those confusing items.



## Year In Review – Community Events

Every year, El Dorado Disposal partners with the community we serve to provide numerous community clean-up events at varying locations within El Dorado County, offering the opportunity for the community members to dispose of selected items for FREE. Over the past year, we collected over **100** tons of trash as well as **20** tons of yard waste and **25** tons of recyclables that were diverted from the landfill.

