



## Who Will Be Our Sorting Champ? Take the Test!

Quick, where do you put a food-soiled napkin—trash, compost or recycling?

If you said compost, you're right! How many other items can you sort correctly? Now you can test your sorting savvy with our new online game: "Where Do You Dump Your Stuff?"

Race the clock and rack up points for every piece you place in the right cart. But be careful—choose wrong and you lose points!

Play against family and friends to see who gets to claim the title of Sorting Champion!

Play now: [RecycleSmart.org/game](http://RecycleSmart.org/game)



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# EVERYDAY RECYCLING MADE EASY RecycleSmart

APARTMENTS & CONDOS EDITION SPRING 2019

## It's spring cleaning!

How many times have you wondered what to do with that old dress that's been hanging in the back of your closet for years? Or the broken VCR on your bookshelf? It might be time for a good spring cleaning!

When you need to clear out your clutter, make sure you do it right—keep those items far from the landfill. Many of the things we don't need can find perfectly happy homes somewhere else. Even broken electronics can be refurbished and resold to new owners (check out the chart inside to learn how).

Where can you send your stuff? Local charitable organizations collect gently worn clothes, sports equipment, games, books and other items and donate them to people in need. If you're looking to make a little spending cash, consider bringing your clothes to a consignment or resale shop. Networks like Freecycle or hyper-local "Buy Nothing" groups are popping up to keep materials in use, or you can check out Craigslist and app-based swaps like thredUP (for clothes) and letgo (for anything else). There are lots of ways to extend the lifecycle of those durable goods.

Still searching for sources? For a quick and easy way to find out where to drop off your unwanted items, visit *RecycleWhere?*, the Bay Area database that tells you where you can get rid of pretty much anything. No matter what you need to purge, the *RecycleWhere?* tool at [RecycleSmart.org](http://RecycleSmart.org) can show you where to go.

So say "so long" to that sarong, click "fast forward" on that VCR, and start clearing out your clutter. A little spring cleaning can make a world of difference.



*RecycleWhere?* is a major league bonus!



The SWAT team has a blast at Buena Vista!

## Students sort it out

Students Wild About Trash, or SWAT, team members at Buena Vista Elementary in Walnut Creek are showing us how kids can take the lead in trimming waste!

This team of recycling enthusiasts keeps their school in record-breaking recycling form by sorting compostables, making sure recyclables are "empty, clean and dry" and even changing school supplies to more responsible alternatives.

Science teacher Deborah Walker has been leading the group for eighteen years. She credits students with bringing the excitement and enthusiasm it takes to keep a daily program running. "Rain or shine, the SWAT team is cruising the campus to gather recyclables!"

This year, there are two big changes on campus as a result of the SWAT team: compostable trays have replaced polystyrene, and there are new compostable birchwood sporks to take the place of plastic utensils.

After a visit to the local materials recycling facility, students come back even more passionate about their work. "They keep us all on our toes!" says Walker, carefully placing her empty juice bottle into a nearby blue bin.

It's a breeze!



## Summer's Fantastic Without Plastic

Skip the plastic straw this summer and join a global movement during "Plastic Free July." Started by a group of folks who wanted to challenge themselves by reducing their plastic use, now the plastic-free month is a global celebration! Complete info is at [PlasticFreeJuly.org](http://PlasticFreeJuly.org), where you can sign the pledge, get printable signs and posters for your home or workplace, find tips, fun videos and an amazing toolbox of information for lightening your plastic footprint.

Yes, there's even sunscreen without plastic packaging! Drop a line to [Authority@RecycleSmart.org](mailto:Authority@RecycleSmart.org) and tell us your tips for reducing your plastic use.



### TAKE IT AWAY, JIM!

Looking for a place to collect your clutter? Check *RecycleWhere?* at [RecycleSmart.org](http://RecycleSmart.org)!







# A green light for green carts

Did you know—multifamily units can compost food waste, too!

We're excited to continue expanding this service to multifamily residences this year, and it's all because of customer demand. You asked and we delivered!

What's cool about our compost program is that it keeps everything local. Food waste gets turned into healthy compost that we distribute to area farms, schools, community gardens, and you! That's right, our annual compost giveaway provides great garden soil for people in the RecycleSmart service area.

Not sure what to put in that cart? Just follow our helpful tips:

Solid food waste goes in, including

vegetable peels, chicken bones, eggshells and leftover food you aren't planning to save. Food-soiled paper products like napkins and pizza boxes go in, too. More takeout boxes are coated in plastic lately, so if it's shiny, it stays away.

Please no dog poop or kitty litter. Pet waste is NOT good for compost! And of course keep metal and plastics from the green cart, too.

Be on the lookout for our scrappy outreach teams—they're going door to door teaching folks the basics of food waste composting.

If your property doesn't offer green cart service yet, talk to your manager. We can help them get started!

## Breaking Up with Toxics?

Cleaning out your garage? You may encounter some toxic items to toss. Have no fear!

Batteries, electronics, household hazardous materials, light bulbs, medical sharps or controlled substances don't go in any of the Republic bins, but for a full list of safe disposal locations or which items can be placed by the bins, visit [RecycleSmart.org/HHW](http://RecycleSmart.org/HHW)

"Don't dump me!"



"Green carts help us grow!"

# How it works



## BE A SMART CONSUMER: CHOOSE TO RE-USE!

Clearing out your clutter can be a great mood booster. To expand those happy vibes to a global scale, try being a re-user! New isn't necessarily better—there are high-quality products (and some fantastic deals) at consignment shops, tool libraries, flea

markets, online rental services and other places that offer used goods for sale, rental or free.

From cast-off cast iron to refurbished phones to thrift store fashion, used is way cool and an important part of the solution!

## My Tips



## Super Spritz and Shine

From Ronnie G. in Danville

“ This spring I thought I'd share a cleaning tip that I really like. A couple of years ago I ran out of window cleaner and read a recipe online that I could make at home. I've been refilling that same spray bottle ever since!

I mix 1/4 cup of white vinegar and three cups of water (and sometimes a few drops of lemon juice for the scent), then spritz it wherever needs a shine: windows, refrigerator, even tile surfaces. I wipe my windows with a paper towel and other surfaces with a cloth rag.

Once my windows are sparkling, the paper towel goes in the green cart and the bottle goes back in the cabinet. No waste and it's fresh, clean and safe, too!

## Need More Info?



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For tips, resources and other recycling services!

[www.RecycleSmart.org](http://www.RecycleSmart.org)  
925-906-1801  
Authority@RecycleSmart.org



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### Organics, Recycling and Landfill

925-685-4711

Ask your property manager to contact Republic Services about additional recycling, organic or landfill carts or bins, computer and TV collection, special clean ups or to request motor oil recycling kits, recycling tote bags and kitchen food scrap containers.



### HAVE TIPS TO SHARE?

Send your ideas to  
[Authority@RecycleSmart.org](mailto:Authority@RecycleSmart.org)