

Kids! We need you to get the word out! Too many people are STILL putting fruit and veggie stickers in the compost. But the stickers won't break down in our compost piles because they're made of plastic. Can you help?

Please send in your **artwork made with fruit** stickers or make a poster to remind people that stickers are trash, not compost!

To enter: Ask an adult to send a photograph of your artwork or poster to Authority@RecycleSmart.org.

That's it! We'll select one to three winners to receive a Zero Waste picnic kit for you and your family: reusable straws, utensils, and our adorable RecycleSmart tote!

> .



1850 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Ste. 320 Walnut Creek, CA 94596

"(how? (iao!"

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

• Kids artwork contest!

• Hip hip hooray for our hardy team

• Fresh tips to clean out the garage



Keep calm and recycle on

The current situation has transformed our daily lives—we're scrubbing counters, ordering take-out, and treating toilet paper like a precious commodity... Our new normal raises a few questions about what goes where. Here's a quick guide

TRASH/LANDFILL

Cleaning wipes—they have plastic fibers that ruin our pipes and they can't be composted.

Paper towels with harsh cleaners or chemicals like bleach.

Paper containers with a shiny coating like coffee cups, takeout boxes, or ice cream tubs (that lining is almost always plastic).

COMPOST/ORGANICS

If your complex doesn't have green carts, these items go in the landfill bin.

Matte paper (uncoated) takeout containers are perfect for composting!

Food-soiled paper napkins or paper towels, uncoated paper plates and pizza boxes are all compostable.

Your kitchen food waste makes great compost too!



RECYCLING Cardboard boxes, broken down, go in the blue cart. (That means drivers don't have to get out of their trucks!)

Flattened cereal boxes, tissue boxes with plastic removed, and paper grocery bags. And always—recyclables must be empty, clean and dry.



COVID-19 UPDATE Three cheers

for our heroes!

While we're all doing our part to keep our communities safe as we shelter in place, we want to say "Thank you!" to the drivers, mechanics, and dispatchers on the front lines collecting your recycling, compost, and trash on schedule.

What's more, Republic Services is expressing appreciation by providing weekly meals (including dinners to take home) for "front line" employees—ordering them from local restaurants that need support right now!

It's times like these when we truly appreciate the dedication and commitment of the folks who keep our service running smoothly.

Our teams are out every day, making sure that "shelter in place" doesn't turn into "*smell*-ter in place"! So give them a wave when you see them, and maybe a little applause!



Penelope thanked her Walnut (reek driver with this poster!

> Salvador helps collect compost for Danville and Walnut (reek residents.



Erin is the operations

Supervisor for Lafayette,

RecycleSmart



Antonio has been driving for Republic Services for 16 years!

A.F.S

REPUBLIC

Erin Malanche

Antonio Zapien

Empty, clean and dry

lids get recycled!



'Trash us; we're covered in plastic."

Salvador Paniagua



Travel tips to a home paradise!

Our practical tips can help you turn clutter hiding in closets and storage into useful storage—or just more space! Take a deep breath and let's get started.

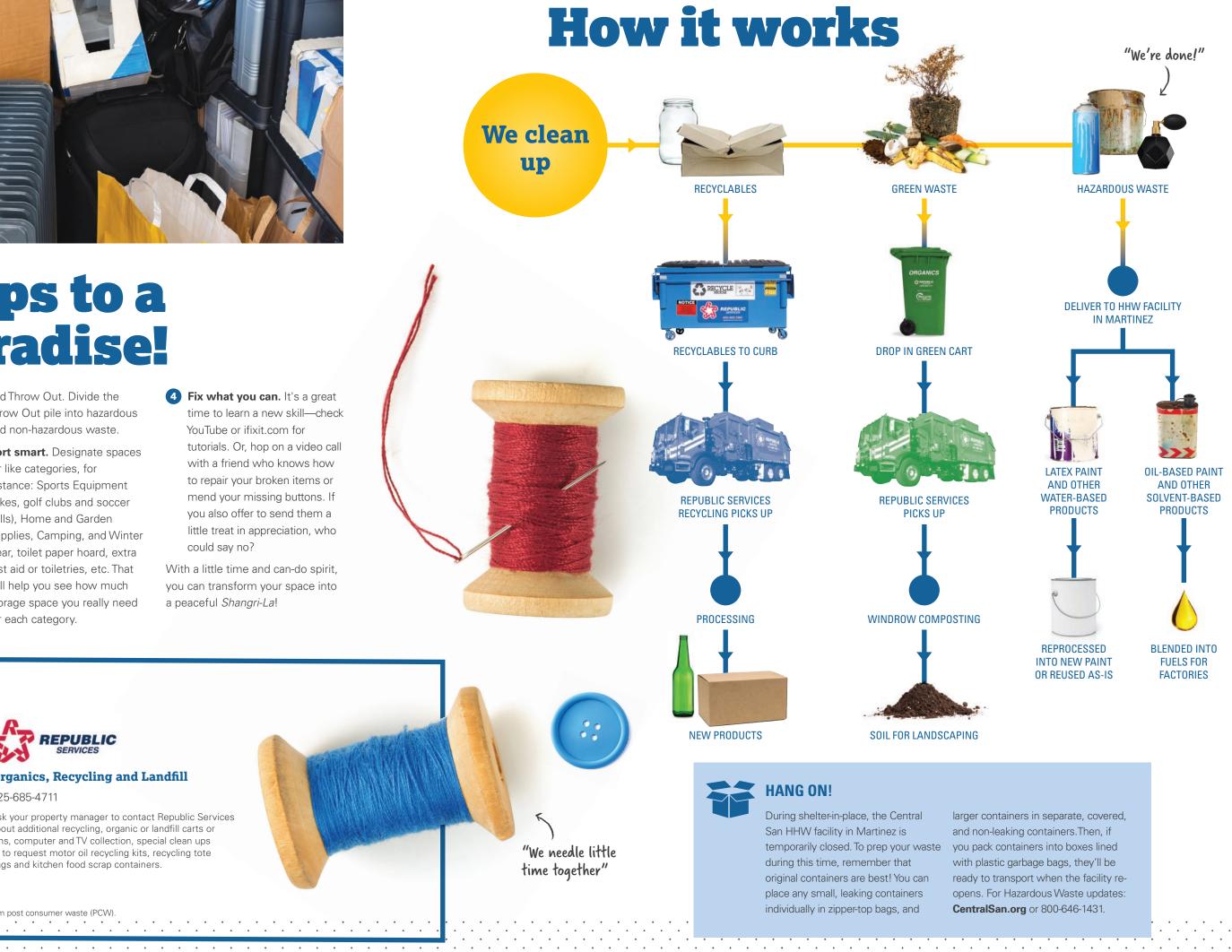
- 1 Give yourself enough time. It usually takes at least a full day to reorganize each closet or room.
- **2** Divide and conquer. Bring the contents out into the open and separate them into piles: Keep, Sell/Donate, Recycle,

and Throw Out. Divide the Throw Out pile into hazardous and non-hazardous waste.

3 Sort smart. Designate spaces for like categories, for instance: Sports Equipment (bikes, golf clubs and soccer balls), Home and Garden Supplies, Camping, and Winter Gear, toilet paper hoard, extra first aid or toiletries, etc. That will help you see how much storage space you really need for each category.

4 Fix what you can. It's a great time to learn a new skill-check YouTube or ifixit.com for tutorials. Or, hop on a video call with a friend who knows how to repair your broken items or mend your missing buttons. If you also offer to send them a little treat in appreciation, who could say no?

vou can transform your space into a peaceful Shangri-La!







Editor, Janna McKay Janna@RecycleSmart.org

For tips, resources and other recycling services!

www.RecycleSmart.org 925-906-1801 Authority@RecycleSmart.org



REPUBLIC

Organics, Recycling and Landfill

925-685-4711

Printed on paper made from post consumer waste (PCW).

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.

RECYCLESMART



Waste No Wipes

Natalie S., Rossmoor

For my new cleaning obsession, I didn't want to also create a bunch of waste. I cut old towels and t-shirts into 10- or 12- inch squares and keep a stack next to a spray bottle of bleach solution. Ta-da! Reusable sanitizing wipes.

I keep a set on the kitchen counter and one by my front door to keep surfaces pristine. Then I wash and reuse the rags! Take care, though, because they do have bleach in them you don't want to mix them with colors or dark laundry.

Instead of using paper towels and other singleuse products, I cleaned out my closet and got some new supplies!



HAVE TIPS TO SHARE? Send your ideas to Authority@RecycleSmart.org