



Dandelion Time

Single-use coffee cups can't be recycled or composted because they have shiny plastic on the inside. Grab scissors, a piece of paper and contrasting paint to turn them into a fun dandelion craft.

- 1 Cut strips halfway down the empty paper coffee cup. Continue cutting strips all the way around the cup.
- 2 Bend strips outward to make a wide flower shape.
- 3 Use a paintbrush to put paint on the inside of your flower shape (white, above).
- 4 Tap on paper in circles.
- 5 Draw stems and you're done!
- 6 Hang it up, wrap it around a gift or fold it in half for a beautiful greeting card!

To clean up, place your used cup in the trash.



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

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RecycleSmart

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What's the takeaway on take-out?

During the pandemic, we've supported local restaurants by ordering lots of food to go. "Date night out" became "date night in" as our favorite eateries prepared meals for us to enjoy at home.

Helping these businesses survive and thrive is a great way to keep our communities strong. But what should we do with all the extra take-out packaging we've collected? And is there any way to reduce the clutter we don't need as we move into a summer of takeout picnics?

Take heart, take-out fans! This issue gives you all the tips you need to solve your carryout conundrums. Check inside for a full menu of what goes where—from plastic clamshells to compostable containers, we've got you covered.

Here are a few tips:

- Don't take stuff you don't need. Eating at home? Ask the restaurant not to include plastic utensils or plates with your order.
- Be an advocate for change. Encourage your favorite spots to shift to paper-based compostable containers, if they haven't already.



READER SURVEY

What do you like most about the RecycleSmart newsletter? Are we providing useful information about recycling, composting and reducing landfill waste? How can we answer more of your questions?

Let us know at [RecycleSmart.org/survey](https://www.recycle-smart.org/survey)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Toss your takeaway the right way
- Dr. Disposal is in for questions
- A dandy craft project!

Do you know the Muffin People?

Who's that friendly fellow carrying totes of tomatoes out of the grocery store? It's Jack Dice, chief Muffin Man, of Moraga's self-described Muffin People. They've been collecting produce, meat and other fresh food for 19 years!

This all-volunteer group picks up food donations, six days a week from the major grocery stores in Lamorinda. They then deliver the food to the St. Vincent De Paul Community Center and other local food distribution centers.

The Muffin People capture and deliver about 20 loads of donated food each week! They're ahead of the curve in helping businesses capture edible food for recovery (like many California businesses will have to do soon under SB 1383). And it's just because they noticed a way to help.

If you'd like to get involved, visit [StMonicaMoraga.com/muffin-people](https://www.stmonicamoraga.com/muffin-people) for more information. Whether or not you join in, keep an eye out for their caps, and give them a high five for their efforts!



A full cart warms the heart!

Even More about Wasting Less

Visit our Facebook page for the latest events, workshops, tips and reminders. Tell your friends, too! We post 3-4 times/week and will keep you up to date and inspired. Follow us at [Facebook.com/CCCSWA](https://www.facebook.com/CCCSWA)



"Picnics are a great way to ketchup with friends!"

Where it goes



"Shiny things are flashy, too bad they're trashy!"

Empty, clean and dry!

"My packaging is 100% green-cart ready"

Need More Info?



Editor, Janna McKay
Janna@RecycleSmart.org

For tips, resources and other recycling services!

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



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Organics, Recycling and Landfill

925-685-4711

For questions concerning your recycling, organics or landfill carts, billing, new service, vacation hold requests, computer and TV collection, special cleanups or to request motor oil recycling kits and kitchen food scraps containers.



Dr. Disposal is In!

Question:
I'm spring cleaning my medicine cabinet; I have expired prescriptions and over the counter medicines that I don't need. What's the right way to handle them?

—Nima K., Rossmoor

Answer:

You can drop off expired or unused medications, even pet medications and asthma inhalers! To prepare your items:

- 1 Remove or mark out your personal information from the bottle
- 2 Recycle the plastic container(s) in your blue recycling cart
- 3 Place solid medicines, like pills and capsules, in a sealed plastic bag
- 4 Leave liquids in their original container and place bottles in a sealed plastic bag
- 5 Drop off medicines and sharps in disposal boxes at drugstores, police stations and town government buildings. A full list of sites is at RecycleSmart.org/HHW



HAVE TIPS TO SHARE?

Send your ideas to
Authority@RecycleSmart.org