

FAQ

Q. What's the "new contract" and when does it start?

A. The City of Albany will enter into a new 10-year municipal solid waste collection agreement and 20-year disposal agreement with WMAC from November 1, 2011-October 31, 2021 and 2031, respectively. New service routes will begin on Tuesday November 1st.

WMAC will provide franchised recycling, organics, and garbage services for residents, multi-family complexes, and commercial businesses. Annual on-call bulky goods collection services, used motor oil and filter recycling, old cellular phones and dry cell batteries (household batteries such as AAA, AA, B, C, D, 9V, and small "button" batteries; no liquid batteries such as automobile batteries) recycling will be provided to residents. WMAC will also process construction and demolition debris.

Q. Why did my trash rate go up?

A. Rates increased in part due to a new collection agreement and transfer, processing and disposal agreement that went into effect on November 1st. Residents may now enjoy expanded recycling collection, including curbside household battery collection, curbside cell phone collection and soon to come, curbside compact fluorescent light collection. Additionally, while all single-family residents are eligible for 1 free on-call bulky appointment per year, residents may receive a second on-call bulky appointment (up to the first 300 requests.)

Multi-Family and Business Owner/Property Managers may enjoy free technical assistance from City Staff and WMAC to help ensure that they have the correct amount trash, recycling and organics service and to help reduce trash rates where applicable.

Q. Can I get a 96-gallon cart for my recycling and/or organics?

A. Yes, residents may receive up to a 96-gallon cart for recycling or organics at no additional charge, but you will be charged if you wish to have additional carts with corresponding service. Call WMAC at (510) 613-8710 to request a larger sized recycling or organics cart.

Q. What are all the recyclables that are accepted?

A. *Inside the Gray Recycling Cart:* All clean paper, corrugated cardboard, brown bags and paper, paperboard, paper egg cartons, telephone books and magazines, clear and colored glass containers, aluminum foil and beverage

containers, scrap steel and aluminum metals (not exceeding 40 pounds in weight nor two (2) feet in any dimension for any single item); steel including "tin" cans, aerosol cans (empty, non-toxic products), bimetal containers, all plastics (#1-7) except expanded Polystyrene (EPS), including rigid plastics no larger than 15" in any dimension.

On top of the Gray Recycling Cart: Place Dry cell batteries (household batteries such as AAA, AA, B, C, D, 9V, and small "button" batteries; no liquid batteries such as automobile batteries) in a heavy duty sealed plastic bag.

On top of the Gray Recycling Cart: Place old cell phones in a heavy duty sealed plastic bag.

Q. How do I recycle batteries?

A. Because of the toxic chemicals that can leak from batteries that end up in a landfill, it is against the law to throw any battery (including household batteries) into the trash. Single-Family residents with gray recycling cart service may participate in Albany's new curbside battery recycling program by placing used dry cell batteries (household batteries such as AAA, AA, B, C, D, 9V, and small "button" batteries; no liquid batteries such as automobile batteries) in a sealed clear plastic bag on top of your gray recycling cart on your service day.

Q. How do I recycle cell phones?

A. Single-Family residents with gray recycling cart service may participate in Albany's new curbside cell phone recycling program by placing old cell phones in a sealed clear plastic bag on top of your gray recycling cart on your service day.

Q. What if I have physical difficulty taking my carts out to the curb?

A. Call WMAC at (510) 613-8710 and a street/curbside exemption form will be mailed to you. A doctor's letter or a certificate from the Department of Motor Vehicles must accompany the request.

Q. I have some unusual items to recycle. Where can I get more information about what to do with them?

A, Call the Alameda County Recycling Hotline toll-free at (877) STOPWASTE (786-7927) or check out the Recycling Wizard at www.StopWaste.Org.

Q. Where should I place my carts for collection?

A. Carts are to be placed street/curbside by 7:00 am on your collection day.

Q. How do I get rid of large bulky items?

A. All single family residents are eligible for 1 on-call bulky appointment per calendar year. In addition, up to the first 300 requests, residents who have already scheduled 1 bulky appointment for that year, will be eligible for a second appointment.

Q. **What are the locations and hours of operation for the Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)?**

A. There are locations in Oakland, Hayward, Livermore, and Fremont. Hayward and Livermore locations are open every other Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Oakland is open every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Fremont is open Thursday and Friday from 8:30 am - 2:30 pm and Saturday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. For further information about locations and operation schedule call (800) 606-6606.

Q. **What items can I take to the HHW facility?**

A. For a complete list of items accepted at HHW visit www.household-hazwaste.org or call (800)606-6606.

Q. **Where can I take expired medications?**

A. You can bring expired medications to an [Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste](#) facility.