

West County's Recycling Contamination Challenge *and Improvement Initiative*

March 12, 2019



Recycling Goals

- ***Statewide* goal for 75% disposal reduction by the year 2020**

Processing History

- Most recyclable materials were shipped to China and other Asian Countries
- Allowed 5-6% non-recyclable contamination depending on the grade of material and buyer
- Effective 1/1/2018, allowable contamination was reduced to .5% or less per load



GLOBAL MARKETING IMPACT...

- International secondary processors for remanufacturing are rejecting contaminated loads
- Collection companies accepting fewer plastic and paper materials
- U.S. sorting facilities going out of business
- Potential for recyclable materials going to landfill



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WEST COUNTY NOW?

- Recycling carts used for garbage—for instance:
 - Soiled diapers
 - Kitty litter, dog waste
 - Food scraps
 - Shoes, clothing
 - E-waste, Universal waste
 - Construction debris
 - Other materials not accepted in curbside collection
- Cart contamination levels in West County range from 15% to 45%.













WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

- Take personal responsibility
 - Keep trash out of recycling
 - Put materials in the right cart

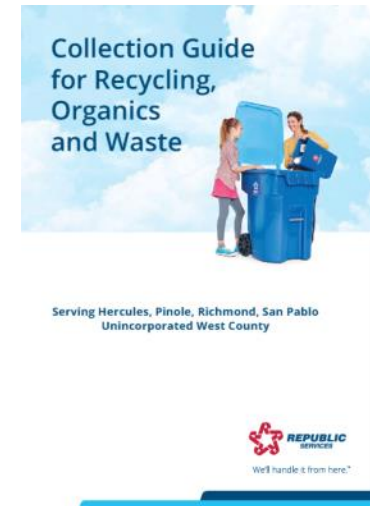


- **Empty, Clean, Dry**
- **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!**



WHAT IS REPUBLIC SERVICES DOING TO HELP?

- Continued community outreach
 - Service collection guides—*Do's* and *Don'ts* on:
 - Garbage, trash
 - Recycling
 - Organics—food scraps, yard waste
 - Special services—HHW, bulky household items, etc.
 - Quarterly Newsletter
 - “Customer call blast” of important service changes.
 - Website additions and expansion underway
 - Community/school presentations
- Conducting cart contamination audits to:
 - Understand extent/types of contamination
 - Educate on materials separation
 - Improve customer compliance
 - Protect worker and public health and safety



CURRENT CONTAMINATION AUDIT PROCESS

- Throughout West Contra Costa County
- Two-person teams
- Visually inspecting carts
- Photograph contents of contaminated carts
- Notice (Oops!!) tags left on contaminated carts:
 - Type of contamination
 - Notice there will be a Surcharge*
 - Contact phone number for information or to question the Contamination Surcharge

*Current Contamination Surcharge is \$27.75/per cart

☐ **RECYCLING**
RECICLAJE

Oops! Your cart was tagged for contamination. Here is what we found:
 ¡Ups! Su depósito fue etiquetado por contaminación. Esto es lo que encontramos:

☐ **ORGANICS**
ORGÁNICOS

<input type="checkbox"/> Food waste <i>Desperdicios de comida</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tissues / Napkins <i>Pañuelos de papel / Servilletas</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Containers with liquid or food <i>Recipientes con líquidos o alimentos</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Green waste <i>Desechos orgánicos verdes</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Loose plastic bags <i>Bolsas de plástico sueltas</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Electronics, Batteries, Lightbulbs <i>Electrónicos, Baterías, Focos</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Clothes / Shoes <i>Ropa / Zapatos</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Animal waste <i>Desechos de animal</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Paint cans <i>Latas de Pintura</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Diapers <i>Pañales</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Styrofoam <i>Espuma de poliestireno</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other hazardous waste <i>Otro desecho peligroso</i> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Otro): _____		

* Contaminated recycling carts may be collected as garbage and / or be subject to additional charges.

Los depósitos de reciclaje contaminados pueden recogerse como basura y / o están sujetos a cargos adicionales.

Questions? Please contact us at:

¿tiene alguna pregunta? Por favor llame a: **510.262.7100**



We'll handle it from here.

Oops! Tag in English and Spanish



OPTIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS:

Option 1	Option 2
CONTINUE CART AUDITS	AUDIT, TAG AND LEAVE CART UNSERVICED

OPTION 1: CONTINUE CART AUDITS

(REPUBLIC SERVICES' RECOMMENDED OPTION)

Plan:

- Audit recycling carts
- Service all carts
- Place notice of \$27.75 surcharge on contaminated carts, and
- Include contact phone number on notice for information, or to question surcharge

Impact:

- Operationally efficient
- Cost effective
- Keeps streets cleaner; enhances neighborhood aesthetics
- Protects public health
- Preserves dwindling landfill space
- Provides person-to-person educational and surcharge discussion opportunities
- Least burdensome and costly to non-complying customers
- Accountability for non-compliance

Option 2: Tag and Leave Cart Unserved

Plan:

- Audit recycling carts
- Tag and leave contaminated carts unserved
- Customer choice to:
 - Clean cart and call for collection (\$32.01 Return Trip Fee)
 - Clean cart, hold over waste and recyclables for next week collection

Impact:

- More costly to non-complying customers than Option 1 (Audit, Tag and Collect) Contamination Surcharge (currently \$27.75)
- Hold over likely to result in overage in solid waste cart with overage fee—or unlawful dumping
- Causes blight to the detriment of neighborhood residents
- Unnecessarily exposes residents to biological pathogens

2018-19 Hercules Recycling Cart Audits

Months in which audits were performed in 2018:

- August, September

2018:

Approximately 1300-1500 carts audited on 3 different recycling routes

252 - Recycling carts containing trash were tagged

74 - One-time Surcharge credits provided to customers with first time contamination that responded with a call to our Customer Service Office

178 - Number of customers who paid the contamination surcharge

Months in which audits were performed in 2019:

- January

2019:

Due to weather, approximately 200-300 audits done on 1 recycling route

13 - Recycling carts containing trash were tagged

1 - One-time Surcharge credits provided to customers with first time contamination that responded with a call to our Customer Service Office

Questions?

Visit us at www.richmondsanitaryservice.com

Or call 510.262.7100

