



General
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JULY 2007

Keep Modesto Beautiful! No Ifs, Ands, or Butts...

All too often we see litter in our streets, playgrounds and parks. Some litter lasts a few weeks and some hang out for years. What is the most common type of litter found just about anywhere? **Cigarette butts**. Many people mistakenly believe that cigarette butts are biodegradable and are so small they don't matter. They do!

Facts

- Cigarette filters are not biodegradable. Many contain plastics (not cotton as in the past) and can take up to five years to break down, leaking toxins into land and water environments.
- Butts left on sidewalks and streets can wash into storm drains, which take them to the ocean and other waterways. Marine animals eat the litter and are unable to digest it causing them to think they are full; then they die of starvation.
- Children who ingest more than one cigarette or more than three cigarette butts may show symptoms of nicotine poisoning.

No ashtray handy? Try one of these ideas:

- Extinguish your cigarette; roll the paper between your fingers to remove the remaining tobacco. Put the butt back into the cigarette pack, or between the pack and cellophane, for later disposal.
- Carry a purse size personal ashtray or a small tin box (reuse a breath mint box!) and empty it into a trash can at a later time.

A look at the lifespan of some commonly littered items:

| Item | Decomposition Time |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Glass bottle | Approximately 1 million years |
| Plastic 6-pack cover | 450 years |
| Aluminum can | 200-500 years |
| Plastic film container | 20-30 years |
| Painted wooden stake | 13 years |
| Plastic bag | 10-20 years |
| Plastic coated paper | 5 years |
| Cigarette butt | 1-5 years |
| Cotton rag | 1-5 months |

Source: California Waste Management Bulletin

Please dispose of your garbage and recycling items properly and keep Modesto beautiful! Questions? Call the Solid Waste Office at (209) 577-5494 for more information.

Test Your Recycling Knowledge

How much do you know about recycling?

1. **How long does it take for a plastic bottle to decompose in a landfill?**
 - a. 250 years
 - b. 350 years
 - c. 450 years
 - d. 550 years
2. **What is the order of importance**
 - a. Recycle, reuse, reduce
 - b. Reduce, reuse, recycle
 - c. Reuse, recycle, reduce
3. **Approximately how many of the 33 million waste tires generated by Californians each year are stockpiled or landfilled?**
 - a. 8 million
 - b. 5 million
 - c. 10 million
4. **How much of the average landfill is made up of packing materials?**
 - a. One-fourth
 - b. One-third
 - c. One-half
 - d. Three-fourths
5. **Every week about how many species of plants and animals become extinct world wide?**
 - a. 1
 - b. 10
 - c. 20
 - d. 50

Answers: 1)c 2)b 3)a 4)b 5)c

* Due to the cyclic nature of mailing the City Beat with the utility water bills, some of the events/programs may have already occurred.

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CITY OF MODESTO

Year-round watering schedule for City of Modesto customers.

| | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
| If Your Address Is... | ODD | DO NOT WATER | EVEN | ODD | EVEN | ODD | EVEN |
| Midnight to Noon | WATER | DO NOT WATER | WATER | WATER | WATER | WATER | WATER |
| Noon to 7 PM | <u>DO NOT WATER DURING THESE HOURS!</u> | | | | | | |
| 7 PM to Midnight | WATER | DO NOT WATER | WATER | WATER | WATER | WATER | WATER |

Odd numbered addresses end in 1,3,5,7,9
Even numbered addresses end in 0,2,4,6,8

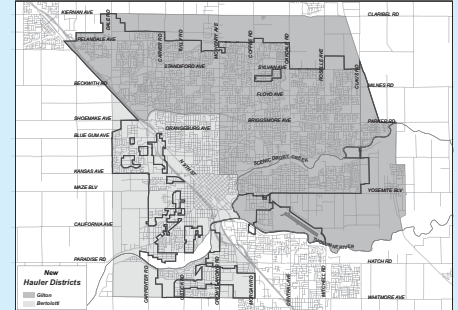
For more information regarding water conservation, or to report water waste, call (209) 342-4580.



Meet Your Garbage Company

Do you live in the city limits of Modesto? Then you've probably noticed that we now have two residential garbage companies. Depending on where you live, you might have Bertolotti Disposal or Gilton Solid Waste for service.

Bertolotti Disposal services 30% of Modesto residents, indicated in light grey on the map at the right. Gilton Solid Waste services 70%, indicated on the map in dark grey.



Bertolotti uses two separate trucks to service your black and green cans. During your service day, one truck will come by and service your black can and another will service your green can.



Gilton uses one truck to service both your cans at the same time. The truck is split inside, down the center and green waste goes in one side while your garbage and recycling goes in the other.



Both garbage companies operate between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Your cans should be out by 6 a.m. on your service day. Your green can is for yard cuttings and food scraps only. Your black can is for your garbage and recycling.

If you have any questions about your garbage and recycling services please contact:

Bertolotti Disposal
(209) 537-8000

Gilton Solid Waste
(209) 527-3781

City of Modesto
(209) 577-5494

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- Two AM and two PM weekday round trips to Dublin/Pleasanton BART Station during commuter hours.

