

City Beat

www.modestogov.com

(209) 577-5200

TDD (209) 526-9211

HELP KEEP OUR STORM DRAINS FREE OF LEAVES

Our goal as a City is to provide service excellence and to be responsive to our citizens. Sometimes in order to best serve you, we need you to help us! In the winter months this is especially true, as the leaves fall from our City's beautiful trees they start to block the gutters and clog the storm drains which causes street flooding. With your help, we can keep storm water flowing through the gutters and down the drains and reduce the potential for flooding during the rainy season.

Our City's storm drain system relies upon the ability to effectively capture the storm water in the gutters and then drain it off the street through storm drain inlets (where you find storm drain grates) and discharge it into Dry Creek and/or the Tuolumne River – but even in moderate rain storms, this process can typically take between 24 and 36 hours. When leaves fall from the trees and sit in the gutters and storm drain inlets, the water pools and causes flooding on our streets. The best measure residents and City staff alike can take to prevent street flooding is to make sure leaves are kept away from the gutters and the storm drain inlets.

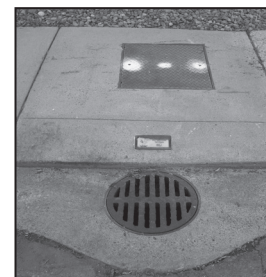
The pictures below demonstrate what ***not*** to do and what ***to*** do in order to keep our storm drains clean and draining storm water.



Keep leaves 12-18 inches away from the curb in order to allow the storm water to flow to the storm drain inlet. If leaves are left next to the curb, the leaves will block the storm water causing the street to flood.



Rake leaves away from storm drain inlet grates to help with draining the flood water and therefore reducing the potential for street flooding.



If you see street flooding, please report it immediately by calling 577-6200, 24 hours per day, seven days per week. If you see a storm drain that is clogged with leaves or other debris and are not able to free the debris yourself, call the number mentioned above and City staff will come out and take care of the storm drain. A little teamwork between residents and City staff can help our community can have less street flooding and help us achieve our mission of providing service excellence and responsive service!

GO GREEN IN 2011

It's easy to go green in Modesto... residents are offered a variety of ways to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste. Below is a summary of some of the different garbage and recycling programs available to all Modesto residents and businesses.

Organic Waste:

Residents should fill their green organic waste containers with small prunings, grass clippings, leaves, all forms of food waste, cardboard and paper (newspapers, magazines, phone books, junk mail, paper towels, napkins, etc.). Do not put plastic bags, dirt, sod, rocks, concrete, animal feces, household garbage or wood in your green container. Modesto residents recycled 45,000 tons of organic waste in 2009!

Pruned Refuse and Leaf Collection:

Large yard trimmings are picked up from your street or alley each month. Most materials are sent to the Compost Facility and recycled into compost. In the month of December, ONLY leaves are picked up and only in the street. Modesto residents recycled approximately 30,000 tons of yard prunings and leaves in 2009!

Bulky Item Collection:

Residents can dispose of large household items at the curb in front of their home two times per calendar year for FREE by appointment through your garbage company. Call for an appointment and program restrictions. Modesto residents disposed of 1,561 tons of bulky items (124 tons were recycled) in 2009!

Used Oil Recycling:

Modesto residents can recycle up to four (4) gallons of used oil each week for FREE by appointment through your garbage company. Used oil can also be recycled at any of Modesto's Certified Collection Centers – call (209) 577-5493 for details. Modesto residents recycled 95,000 gallons of used oil in 2009!

Household Hazardous Waste:

All area residents and "registered small quantity generator businesses" can dispose of household hazardous waste (HHW) materials at the Stanislaus County HHW Facility located at 1716 Morgan Road. The facility is open Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for FREE residential disposal. Modesto residents recycled 221 tons of household hazardous waste in 2009! Call (209) 525-6789 for more information.

If you have questions about these or any other garbage or recycling program, please contact the City of Modesto Solid Waste Office at (209) 577-5494 or go online to www.modestogov.com/prnd/recycling.

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY – REPORT WASTEWATER OVERFLOWS

Think of all the places you use water every day – running the dishwasher, brushing your teeth, taking a shower, flushing the toilet, washing your hands, etc. Each time you do any of these activities the water, and anything in it, travels through a massive system of pipes that run throughout the entire City to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Anytime water has something added to it, it becomes wastewater.

Occasionally, the pipes the wastewater runs through become blocked and cause the wastewater to overflow and bubble out of the sewer manholes you see in streets. While the City works hard to prevent these situations, they do occur and we look to our citizens to help locate the overflows as quickly as possible.

We urge residents to call the Wastewater Treatment Plant at (209) 577-6200 if they see water bubbling, flowing or standing on the street from a manhole.

CITY OFFICES TO CLOSE

City of Modesto offices, located at 1010 Tenth Street, will be closed in observance of holidays and work furloughs on:

February 14, 2011

February 21, 2011



Customer Service
(209) 577-5395



Pay by Phone
(209) 577-5395
Option 4



Pay Online at
www.modestogov.com

For more information on City services including who to contact for utility-related emergencies, visit www.modestogov.com.

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