

# City Beat

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JANUARY 2007

## ***Garbage & Recycling Opportunities Abound!***

The City of Modesto offers residents a variety of ways to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste items! This is a summary of the garbage and recycling programs available to Modesto residents and businesses. "Residential" customers have a black garbage and green yard waste container while "commercial" customers have dumpsters.

### ***Blue Bag Recycling (residential):***

Residents place their recyclables into blue plastic bags and toss them into the black garbage can along with household garbage. Blue bag items include glass and plastic bottles/jars; aluminum and bi-metal cans; cardboard, chipboard and paper products such as newspaper, junk mail, computer paper, phone books, magazines, etc. Rolls of free Blue Bags are available at various locations in the community, or use the blue grocery bags from your local grocer.

### ***Bulky Item Collection (residential):***

Modesto residents can dispose of large household items at the curb two times per calendar year for free. Call your garbage company for an appointment and then place the items in the street the night before the appointment. No items will be picked up without an appointment. For safety purposes, remove doors from all large appliances and take care not to block fire hydrants, storm drains, etc.

### ***Yard Waste – Food Waste – Compost (residential):***

Residents can fill their green yard waste containers with small prunings, grass clippings, leaves, weeds, food waste and food soiled paper products. All the material is sent to the City's Compost Facility for processing. Please, no plastic bags, dirt, sod, rocks, concrete, animal feces, household garbage or wood in your green container.

### ***Pruned Refuse – Leaf Collection (residential):***

Large prunings are picked up monthly from your street or alley. Prunings should be less than six feet in length and no single piece should weigh over 50 pounds. In areas without alleys, material should be placed out the Friday–Sunday before the 1st Monday of each month. In areas with alleys, materials should be placed out the Friday–Sunday before the 3rd Monday of each month. Place materials one foot from the curb or fence. Dirt, sod, grass clippings or concrete will not be picked up. December is leaf season

***(continued on back)***

## ***Urgent Fire Safety Message to All Residents***

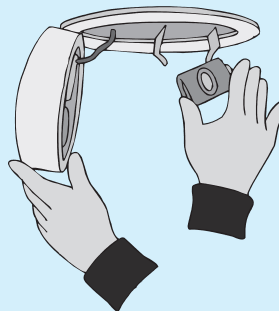
Tragedy has stricken our community in what should be a joyous time of year. Recently we experienced a fatality due to a residential fire. While loss of property resulting from such unforeseen events is sometimes unavoidable, life must be protected at all cost. We are strongly encouraging all members of the community to actively safeguard their homes.

On the heels of our fatal tragedy, and within the span of a week, were two subsequent close calls. The common factor in each of these incidents was the lack of a smoke detector. To save lives and prevent needless injuries in our community, the City of Modesto Fire Department would like to remind everyone to install a smoke alarm. If purchasing this life-saving device will cause financial hardship, one will be provided and installed at no cost. Generous donations from the community have allowed our city to provide this service in order to insure life safety. There is absolutely no reason for any family to go unprotected.

In addition, everyone who already has a smoke detector installed is encouraged to adopt this simple lifesaving habit: change your smoke alarm batteries when you change your clocks back to standard time every year. If you missed changing your batteries last month, don't wait until next year. Replace them now.

Finally, we ask that you take the time to test smoke alarms once a month by pushing the test button and practicing escape routes with the entire family. Families should also prepare a fire safety kit that includes working flashlights and fresh batteries.

Lets all work together to preserve lives and property in our community. As the holiday season approaches, THINK FIRE SAFETY.



If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact the Modesto Fire Prevention Bureau at (209) 571-5553.

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

*City Beat is printed on 30% recycled paper.*

*(continued from front)*

only; no pruned refuse will be collected. Leaves are collected from the street only. Piles of leaves with pruned refuse mixed in will not be collected. Contact the Forestry Office at (209) 342-2249 for more information.

**Used Oil Recycling (residential):**

Modesto residents can recycle up to four gallons of used oil each week, free. Collection is by appointment only. Call your garbage company and make an appointment. Pour the oil into a plastic container with a screw-top lid. Do not mix the oil with any other materials. Place the jugs on your driveway near your house or garage, NOT AT CURBSIDE, by 6 a.m. on the appointed day. Residents can also recycle used oil at any of Modesto’s Certified Collection Centers. Call (209) 577-5493 for details.

**Cathode Ray Tubes (residential & commercial):**

Cathode Ray Tubes (CRT’s) are found in televisions and computer monitors and are considered hazardous due to their lead content. Modesto residents and businesses can safely dispose of them by calling their garbage company and requesting a CRT coupon. Residents can dispose of two, and businesses can dispose of four per calendar year. See below for other electronic disposal options.

**Household Hazardous Waste (residential & commercial):**

All area residents and “registered small quantity generator businesses” can dispose of hazardous materials at the Stanislaus County HHW Facility. Materials such as paint, solvents, used oil, batteries, brake fluid, antifreeze, fluorescent lights, and electronic devices (computers, monitors, TV’s, VCR’s, etc) cannot be put in the garbage and must be handled properly. The Facility is located at 1716 Morgan Road and is open Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. for free residential disposal opportunities. Call (209) 525-4123 for more information.

**Top Ten Garbage Violations**

1. Placing or storing anything in an alley—unwanted items, furniture, appliances, etc.
2. Placing garbage in the green yard waste can, including plastic bags or sheeting.
3. Not making an appointment for a bulky item pick-up.
4. Placing bulky items in the street more than 24 hours before the appointment.
5. Placing unacceptable items out for bulky item collection—tires, TV’s, glass, wood, construction debris, garbage, clothing, etc.
6. Placing hazardous waste in the garbage instead of taking it to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility—motor oil, paint, batteries, fluorescent lights, electronics, etc.



7. Rinsing dirty garbage cans and left over concrete residue into the street instead of on the lawn or yard.
8. Draining pool or spa water into the street instead of into the sewer drain (bathtub or sink).
9. Placing garbage cans on the sidewalk for collection or leaving the cans in the street after the service day.
10. Overfilling garbage or yard waste cans

If you have questions about garbage or recycling programs, contact the Solid Waste Office at (209) 577-5494.

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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	<b><u>DO NOT WATER DURING THESE HOURS!</u></b>						
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.

**Please Turn Off Your Sprinklers when It Rains**

- Adjust the clock of your automatic watering system to fit the needs of your lawn! Your lawn will need less water when it starts to cool off.
- Do not water in the middle of the day, or during windy and rainy conditions. Remember during the fall and winter your lawn is semi-dormant and needs very little added water. Learn to adjust your irrigation timers to save water during the rainy season.
- Occasional watering through the winter is needed for evergreens during dry periods.
- Consider aerating your lawn and yard to keep the soil porous. Adding fine humus or mulch over the lawn will increase moisture-holding ability in the topsoil. About 1/8 to 1/4 inch at a time will help.
- Wrap and insulate outdoor plumbing to protect from freezing – Newspaper, old towels or rags wrapped with duct tape. Hardware stores carry insulation wrap for outdoor plumbing.