

# City Beat

[www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com)

(209) 577-5200

TDD (209) 526-9211

## Going Green with Recycling in 2012!

It's easy to go green in the City of Modesto! Modesto offers residents a variety of ways to reduce, reuse and recycle their waste items. The following is a summary of the garbage and recycling programs available to all Modesto residents and businesses. "Residential" garbage customers are defined as having black and green waste containers while "Commercial" garbage customers have dumpsters.

### Organic Waste (Residential):

Residents should fill their green organic waste containers with small prunings, grass clippings, leaves, weeds, all forms of food waste, cardboard and paper waste. Paper waste includes newspapers, magazines, phone books, junk mail, paper towels and napkins, etc. All the material is recycled into compost at the City's Compost Facility. Modestans recycled 52,000 tons of organic waste in 2010! Please do not put plastic bags, dirt, sod, rocks, concrete, animal feces, household garbage or wood in your green container.

### Buy Back Centers (Residential & Commercial):

Residents can recycle California Redemption Value (CRV) beverage containers and some scrap items at any of the many convenient buy back centers. Californians recycled 16.5 billion (84%) CRV containers in 2010! For a complete list of locations, call 1 (800) RECYCLE or go to <http://www.modestogov.com/prnd/recycling/buyback.asp>.

### Bulky Item Collection (Residential):

Modesto residents can dispose of large household items for free at the curb two times per calendar year. Call your garbage company for an appointment; 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. Take care not to block fire hydrants, storm drains, etc. Call for program restrictions. Modestans disposed of 1,476 tons of bulky items (66 tons were recycled) in 2010!

### 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. Place materials one foot from the curb or fence. No dirt, sod, grass clippings or concrete will be picked up. The City is divided into four service areas; set out and pick up times depend on your location. Most of the materials are sent to the Compost

Facility for processing. Modestans recycled approximately 31,000 tons of prunings and leaves in 2010! Go to:

[http://www.modestogov.com/prnd/trees/green\\_waste.asp](http://www.modestogov.com/prnd/trees/green_waste.asp) or call the Green Waste Division at (209) 577-5463 to determine the schedule for your area. *December is leaf season only; no pruned refuse is collected. Leaves are collected from the street only. Piles of leaves with pruned refuse mixed in are not collected.*

### 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 containers 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. Modestans recycled 26,412 gallons of used oil in 2010! Call (209) 577-5493 for details.

### 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 disposed of properly. Modestans recycled 157 tons of household hazardous waste in FY 10/11! The Facility is located at 1710 Morgan Road and is open Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. for free residential disposal opportunities. Please call (209) 525-6789 for more information.

### Waste Tires (Residential):

Free recycling events are offered to residents (no businesses) when grant funds are available. Contact your garbage company for program restrictions and to see when the next event is scheduled. Modestans recycled approximately 3,500 tires in 2010!

*If you have questions about these or any other garbage or recycling program, please contact the Solid Waste Office at (209) 577-5494. You can contact your garbage company by calling, Gilton Solid Waste at (209) 527-3781 or Bertolotti Disposal at (209) 537-8000.*

## FATS, OIL AND GREASE

They're not just bad for your health; they're bad for your home's plumbing and the City's Wastewater Collection System.

**Did you know?** Over the past year there have been over 100 reported stoppages within the City's Wastewater (sewage) Collection System due to grease. Grease in a warm liquid form may not appear harmful, but as the liquid cools, it thickens and residue forms on the interior of pipes. This hardened grease can block a sewage line completely. Just a small amount of grease in your household drains and pipes can cause blockages in the plumbing and could potentially cause a sewage overflow in your home or yard.

**What is at stake?** Grease-related problems can cause sewage backups and overflows that are messy, costly, and a potential threat to you and your family's health, and the environment. The City of Modesto wants to help citizens stop the problems associated with grease before they occur.

**What can you do?** Here are some ways you can help protect the environment, your plumbing, and Modesto's Wastewater Collection System:

- Never pour grease down sink drains or toilets.
- Scrape grease into a container and dispose of in your black garbage can and scrape food scraps from all dishes and place into your green organic waste can.
- Use strainers in sinks to catch food scraps and other solids. Empty the strainers into the green organic waste can.
- Do not put grease or greasy food in your home garbage disposal. Garbage disposals only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain.
- Wipe dishes prior to washing. Do not rely on commercial additives in detergents to dissolve grease. They might pass it down the sewer line and cause problems in other areas.
- Place cooking grease in the black garbage can for weekly collection. Allow the grease to cool before placing the grease in your garbage bags and seal the plastic bags to prevent leaks.
- Help spread awareness by sharing these tips with family, friends, and neighbors.

For more information, call the Public Works Wastewater Division at (209) 577-6200.

## MODESTO CITY-COUNTY AIRPORT

617 Airport Way • Modesto, CA 95354  
(209) 577-5318



## Traveling ?

*Fly Modesto*

### United Express Airlines

Daily flights from Modest with  
Worldwide Connections

1-800-864-8331 • [www.united.com](http://www.united.com)

### Leisure Charter Flights • Air and Hotel Packages

March 1-4  
Harrah's – Laughlin, NV  
\$169 per person

Jan. 18-21, Feb. 29–Mar.3,  
Apr. 22-25  
Resorts at Wendover, NV  
as low as \$99 per person

### Round-trip air • Hotel • Transfers Included

Wendover Reservations, call 866-359-9363 • [www.wendoverfun.com](http://www.wendoverfun.com)

Harrah's Reservations, call 800-315-9113 • [www.harrahslaughlin.com](http://www.harrahslaughlin.com)

CITY OF MODESTO

## WASTE TIRE RECYCLING EVENTS

### Program guidelines:

City of Modesto residents only

No businesses

Tires with rims—OK

Tires all sizes—OK

Questions? Call (209) 577-5495

### What to do:

- Call your garbage company and request a coupon  
Gilton Solid Waste (209) 527-3781  
Bertolotti Disposal (209) 537-8000
- Take tires to garbage company
- Do not mix tires with other waste



FREE DISPOSAL ON DATES LISTED BELOW

January 1-7  
February 5-11  
March 4-10



Funded by a grant from the Department of  
Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle).

