

City Beat

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DECEMBER 2007

City Crews to Collect Holiday Trees for Recycling

City of Modesto pruned refuse crews will begin picking up green, untreated holiday trees in January as part of the normal pruned refuse collection. Pickup for residents with street yard trimming collection begins Monday, January 7, 2008. Pickup for residents with alley yard trimming collection begins Monday, January 21, 2008.

Untreated green trees may also be cut-up and placed in your green yard waste can for pick up with your normal weekly collection. Collected trees are recycled at the city's co-compost facility.

Please follow these simple steps to ensure proper disposal of holiday trees:

Disposal of Untreated Green Trees:

- Remove all tree stands, rods and tinsel. Trees cannot be picked up by city crews if these items have not been removed
- Cut trees in half if they are more than six (6) feet tall
- Place trees curbside to be collected with your regular yard trimmings pickup or in your green waste pickup can

Disposal of Trees Treated With Flocking, Paint or Fireproofing:

Trees with flocking, paint or fireproofing cannot be composted and will not be collected by city crews. Flocked, painted or fireproofed trees may be cut up and placed in your **black** garbage can or taken to the nearest garbage company transfer station. Transfer stations can be found at:

Gilton Solid Waste

800 S. McClure Road, Modesto
(209) 527-3781

Bertolotti Disposal

231 Flamingo Drive, Modesto
(209) 537-8000

For information on holiday tree collection or the pruned refuse/green waste program, visit the city's website at www.modestogov.com, or contact the Community Forestry Division at (209) 342-2249.

Garbage Holiday Routes

During the weeks of Christmas and New Year's, garbage service for all Tuesday – Friday route customers **will run one day late**. Please place your cans out for service accordingly.

Reminder, Modesto's garbage companies take only four holidays per year, New Years Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas.



Give the Gift of Green by Decking the Halls with Less Waste This Year!

It is estimated that between Thanksgiving and the New Year, Americans generate an extra million tons of waste each week. In fact, 38,000 miles of ribbon is thrown out each year--enough to tie a bow around the Earth!

Waste Reduction with Wrapping, Packaging, Greeting Cards

- Creative wrapping paper substitutes include used blueprint paper, the Sunday comics, or even the sports section for a sports enthusiast. Design your own wrapping paper using decorated paper shopping bags. You can decorate them with paints, crayons, or markers.
- Replace tissue paper with old lace or strips of paper shopping bags or used gift wrap.
- For large, hard to wrap gifts, just add a large fancy bow.
- Reuse sturdy decorative gift bags.
- Hide a large, unwieldy gift somewhere in the house or yard, and give the person a card with a clue, or a series of clue cards to lead them to the present.
- Make gift tags from last year's holiday cards.
- Shipping a gift? Reuse the foam peanuts from another package, or use unbuttered popcorn for packing.

** 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.

Winter Fire Safety Tips

While curling up in front of a blazing fire this winter, most of us will not be thinking about our chimneys. However, maybe we should be paying a little more attention. According to the National Fire Protection Association, heating equipment is the leading cause of home fires during the months of December, January, and February, and trails only cooking equipment in home fires year-round. In 2003, space heaters and heating equipment (i.e., fireplaces and chimneys) accounted for 66% of home heating fires and 73% of associated deaths. These statistics ought to give you pause as you start buying firewood or using your portable heater. Fortunately, a little knowledge can help keep you safe while you warm your home this winter.

Chimney fires often occur because of a build-up of creosote. As smoke leaves the fireplace it travels up a cooler chimney and condensation occurs. Creosote is the resulting residue that sticks to the chimney's inner walls. It is very combustible and, if allowed to build up, will sooner or later ignite and burn inside the chimney. The good news is that there is much you can do to prevent these types of fires.

Here are some tips that can keep your house safe this winter:

- When installing a new stove, fireplace, or chimney, make sure that a qualified technician installs it or checks the unit for proper installation.
- Chimneys should be inspected and cleaned annually.
- When burning wood in fireplaces or stoves, it is important to use properly seasoned wood. Green wood contains more moisture and is likely to smolder, leading to increased creosote build-up. Wood that is too old may also result in excess creosote.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposing. Dispose of ashes in a metal container.
- Space heaters need space. With very few exceptions, home heating devices need a 36" clearance from flammable material.
- Portable space heaters should be turned off every time you leave a room or go to bed.
- When buying heaters, choose devices with automatic shutoff features.
- Have a multi-purpose ABC fire extinguisher easily available and know how to use it.

If you realize a chimney fire is occurring you should get everyone out of the house, including yourself, and call the fire department.

Remember that homes are replaceable, but lives are not!

Modesto Fire Department



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2007 Collection Schedule

This calendar provides specific information about when to place yard trimmings out for collection. Trimmings are only collected once a month and it takes approximately two weeks for pick up in each collection area. *Questions? Call Community Forestry at (209) 342-2249.*

Key for Yard Trimming Collection:

- Only days you may place your trimmings out on the **STREET** for collection.
- ◡ Day crews **start** to pick up **STREET** collection (First Monday of Month)
- ◻ Only days you may place your trimmings out in the **ALLEY** for collection.
- △ Day crews **start** to pick up **ALLEY** collection (Third Monday of Month)

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31					1
2						8
9						15
16				20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

**LEAVES ONLY
No Yard Trimmings
Pile Leaves in Street**

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	