

Water Words

The Most Common HHW Products

Household hazardous wastes (HHW) are defined as waste materials which are typically found in homes, which exhibit characteristics such as: corrosivity, ignitability, reactivity, and/or toxicity, or are listed as hazardous materials by the EPA.

- Drain openers
- Oven cleaners
- Wood and metal cleaners and polishes
- Automotive oil and fuel additives
- Grease and rust solvents
- Carburetor and fuel injection cleaners
- Starter fluids
- Batteries
- Paint Thinners
- Paint strippers and removers
- Adhesives
- Herbicides
- Pesticides
- Fungicides/wood preservatives



Water Conservation—Waste Not, Want Not

The earth is known as the "water planet," since approximately 80% of its surface is water. Nearly 97% of the earth's water, however, is salty or otherwise undrinkable. Another 2% is locked in ice caps and glaciers. That leaves just 1% for human, animal and plant life.



The California Department of Water Resources estimates the state's developed water supply at 78 million acre-feet (an acre-foot is approximately 326,000 gallons, enough water to cover a football field about one foot deep.) Of that, 46% is used by the environment, 43% is used by farms and 11% is used by homes and businesses.

Orange County depends on imported water from the Colorado River and the State Water Project for approximately 50% of its total supply; the other 50% comes from groundwater. Although our local water providers have sufficient water for current needs, water resources in California are diminishing as population increases.

The largest, least expensive, and most environmentally sound source of water to meet California's future needs is the water currently being wasted in every sector of our economy. It is estimated that one-third of California's urban water use—more than 2.3 million acre-feet—can be saved with existing technology. Even without changes in technology, it is estimated that indoor residential use could be reduced by approximately 890,000 acre-feet per year - almost 40% - by replacing inefficient toilets, washing machines, showerheads and dishwashers and by reducing the level of leaks.

Remember...

- **Reducing water demand begins at home:** Be water wise. About 60 percent of all urban water is used outdoors. The next time you water, keep in mind the water tips found on the reverse side of this article.
- **Capturing, treating and delivering water is costly:** The journey water takes to your tap is an expensive trip. Water comes from either a surface source (lake or river) or is pumped from underground wells and is treated before it is distributed to homes and businesses. Developing new water supplies and building new treatment facilities is expensive.
- **Water supply is limited:** Laguna Woods does not currently have access to groundwater; we are wholly dependent on imported water to meet all of our drinking water demands.
- **Wasting water costs money:** Water costs you money—reducing your water use saves you money.

The average Californian uses 185 gallons of water per day. This number has increased since the 1900's by 10 gallons.

Laguna Woods Recycles



Drop Off Locations

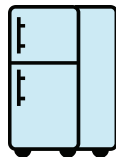
- * **2020 Recycling Center** (in the Willow Tree Center next to the Mobile gas station) - get cash for glass, aluminum, and plastic beverage containers.
 - * **EZ Lube** (at the corner of Moulton Parkway and El Toro Road) - accepts used vehicle oil and filters.
 - * **Vons, Stater Bros, Home Depot, Rite Aid and CVS** accept plastic bags and used batteries.
- At Laguna Woods City Hall**

Dry medications, cell phones, household batteries, inkjet cartridges, white paper, fluorescent bulbs and small electric appliances.
- * **Goodwill Industries** (off Moulton Parkway in the United Country Methodist Church parking lot) - accepts clothing, books, kitchen appliances, small furniture and computers.
 - * **Irvine Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center** (at Sand Canyon and Irvine Center Drive) - accepts most electronic and hazardous waste.
 - * **Laguna Woods Village maintenance yard** (off Campo Verde) - accepts mixed recyclables from Village residents only.

Become a Coastal Steward

If you care about the coast, become a Coastal Steward by pledging to improve our environment. You can do this by reducing waste and conserving water. Here are some tips for reducing waste which will also help to protect and preserve our coastal and marine resources:

- ~ Seek out products with minimal packaging and avoid products with excessive packaging.
- ~ Get your name taken off junk mail lists. Learn how at www.stopjunkmail.org.
- ~ When packing food for lunch or a picnic, put food in reusable containers rather than disposable plastic and paper bags.
- ~ Use cloth napkins and towels instead of paper napkins and paper towels. Use a sponge or towel for cleanup jobs in the kitchen.
- ~ Clean and reuse glass jars for storage.
- ~ Refill a water bottle instead of buying a new one.
- ~ Use the backsides of paper for scratch paper, grocery lists, and phone messages.
- ~ If you receive a package containing foam peanuts, reuse them yourself or take them to a shipping store that will reuse them.
- ~ Use old newspapers instead of foam peanuts to cushion fragile items in packages.
- ~ Buy recycled products whenever possible. Buy products with the highest percentage of post-consumer content that you can find.
- ~ When given the choice between a recyclable glass container and a disposable plastic container, choose glass.
- ~ If you find a six-pack ring, break or cut the plastic loops before disposing of it.
- ~ Share magazine or newspaper subscriptions with a friend.
- ~ Use an electronic book reader or borrow books and magazines from the library.
- ~ Bring a bag with you when you go to the store instead of accepting a paper or plastic bag. If don't have a bag with you, ask yourself if you really need a bag for the item purchased.
- ~ At a take-out restaurant, request that your food be packed in paper instead of plastic. Seek out restaurants that routinely use paper instead of plastic packaging. Take only the number of paper napkins that you truly need, and if you don't need utensils, don't accept them.
- ~ Give your business to companies that practice responsible environmental policies.



Free Bulky Item Pick-Up

2011 Pick-up Schedule

October 22, November 19, December 17

Ware Disposal picks up bulky items—furniture, appliances and computers— one Saturday each month. If you have curbside collection, place bulky items along the curb; if you have bin service, place your items in or around your trash bin area. Items may be placed out no earlier than 6 p.m. the evening prior to collection or later than 7 a.m. on collection day. **No toxic, hazardous or liquid waste will be collected.**