



Allied Waste Services of Daly City



## Community Newsletter

1680 Edgeworth Avenue,  
Daly City, California, 94015

For language translation of this newsletter, please visit  
[www.alliedwastedalycity.com/newsletter.cfm](http://www.alliedwastedalycity.com/newsletter.cfm)

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Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
San Mateo, CA  
Permit No. 610

### Customer Service

(650) 756-1130  
7:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. weekdays.  
For Commercial, Residential Service  
and Recycling info.

### Serv-U-Debris Box Service

(650) 756-4340

### Mussel Rock Transfer Station

Mon—Sat, 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.  
(650)756-1130

### Ox Mountain Landfill

(650) 726-4718

### Website

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

### Recycleworks

Resource for waste prevention,  
recycling and composting.  
(888) 442-2666 [www.recycleworks.org](http://www.recycleworks.org)

### Household Hazardous

**Waste** A county program.  
(650) 363-4718  
[www.smhealth.org/environ/toxic/hhw.html](http://www.smhealth.org/environ/toxic/hhw.html)



Fall 2008

In this issue of TODAY: Bottled vs. Tap Water • New Rules for "Sharps" Disposal • Cart Set Out • Scavenging is Stealing

***It is illegal to dispose of  
sharps in the trash or  
recycling!***

*information inside...*

# Bottled vs. Tap: What's the Better Water?

**The United States is the world's largest consumer market for bottled water with sales hitting a record 8.82 billion gallons in 2007, a 9.5 percent increase from 2005.**

To put this in perspective, sales of bottled water in the U.S. have now overtaken sales of milk and are close to outselling beer. And to top it all off, the U.S. has one of the safest tap water supplies in the world.

## *So what's the problem?*

People choose bottled water because it is perceived to be safer and of higher quality than tap water, and as a healthy alternative to soda or other sugary drinks. Americans are willing to spend from 240 to 10,000 times more per gallon for bottled water than for tap water! But is bottled really safer than tap? Not according to the Environmental Protection Agency, which is authorized under the Safe Drinking Water Act to enforce health standards for drinking water. The Act requires consumers to be notified of water system violations, annual reports listing contaminants found in drinking water, includes provisions to protect underground water resources and require disinfection of surface water supplies.

Daly City drinking water is the highest quality and undergoes a rigorous monitoring program to comply with prescribed regulations, as mandated by the State Department of Public Health and the United States Environmental Protection Agency standards. For example, Daly City maintains 35 sampling sites located throughout the community, which are tested weekly for microbiological contaminants. The water delivered to your home, business and/or school is of the safest quality. Only under rare circumstances, specifically involving persons with identified health concerns, such as people on dialysis or those with significantly compromised immune systems, is there a need for specially treated, filtered or prepared water. Additional technical information regarding monitoring and water quality results can be found at:  
[www.dalycity.org/city\\_services/depts/wwr/report2007.htm#12](http://www.dalycity.org/city_services/depts/wwr/report2007.htm#12).

## *Plastic Bottles and Our Environment*

Each year, 29 billion plastic water and soda bottles are produced for use in the United States, equaling about 2.7 million tons.

A staggering four-fifths of this amount ends up in landfills rather than being recycled.

The manufacturing of plastic bottles requires the equivalent of 17 million barrels of crude oil, so rising oil and natural gas has only exacerbated the high price of virgin plastic, which in turn increases costs for Americans while utilizing precious non-renewable resources. Rising plastic prices have forced some companies that bottle their product to think twice about using expensive virgin plastic resin. Now they are working to make more light-weight bottles that contain more recycled resin. Bottles made with thinner plastic use 30% less resin and rely on the water or liquid inside to maintain their shape. Using less resin per bottle could translate to a savings on raw materials of about \$1.5 billion a year!

80% of American households have access to plastic recycling programs and only around 1% actually take advantage of the opportunity. Surprisingly, a 2007 survey of American beliefs about recycling found that as much as 72% of Americans don't know that plastic is an oil-based product; while 40% of them think that plastic biodegrades underground, in composts, in landfills, or incredibly, out at sea. The truth is, plastic doesn't biodegrade at all, at least not for up to a thousand years! Allied Waste Services offers all residents of Daly City and Colma the opportunity to recycle all plastics, #1-#7, in curbside and commercial recycling containers, in addition to many other recyclable materials.

Visit Allied Waste at [www.alliedwastedalycity.com](http://www.alliedwastedalycity.com)  
or call us at (650) 756-1130  
for more information.



So which is the better bet, bottled or tap water?

The answer is clearly tap water! Daly City boasts a clean, safe water supply for its residents and encourages people to choose sturdy, reusable containers for drinking on the go. If you must use bottled water, remember to find a recycling container while you're out or save the bottle to recycle at home.

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# It is illegal to dispose of sharps waste in the trash or recycling containers.

**B**eginning September 1, 2008, State law makes it illegal to dispose of sharps waste in the trash or recycling containers, and requires that all sharps waste be transported to a collection center in an approved sharps container.

Section 117671 of the California Health and Safety Code defines "home-generated sharps waste" as hypodermic needles, pen needles, intravenous needles, lancets, and other devices that are used to penetrate the skin for the delivery of medications derived from a household, including a multifamily residence or household.

## Sharps Waste Disposal

The following are some of the disposal options available to you for disposal of sharps waste:

**Pharmacies**— Some drug store chains take back their customers' needles, such as Walgreens locations in San Francisco (unfortunately, Daly City/Colma Walgreens do not yet provide this service).

**Mail Back Service**— The following companies, approved by the California Department of Public Health, will accept mailed-back sharps:

- EnviroMed Safety & Compliance (877) 340-2430  
www.enriromedinc.com
- GRP & Associates (800) 207-0976 www.sharpsdisposal.com
- Medasend, Inc. (800) 200-3581 www.info@medasend.com
- Sharps Compliance, Inc. (800) 772-5657 www.sharpsinc.com
- Stericycle, Inc. (800) 355-8773 www.stericycle.com
- WCM (866) 436-9264 www.wcminc.net

For additional information on requirements for use of these mail-back services, contact your local health or environmental health agency, or the California Department of Health Services, Medical Waste Management Program at (916) 449-5671.



**Medical Clinics/Hospital**— Some Kaiser Permanente locations will accept used sharps in approved containers. The following are drop-off locations:

- South San Francisco: outside the main pharmacy entrance in parking garage, 1200 El Camino Real.
- Daly City: inside main lobby entrance, 395 Hickey Blvd.
- San Bruno: inside entrance, 901 El Camino Real.
- San Bruno: on the 3rd floor outside the pharmacy, 801 Traeger Avenue.

Please keep in mind that all trash is handled by people both at recycling facilities and at landfills. These people could be stuck by needles or other sharps that poke through their protective clothing, including heavy gloves and boots. This could result in serious injury, including infection by pathogens either from the needle user or by pathogens that contaminate a needle after it is disposed. After Sept. 1., home-generated sharps can no longer be thrown in trash or recycling containers. It is important to note sharps may still be stored in a puncture-resistant, sealed, 1-gallon jug or other approved sharps containers. Visit [www.alliedwastedalycity.com](http://www.alliedwastedalycity.com) for updates on sharps disposal information and drop-off locations.

# Proper Cart Set Out

**N**ow that the new, convenient 3-cart system is in place at your home you might have some questions about the best way to set them out on collection day. Daly City and Colma neighborhoods are diverse and one set out method that works for one street may not work for another.

For our customers who need assistance with their cart set out, Allied Waste will be applying a cart tag to the handle of your cart. Similar to a "luggage tag," the cart tag will be affixed with a zip tie and offers a simple, easy to understand illustration of proper set out options. Below is a sample tag which displays three different options for cart set-out:

**If you have any questions regarding set-out on your collection, please contact Allied Waste Customer Service at (650) 756-1130, Monday-Friday from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.**



## Waste & Recycling News

### Drop off your household hazardous waste (HHW) free of charge

at Daly City City Hall, 333 90th Street, Daly City on the following date:

- Saturday, November 8  
8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

You must call (650) 363-4718, to make an appointment or visit [www.smhealth.org/hhw](http://www.smhealth.org/hhw) to schedule an appointment online.

### Free E-Waste Recycling Event

- Saturday, December 13 and  
Sunday, December 14

9 a.m.-3 p.m. Front parking lot of City Hall. 333 90th St., Daly City. More information: (888) 832-9839

### Scavenging is stealing!

Theft of recyclables is against the law! California cities are required to meet recycling diversion rates of at least 50% and when recyclables are stolen it effects everyone. The sale of collected recyclables contributes towards keeping your trash costs low, so when recyclables are stolen we all end up paying for it. If you observe recycling being scavenged (this includes from residential carts, business containers and especially loose cardboard) please contact the non-emergency phone numbers for either the Daly City, Broadmoor or Colma Police Departments (depending on where the scavenging is occurring).

Daly City 650-991-8119

Broadmoor 650-755-3838

Town of Colma 650-997-8321

