

This Land Is Our Land

Tehama County is keeping hazardous household products out of our environment to protect the land we all depend on!





Tehama County Solid Waste Management Agency is making it easier for residents to properly dispose of household hazardous waste, which keeps the environment clean for all residents and businesses who depend on the land.
PHOTO BY EMILY TEAGUE

Protecting the Land for Us All

Efforts in Tehama County are making the proper disposal of household hazardous waste easier

BY MATT JOCKS

When Pat Meehan is out hiking, he looks around and sees what nature has given Tehama County and is filled with appreciation.

Too often when he looks down, he sees what other people have added and is filled with frustration.

Meehan, 70, and his wife can be found by Highway 36, picking up the trash on a stretch of road they have adopted.

"I just don't understand why people don't want to take care of their environment," he said. "Sometimes, I'll see trash three paces from a trash can."

The waste can be an eyesore, but sometimes, it's downright toxic. Household items like paints and pesticides can harm the land, water and air if not properly disposed. Because many of these materials are flammable, waste workers could be exposed to fire and injury. In recreational areas like Lassen Volcanic National Park or Black Butte Lake, items like 1 lb. propane gas cylinders used for heating and cooking can cause similar harm.

Tehama County Solid Waste Management Agency's job is to reduce the amount of improperly disposed hazardous waste. By providing separate drop-off locations and encouraging the use of environmentally friendly alternatives, like refillable 1 lb. propane cylinders, the Agency hopes to accomplish multiple goals.

"It lessens the impact on landfills and also allows folks to keep things out of the environment that are dangerous."

BOB WILLIAMS

Tehama County Supervisor

"It lessens the impact on landfills and also allows folks to keep things out of the environment that are dangerous," said County Supervisor Bob Williams, who represents District 4.

Williams noted that the costs of environmental cleanup are borne solely by the County, so proper disposal can help save public dollars.

Fellow County Supervisor Dennis Garton, representing District 3, said it's a matter of following the blueprint that has been set with other recyclables, like paint.

"The goal is to make it a habit and not a chore," Garton said. "We want everyone to know, whether it's fluorescent tubes or cylinders, where to go. I think we're headed in the right direction."

WHY CAN'T I PUT IT IN THE TRASH?

The products we use serve a purpose. But some products contain hazardous materials that can contaminate our air, water and even the food that we eat. These products must be kept out of the trash and disposed of at special household hazardous waste (HHW) facilities. Examples of HHW include:



Fluorescent lights



Motor oil (and oil filters)



Antifreeze/coolant



Pesticides and fertilizers



Oil-based paints and stains



Solvents (paint thinner, gasoline, nail polish)



Pool and spa chemicals



Disinfectants



Acids (strippers and cleaners/rust removers)



Bases (drain cleaners and detergents)



Compressed gas cylinders and aerosol cans

Rich Buchanan with Tehama County Solid Waste Management Agency puts single-use propane cylinders into a box until they can be recycled. Recycling the cylinders is costing the Agency approximately \$10,000 each year.

PHOTO BY EMILY TEAGUE

A Problem Piles Up

Single-use 1 lb. propane cylinders left in parks are costing ratepayers up to \$10,000 a year

BY MATT JOCKS

Small, 1 lb. propane gas cylinders are used by campers, backpackers and fishermen who come to visit Tehama County's Lassen Volcanic National Park and Black Butte Lake. Most of those are single-use disposables, and when the gas is gone, the cylinders remain.

Park workers often see those cylinders on the sidewalks next to trash receptacles, which means a couple of things.

"Most of the people who come here are pretty conscientious," said Gary Mott, Facility Manager at Lassen Volcanic National Park. "So when we see [the cylinders] next to the trash, it shows that they know it doesn't belong in the trash. But they didn't know what else to do with them."

Of course, others put them directly in the trash and there lies a problem. Most cylinders that appear empty usually have some gas remaining, creating a hazard for solid waste workers and potentially an explosive danger if the cylinders make it into garbage trucks.

The cylinders must be safely dismantled and recycled, but doing so creates a cost, which is passed on to residents in increased fees, according to Rachel Ross, Agency

Manager for Tehama County Solid Waste Management Agency.

She estimated the cost of separation and disposal at about \$3.50 per cylinder. Given the volume, that adds up to approximately \$10,000 per year. The hazard also figures into the Agency's insurance bill.

The Agency has attempted to address the problem with what Ross calls a "three-pronged approach."

"First was to establish collection locations," she said. "Then, we are trying to educate people on the dangers. Third, we are trying to provide solutions — eventually, we're hoping that's refillable cylinders."

There are 20 collection receptacles located throughout the county, with 20 more planned for 2018. At

Lassen, creating a collection location

at the Kohm Yah-mah-nee Visitor Center has been a success, Mott said, with collection exceeding his "wildest expectations."

Since they were installed in April 2017, the Agency has collected 1,100 cylinders, preventing them from harming the environment and solid waste workers.

"We're getting some dangerous material out of the waste stream," Ross said.

"We're getting some dangerous material out of the waste stream."

RACHEL ROSS

Agency Manager for Tehama County Solid Waste Management Agency

CHEAP AND DISPOSABLE: THE TRUE COST

\$3.15

The cost to purchase a 1 lb. disposable propane gas cylinder.



\$3.50

The cost to the Agency to recycle a single 1 lb. disposable propane gas cylinder.



\$10,000

Cost to the Agency to manage the estimated 2,857 cylinders that are collected annually.



PHOTO BY
EMILY TEAGUE

NAPA Auto Parts Signs on to Sell Refillable Cylinders

BY MATT JOCKS

Jeff Paschal remembers walking through local stores and seeing disposable 1 lb. propane cylinders on the shelves and wondering what became of them when they had served their purpose. As someone who cares about the environment, the potential problem was obvious.

Paschal didn't know at the time he would be part of the solution.

As the manager of a NAPA Auto Parts outlet in Corning, Paschal is leading the way for more people to use refillable cylinders, which could significantly lessen the environmental damage and danger stemming from improper disposal.

His store sells the refillables in addition to being an authorized refiller.

"[Refillables] really do make sense," Paschal said. "I am all for the environmental aspect of it."

Paschal features the refillables prominently in his store and said sales are gaining momentum. He even had several customers buy them as Christmas presents last year.

So far, most of the buyers have come from local farms, where workers use cylinders to cook their lunches in the field.

"With all the hunters and fishermen in this area, these really should take off," he said. "It's just a matter of getting the word out. It's a learning curve."

This is one area in which Paschal welcomes competitors. He said hardware and sporting goods stores would be logical outlets to sell and refill the cylinders.

"Aside from maybe getting more traffic, I'm not really doing this to make money," he said. "If it's going to help save the environment, then absolutely."

To become a retailer, please contact Jordan Wells of ReFuel Your Fun, jordan@calpsc.org 916-706-3420. Your business will be added to the ReFuel Your Fun website map.

Jeff Paschal,
manager of
NAPA Auto
Parts in
Corning

Propane Cylinder Collection Receptacles Are Made by Probationers Looking to Improve Job Skills

BY MATT JOCKS

Shaffer Cabinets in Red Bluff is manufacturing propane cylinder recycling receptacles with the goal of making it easier to collect and recycle the cylinders. Making those receptacles takes skill, and the Tehama County Probation Department and Shaffer Cabinets are teaching that skill to people who want a better life.

Probationers are manufacturing the propane collection receptacles, which are currently in 20 locations around the county. Beyond helping the environment, probationers are also getting a chance to learn new skills like woodworking and welding so they can transition back into the workforce.

That's what happened to Jeff Castro, whose drug dependency led him to incarceration, and then to Shaffer Cabinets.

"I didn't know anything about cabinetry. I was actually kind of embarrassed," Castro said. "But they taught me and I was able to do the job and use that program as momentum to get a regular job."

Castro said he owes the program a lot for giving him a chance. He now works for Bell-Carter Foods.

"When you're on drugs, your life becomes about the drugs," he says. "In this program, you learn you've got to show up every day. And I like that."

Owner Mike Shaffer said many of these workers come in having completely lost the connection to showing up, taking direction and working. There are some failures, but plenty of successes.

"Are these guys going to become professionals at [woodwork and welding]? Probably not," Shaffer said. "But the idea is to teach them about working and get

Probationers
making
collection
receptacles



PHOTO COURTESY SHAFFER CABINETS

them back into a normal life."

After describing the path some of his workers have taken from drug dealing or severe anger management issues into the workplace, Shaffer said the success stories have changed him.

"I've become a lot different person than I was five years ago," he said. "It has enlightened me."

CEO Invests in Creating a Better Alternative

BY MATT JOCKS



Sam Newman, CEO of Flame King, accepts an award from the CPSC's Heidi Sanborn

Sam Newman has poured hours of work into designing a product that is better for consumers and the environment.

Newman is the CEO of Flame King, a company that manufactures refillable 1 lb. propane cylinders to market. It was a long process to perfect the product and then do battle with an entrenched industry that profits from disposables.

Once word gets out about the benefits of refillables, Newman said sales will take off. For now, he's content knowing he's doing the right thing.

"I'd say ... my [primary] motivation was environmental," he said.

Discarded disposables are an eyesore and, more importantly, a potential danger. When they are discarded in the trash, the crushing action of garbage trucks can cause fires. Consumers who try to refill disposables are also at risk of injury.

"I just don't see disposables as being sustainable," Newman said. "As more laws are passed requiring recycling, there is going to be pushback from cities and counties who will want to recover that cost."

Currently, there are only two U.S. manufacturers of refillable 1 lb. propane cylinders, the other being Manchester Tank based in Tennessee. While larger propane tanks can be refilled, Newman thinks there is a major reason to believe that refillables will soon become the standard for 1 lb. propane cylinders.

"Given the fact that the market for this is largely outdoors people," he said, "those people also tend to be environmentally conscious. It's just a matter of getting the word out that there is a better alternative."

To that end, agencies such as Tehama County Solid Waste Management Agency have taken steps.

Recognizing the solution to dealing with any difficult waste stream is always a multi-prong approach, the Agency partnered with GreenWaste of Tehama to hold several cylinder exchange events throughout the County. GreenWaste of Tehama donated reusable 1 lb. propane cylinders to the Agency. Residents who wished to participate in the exchange brought two empty disposable 1 lb. propane cylinders to the event and received a free refillable cylinder.

For company and product information, visit the websites below.

Flame King: www.flameking.com

Manchester Tank: www.mantank.com

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP!

Problems with Single-Use Cylinders



- **Costly!** Disposables are expensive when you realize 80% of the purchase price is for the packaging, and only 20% is for the gas.
- **Disposing of them is dangerous.** "Empty" cylinders often still contain a small amount of gas that can explode and injure solid waste workers and cause fires. This leads to higher insurance costs and trash bills.
- **Expensive for cities/counties.** Because of the danger involved, they cost our state millions of dollars to manage.

Recycle single-use cylinders properly!

Take them to an **HHW facility** or one of the many collection receptacles located throughout the County, including Lassen National Forest (see back page).



Why Refillables?

- **Save money!** They cost less than \$15 and can be reused hundreds of times for up to 12 years.
- **Help the environment!** Reduce millions of pounds of steel packaging waste.
- **Make life easy!** Avoid the hassle of taking your empty cylinders to an HHW facility — simply refill it at your local retailer!



Buy Refillable Cylinders!



Retailer, refill and exchange locations can be found on www.refuelyourfun.org.

DON'T TRASH THESE HHW ITEMS

PAINT: FREE TO GOOD HOME!



Why it's great:

Paint is more than just decorative, it protects homes and other buildings from heat, moisture and other elements.

Why it doesn't go in the trash:

It contains toxic elements like acrylics, vinyls and epoxies that are considered hazardous.

What do I do with it?

In Tehama County, getting rid of unwanted paint is FREE and easy! Residents can drop it off at several retail locations as well as the landfill (see locations on back page). If it's usable — with original labeling and undamaged container — bring it to the landfill's Paint Swap program where it can be put to good use. In 2017, Tehama County collected 5,700 gallons of latex- and oil-based paint, most of which was brought into the county's Paint Swap program.



Visit www.PaintCare.org to find a retailer that accepts paint near you!

CFLS: DO THE 'LIGHT' THING

Why it's great:

Fluorescent lamps and CFLs (compact fluorescent lights) are a cost- and energy-efficient lighting option. Compared to incandescent light bulbs, they can use up to 80% less energy, last up to 10 times longer and can pay for themselves in just 6 months.

Why it doesn't go in the trash:

Fluorescent lamps contain small but toxic amounts of mercury and must be properly disposed.

What do I do with it?

In Tehama County, residents can recycle up to 20 fluorescent light bulbs at several retail locations, as well as at the landfill for FREE.



For more information, visit www.co.tehama.ca.us/toxics/fluorescents or call 530-528-1103.

BATTERIES: THE POWER TO RECYCLE RIGHT



Why it's great:

They power your remote control and keep your alarm clock on schedule, but once they've outlived their usefulness, household batteries (including AA and 9 volt) and lithium ion batteries (such as those used in laptops) need to be properly disposed.

Why it doesn't go in the trash:

Batteries contain cadmium, lead, mercury, nickel and lithium — all toxic heavy metals that pose serious risks to solid waste workers' safety and the environment. They've been known to explode and cause fires in landfills, processing facilities and garbage trucks. If left in landfills, they can leach into the ground and threaten drinking water.

What do I do with it?

Recycle them for FREE at one of many local retail stores and community centers or curbside in your recycling bin, bagged in the orange bags provided by Tehama County Solid Waste Management Agency.



Visit www.call2recycle.org to find a battery drop-off location near you!

Clean out the Garage Responsibly!

Where to take your unwanted things

ELECTRONIC WASTE COLLECTION

E-waste can be dropped off during normal hours at the Tehama County/Red Bluff Landfill **free of charge**. **FREE** events are also held from **8 a.m. to 12 p.m.** on the last Saturday of each month at:

Tehama County Department of Social Services

310 S. Main St., Red Bluff

Park and Ride commuter parking lot

located at the corner of Solano and Third streets (across from Corning City Hall, 774 Third St.)

What to Bring:

- Televisions
- Microwaves
- Computer equipment
- DVD players and VCRs
- Other small electronic items

There is no limit to the number of items, although hazardous waste and large appliances will *not* be accepted.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Monthly events are **FREE** for Tehama County residents. (Small fees apply to businesses. Call 530-528-1103 to schedule an appointment.) Please keep materials in original containers. Do not mix chemicals. Transport no more than 15 gallons or 50 pounds per load to:

Tehama County/Red Bluff Landfill HHW Facility

19995 Plymire Road
530-528-1103

Corning Disposal HHW Facility

3281 Highway 99W
530-528-1103

What to bring:

- Fluorescent lights*
- Batteries*
- Automotive fluids like transmission fluid, antifreeze*, grease or motor oil* and filters*

- Yard and garden products like pesticides and fertilizers
- Pool and spa chemicals
- Household cleaners such as detergents, disinfectants and bleach
- Fuels such as gasoline and kerosene
- Oil- and lead-based paints, stains and solvents
- Aerosol cans
- Propane cylinders (small only)

(*items accepted **FREE** of charge at the landfill daily)

Examples of what NOT to bring:

- Garbage
- Food waste
- Yard waste
- Construction materials like drywall, glass and roofing
- Appliances
- Medical waste
- Explosives or ammunition

Getting rid of those unwanted items is free and easy!



PASSENGER TIRE COLLECTION

Tehama County residents can drop off their passenger tires at several collection events throughout the year for **FREE** from **8 a.m. to 12 p.m.** on select dates and locations. Please note the following restrictions:

- Tires up to 17 inches
- No truck or equipment tires
- Tires must be off the rim
- Per Department of Transportation regulations, no more than nine tires can be transported at a time

AGRICULTURAL TIRE COLLECTION

Agricultural tires can be dropped off for **FREE** during the entire month of February at the Tehama County/Red Bluff Landfill with a maximum of six tires accepted per address. Agricultural plastics also accepted year-round. Vouchers are available beginning January 1 at several locations throughout the county. For locations and acceptable tire sizes, contact 530-528-1103.

For event dates, locations and further information, visit www.co.tehama.ca.us/calendar-of-events or call 530-528-1103.

Disposal and Recycling Locations

Use this key to find out what each location accepts:



Batteries



CFLs



Paint



Household Hazardous Waste



Empty Propane Cylinders

- 1 Tehama County/
Red Bluff Landfill
19995 Plymire Road, Red Bluff
- 1 Tehama County/
Red Bluff Landfill HHW Facility
19995 Plymire Road, Red Bluff
- 2 Red Bluff Recreation Area
Sycamore Grove Campground
1000 Sale Lane, Red Bluff
- 3 Red Bluff RV Park
80 Chestnut Ave., Red Bluff
- 4 Sears Hometown Store
570 S. Main St., Red Bluff
- 5 AlSCO, Inc.
535 Antelope Blvd., Red Bluff
- 6 Tehama County Library,
Red Bluff Branch
545 Diamond Ave., Red Bluff
- 7 PaintMart
435 Antelope Blvd., Red Bluff
- 8 Home Depot
2650 Main St., Red Bluff

- 9 GreenWaste of Tehama
1805 Airport Blvd. Red Bluff
- 10 Gott Country Store
18371 Bowman Road, Cottonwood
- 11 Lassen National Forest
▲ Battle Creek Campground
▲ Elam Creek Campground
▲ Gurnesy Creek Campground
▲ Potato Patch Campground
- 12 Kohm Yah-mah-nee
Visitor Center
Lassen Volcanic National Park
21820 Lassen Peak Highway, Mineral
- 13 Volcano Country Camping & RV
38460 Hwy 36, Mineral
- 14 Corning Disposal
HHW Facility
3281 Highway 99W, Corning
- 15 Black Butte Lake
Buckhorn Recreation Area, Corning

- 16 Woodson Bridge
State Recreation Area
25433 South Ave., Corning
- 17 McCoy's Ace Hardware & Farm Supply
2060 South Ave., Corning
- 18 Corning Senior Center
1015 4th Ave., Corning
- 19 Tehama County Library,
Corning Branch
740 3rd St., Corning
- 20 Z-Wireless
908 Highway 99W, Corning
- 21 Corning Ace Hardware
2020 Solano St., Corning
- 22 Latimer's Pharmacy
7885 Golden State Highway, Los Molinos
- 23 Nu Way Market
8049 Golden State Highway, Los Molinos
- 24 Los Molinos Ace Hardware
7930 Hwy 99 E, Los Molinos

