

A Quarterly Newsletter Of



City of Downey
562-904-7102
www.downeyca.org
Spring 2009



Safely Manage Your "Sharps" Waste

- The safest way to dispose of sharps waste is to use only State-approved sharps containers. Check availability at the collection sites, a Goodwill store, your local pharmacy, or the L.A. County Department of Public Health.
- If you use a plastic bottle, do not use water bottles. They are made of plastic that will puncture. Use a clean bleach or detergent bottle. Seal the top with tape and label the container "SHARPS."
- Do not fill your container to the top; fill it only until it is about ¾ full. Seal it securely.
- Do NOT flush your sharps waste or medications down the toilet or drain.
- Do NOT place your sharps waste in the trash, green waste, or recycling containers.
- Keep your sharps containers out of reach of children and pets.

Be "sharps" smart



As of last fall, sharps used for in-home medical care can no longer be thrown in the trash. "Sharps" include hypodermic needles, syringes, lancets, intravenous needles, and other medical devices used for self-injection or blood testing by people with chronic or acute medical conditions or those caring for pets at home.

In the past, many of these sharps were improperly disposed of and ended up in residential trash bins or recycling carts. In these containers, the sharps created a safety and health risk for children, people in the community, pets and wild animals, and, especially, waste haulers.

To properly dispose of sharps, you need to begin with the right container. By placing sharps in a sturdy, thick-walled, puncture-proof plastic container, you have created a safe storage location in your home. Refer to the sidebar for more details about safely managing your sharps.

Once your container is filled (to three-quarters full), you need to be sure to dispose of it properly. Remember—sharps containers do NOT go into your household trash, nor do they belong in recycling bins, green waste carts, or office trash cans. Sharps containers need to be dropped off at an approved collection center.

The L.A. County Household Hazardous Waste and E-Waste Roundups accept sealed sharps containers, as do the S.A.F.E. Collection Centers in Los Angeles. For details about collection centers, refer to the box with disposal information.

You can do the right thing with your sharps, protecting your family, your neighbors, and our environment. If you have questions, please call 888-CLEAN-LA or visit www.888CleanLA.com.

"Sharps" Containers

Dispose of your sharps container and/or pick up your free empty sharps container at any of these locations:

Los Angeles County Household Hazardous Waste Roundups

For information, turn to the back page, visit www.888CleanLA.com, or call 888-CLEAN-LA.

City of Los Angeles S.A.F.E. Centers

For information, turn to the back page, visit www.888CleanLA.com, or call 800-98-TOXIC.

Department of Public Health

For clinic locations, visit www.888CleanLA.com.

Free mulch giveaway

CalMet Services, Inc., is providing Downey residents with up to 32 gallons of mulch for springtime planting. Please bring your own containers. The giveaway will take place at the old Albertson's parking lot at 8320 Firestone Boulevard on Saturday, April 18, between 9 a.m. and noon. For more information, call CalMet Services at 562-259-1239.

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Extra leaf collection during June

During the entire month of June, Downey residents may place extra yard waste (that does not fit into their automated green waste barrel) at the curb on their regular pickup day. This special service is FREE and should be scheduled with CalMet Services one business day prior to pickup.

CalMet Services will collect up to FIVE bags, trash cans, or bundles of leaves, clippings, and yard waste per pickup. Please keep bundles of branches under 4 feet in length and under 50 pounds, and do NOT use your regular automated trash or recyclables barrels for this service.

Call CalMet Services one business day prior to your pickup day at 562-259-1239, ext. 244 for English or ext. 245 for Spanish. Then, place these items at your curb by 6 a.m. on your regular pickup day.

Remember, this special, free yard waste collection service is available from Monday, June 1 through Tuesday, June 30. The program will resume again during the month of November.

The power of many

Each spring, citizens fan out across California in the Great California Cleanup, a statewide litter prevention and cleanup program that is part of the Great American Cleanup. The efforts of each volunteer result in "the power of many" improving the communities in which we live.

Beginning March 1 and running through May 31, thousands of volunteers hit the streets, alleys, and waterways of their communities, picking up litter, planting flowers and trees, removing graffiti, and more. Locally, all of Keep Downey Beautiful's cleanups, beautification efforts, and community outreach programs that are held during this period will be counted toward the state's and country's largest cleanup program.

Join your neighbors and friends during this time and participate in one of Keep Downey Beautiful's scheduled monthly cleanups on the third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.:

- April 18 – Lakewood Boulevard and Telegraph Road, southwest corner (meet in the Starbucks parking lot)
- May 16 – Northeast corner of Paramount Boulevard and Cole Street (meet in Tokyo Gardens' parking lot)
- June 20 – Woodruff Avenue, north of Washburn Road (meet in parking lot north of Mr. Pete's)

For these monthly cleanups, volunteers under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Keep Downey Beautiful will provide safety vests, gloves, and trash bags. The cleanups are sponsored by Stonewood Center.

Call 562-904-7159 or visit www.downeyca.org for additional information.

City of Downey
Public Works Dept.
P.O. Box 7016
Downey, CA 90241-7016

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

WHAT'S UP?

16th Annual DOWNEY STREET FAIRE

Saturday, May 2
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Brookshire Avenue
(Firestone Boulevard to the north of Civic Center Drive)

FUN for the whole family!!

- Antiques
- Crafts
- Collectibles
- Entertainment
- Kids' Zone
- Car Show
- Food

Presented by the Downey Chamber of Commerce
562-923-2191

Electronic Waste Collection at Stonewood Center

Drop off *electronics only* on Saturday, May 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Stonewood Center (parking lot on Firestone Boulevard). Just look for the big truck and sign.

Attention, Kids!

Come to **Kids Day** on Saturday, May 9, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Furman Park, 10419 Rives Avenue. Enjoy the Penny Carnival, food, and entertainment by kids. Get information on youth organizations, and visit the *Environmental Fair*, which will promote recycling, water conservation, city beautification, backyard composting, and much more!

Earth Day Every Day for Everyone

Earth Day is April 22. Each year when Earth Day comes around, we are reminded that the earth is our home 24/7/365. Which means, of course, that we need to be taking care of it year-round. Adopt these earth-friendly habits:

1. Save energy. Turn off lights when you leave the room. Turn off computer monitors when they aren't in use. Buy compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) to replace burned-out incandescent bulbs.
2. Reduce your waste. You probably have noticed that paper has a front and a back—use both. If you take lunch to work or send lunch to school, pack it waste-free with washable and reusable containers and a reusable lunch bag or box. Think before you buy. Sometimes you don't really need what you want.
3. Conserve water. Turn off the tap while you brush your teeth or shave. Run the washing machine and dishwasher with full loads.
4. Recycle. Recycling is about far more than just bottles, cans, jars, and papers. You can also recycle batteries, computers, appliances, and more. Not sure how? Contact us.
5. Spread the word. Just because you know about all of this stuff doesn't mean that your friends or coworkers do. Talk to them and share your ideas.



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Learn more at www.earthday.net or at www.epa.gov/earthday.

Street Sweeping & Trash Collection Schedule

Observed Holidays	City Hall Closed	Sweeping	Trash
Memorial Day	Monday, May 25	No	No
Independence Day	Friday, July 3	Yes	Yes
Labor Day	Monday, September 7	No	No
Veterans' Day	Wednesday, November 11	Yes	Yes
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday, November 26	No	No
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday, November 27	No	Yes
Christmas Eve	Thursday, December 24	Yes	Yes
Christmas Day	Friday, December 25	No	No
New Year's Day 2010	Friday, January 1, 2010	No	No

Street Sweeping

When there is no street sweeping, **it will not be made up**. Streets are always swept on the posted day.

Trash Collection

When there is no trash collection, **it will be made up**. Trash will be collected the day after the normal collection day for the remainder of the week. For example, Friday's trash will be collected on Saturday.

Please Note

On a few of the holidays, the schedule causes trash collection to be on the same day as street sweeping for the remainder of the week. During these times, we request that the trash barrels be placed up on the curb so as not to hinder the street sweeper.

Questions?

Trash Collection: CalMet, 562-259-1239
Street Sweeping: Utilities Division, 562-904-1452
Parking Enforcement: Police Department, 562-904-2342

Recycle your used motor oil!

For locations of certified used motor oil and filter collection centers, visit www.888CleanLA.com or <http://earth911.com> or call 888-CLEAN-LA (888-253-2652) or 800-CLEANUP (800-253-2687).



Redeem the value of your California Refund Value (CRV) bottles and cans! For more information, including redemption locations, visit www.bottlesandcans.com.



City of Downey Public Works Department
1111 Brookshire Ave.
P.O. Box 7016
Downey, CA 90241-7016
562-904-7102
www.downeyca.org

Dispose of hazardous wastes properly

If you have household hazardous waste (HHW), universal waste (u-waste), or electronic waste (e-waste), don't put it into the trash! Dispose of it properly at the L.A. County Roundups or the L.A. permanent collection centers. L.A. County Roundups are held weekly on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at various locations. These collections will be held in nearby communities:

- April 18 – Pico Rivera, Southern California Gas Co., 8101 Rosemead Boulevard
- April 25 – South Gate, South Gate Park, Tweedy Boulevard and Hildreth Avenue
- May 23 – Maywood, Maywood Park, 57th Street and Heliotrope Avenue

You can also visit one of the nearby S.A.F.E. Collection Centers. These centers are open every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, from 9 a.m.

to 3 p.m. The nearest S.A.F.E. Centers are:

- Washington Boulevard S.A.F.E. Center, 2649 E. Washington Boulevard, Los Angeles
- Gaffey Street S.A.F.E. Center, 1400 N. Gaffey Street, San Pedro

HHW includes paints, pesticides, solvents, cleaners, oils, and expired medicines. U-waste includes fluores-

cent tubes, mercury-containing items, and batteries.

E-waste includes televisions, computer monitors, CPUs, keyboards, printers, cell phones, and similar items.

For more information, call the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works hotline at 888-CLEAN-LA (888-253-2652) or the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County at 800-238-0172. Or, visit <http://ladpw.org/epd/hhw/>.



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Beautiful is Good.

One simple call can help keep Downey beautiful!

Abandoned Shopping Carts
800-252-4613

Graffiti Removal
562-923-4484

Illegal Dumping
562-904-1161

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal
888-CLEAN-LA