RECYCLING SURVEY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

In December the Public Works Department included a Pasadena Recycles Survey with its 2004 Annual Trash Collection Schedule. The following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) are representative of the responses received. Check the Public Works web site for updates and more FAQs.

FAQs

Q. What actually happens to the recycling after it is picked up?

A. The materials are taken to the Allan Company in Baldwin Park where they are sorted by type. The sorting is done both by hand and mechanically. The sorted materials are sold to brokers who then sell it to others for remanufacture of new products.

Q. If the holiday pickup schedule indicates "one day late" is it late for the rest of the week?

A. All days following the one day late pickup in that week will also be one day late, so that by the end of the week Friday pickups take place on Saturday.

Q. What can be done about scavengers?

A. This is a difficult problem that we are working to resolve. If you can wait to put your recycling out in the morning of your pickup, rather than the night before, it will eliminate the nighttime and early morning scavenging. Also, if you put your beverage containers with CRV value on the bottom and newspapers, cardboard, etc. on top it may also slow them down. If you spot scavengers in your neighborhood contact the Pasadena Police Department at 626-744-4241 and provide them with a description of the person or persons if possible.

Q. Why doesn't the City have a permanent location for household hazardous waste drop off?

A. HHW locations require special permitting and are usually located in industrial zones. There are many environmental concerns and regulations related to the collection and processing of household hazardous waste. The City contracts with the County to provide this service through roundups. There are four permanent sites that any County resident can you; the closest permanent location is in Sun Valley. The location and hours are available at www.lacsd.org or by calling 1-888-CleanLA.

Q. Why aren't there more Household Hazardous Waste Roundups in Pasadena?

A. The City does not schedule the roundups. Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts does the scheduling and since there are 88 cities in Los Angeles County, the roundups are scheduled to serve each region in an equitable manner.

Q. Why are palm fronds, bamboo, fruits and vegetables, plastic bags prohibited from the yard waste container?

A. The Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts determines what is acceptable what is not acceptable for inclusion in the yard waste container. The equipment that grinds the yard waste jams when the prohibited materials are included. Additionally, yard waste that is contaminated is rejected and the load is buried as trash at more than double the cost of clean yard waste.

Q. What can a senior and/or a disable person do when the container is too heavy to move to the curb?

A. The City provides roll out service at no charge to persons who have DMV proof of disability. Contact the customer service call center at 626-744-4087 for an application.

Personal Response

Staff has contacted persons who had specific personal questions or concerns and gave contact information. If you have voiced a concern that should receive a reply, and you haven't heard from anyone, it is because no contact information was included on the survey card. Please contact Public Works at 626-744-4087 or by clicking on the Feedback button on the Public Works home page.