

POLLUTION PREVENTION

Dental Amalgam Program Update

District to Acknowledge Best Management Practices

Nearly all dental offices in the District are in the process of installing amalgam separators and training their staffs on best management practices for amalgam handling. Oro Loma wishes to thank them for their participation. Once an office has completed all program requirements, including installing an approved amalgam separator, and has passed a District inspection, it will be awarded a certificate that acknowledges the efforts to reduce mercury pollution in San Francisco Bay. The certificate is suitable for framing.



Copper Pollution Prevention

The Bay Area Pollution Prevention Group (BAPPG), a committee of the Bay Area Clean Water Association (BACWA), has for many years recognized copper as a major source of water pollution.

Too much copper in the wastewater stream can upset the delicate balance sewage treatment plants need to efficiently clean wastewater. In addition, sludge (solids removed during the wastewater treatment process) that is high in copper is considered a hazardous waste. It is difficult and expensive to dispose of such waste.

Sources of copper in the wastewater stream include copper piping corrosion, industrial copper use, cooling towers, printing, and vehicle servicing, such as replacing brake pads.

An excellent website to find best management practices regarding copper sources is Santa Clara Valley's urban runoff pollution prevention site at http://www.scvurppp-w2k.com/cu_clearinghouse_web/cu_source.htm.



Copper reduction helps Oro Loma continue to meet strict discharge regulations.

Helpful Reminders

FOG Doesn't Belong in Your Drain

Fats, Oil, and Grease (FOG) can clog household plumbing and lead to sewer backups and overflows. Never pour fats, oil, or grease down the drain. Instead, use a non-recyclable container to collect and then dispose of this material in the trash.

Practice these Green Tips:

- Use a water bottle instead of buying bottled water.
- Switch from paper towels to reusable micro-fiber towels.
- Choose environmentally-friendly cleaning products instead of harsh chemicals. The web is a great resource for making your own easy, effective, and inexpensive alternatives, including those on http://housekeeping.about.com/od/environment/Environmental_Cleaning_Solutions.htm /.

Cart Etiquette

- When you place your carts out for pickup, please be sure not to block pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
- Remember to leave at least a one-foot space on either side of your recycling cart, so the collection truck's automatic claw can grasp and empty the cart.
- Once your carts have been emptied, please retrieve them from the curb and store them in a safe place out of sight of your neighbors.

Choose the Size That's Right for You



Do you find that since you are recycling food scraps you never fill up your garbage cart anymore? Or, has your family grown and you are now having a hard time getting all your garbage to fit into your burgundy cart and still close the lid? Waste Management offers residential garbage carts in four sizes—20, 32, 64, and 96 gallon. Downsizing can save you money on your garbage bill, while by upsizing, you can avoid additional charges for overfilling your cart.

What about your green waste and recycling carts? Are they large enough to meet your needs? There is no additional cost for a larger green waste or recycling cart, and there will be no increase in your garbage bill for the service.

Call Waste Management at (510) 613-8710 if you need to change your garbage service or to order larger green waste or recycling carts.