



"Reduce – Reuse – Recycle"

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## A Head Start to Spring Cleaning

Although Punxsutawney Phil has proclaimed several more weeks of winter, Salinas Valley is already showing signs of spring with budding bushes and green hills. Why not start spring cleaning now, and take advantage of free recycling programs to get rid of unwanted bulk and clutter?

Rainy weekends are ideal times to clean closets and get organized for upcoming home improvement projects. Uncluttering might begin with choosing one space and removing everything from it, then separating items into Keep, Store, Donate/Sell, Recycle, Trash and Store.

**KEEP** is what you use on a regular basis and need to access conveniently. This is what you'll put back, neatly and organized.

**STORE** is reserved for the most precious of keepsakes that you don't need on a regular basis. Pack it away in storage containers and put in a thoughtful place to grab it and go in case of a fire or flood. It might also include seasonal items that you will reuse and can store out of the way.

**DONATE/SELL** includes anything that has a useful remaining life, but no longer serves your needs. If you haven't used it in a year, donate it, or sell it at a garage sale.

**RECYCLE** is anything recyclable that you wouldn't donate. This might include broken appliances, old TVs and electronics, old mattresses and box springs, cardboard boxes, even piles of old magazines.

**TRASH** is anything that can't be recycled like Styrofoam packing materials and broken/soiled furniture.

To recycle or dispose of large items at the curbside, take advantage of the free bulky item pickup service offered by your waste hauler. For more information or to set up an appointment, call:

- Tri-Cities Disposal at 1-888-678-6798 for Greenfield, Soledad and Gonzales;
- Republic Services at 831-775-3840 for Salinas; and
- Waste Management at 1-800- 321-8226 for King City and unincorporated areas of Monterey County. Fees may apply in King City.

Appliances without coolant, mattresses, TVs and much more can be recycled without charge at all three of the Salinas Valley Recycles locations and for a limited time, Salinas Valley Recycles is offering free tire recycling. Check our website at [www.SalinasValleyRecycles.org](http://www.SalinasValleyRecycles.org) for dates and limitations and to see what items can be recycled, and what requires fees for disposal.



If you need to safely dispose of hazardous products, Sun Street Transfer Station in Salinas has a full-service Household Hazardous Waste facility, as well as a Goodwill Donation Station to accept useful items for donation.

Cleaning up on Sunday? The Johnson Canyon Landfill in Gonzales is open 7-days a week to make recycling and disposal easier for busy residents.

Getting a head start on spring cleaning is a step toward beating the winter blues and creating a more stress-free spring time. Recycling and donating are important steps toward a future without landfills.

