

Proper Paint Disposal

Did you know that about 70 million gallons of paint go unused in the U.S. every year?

When you need to get rid of extra paint, it's important to do it right, so none of the paint enters the storm drains. Unlike the water that flows down your drain at home, water that enters the storm drain system is never treated and goes directly into our creeks and the Sacramento River. If you have unwanted paint and are looking to get rid of it safely, here are two options:

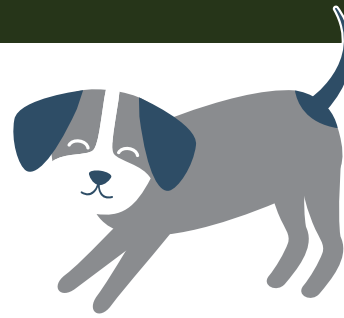
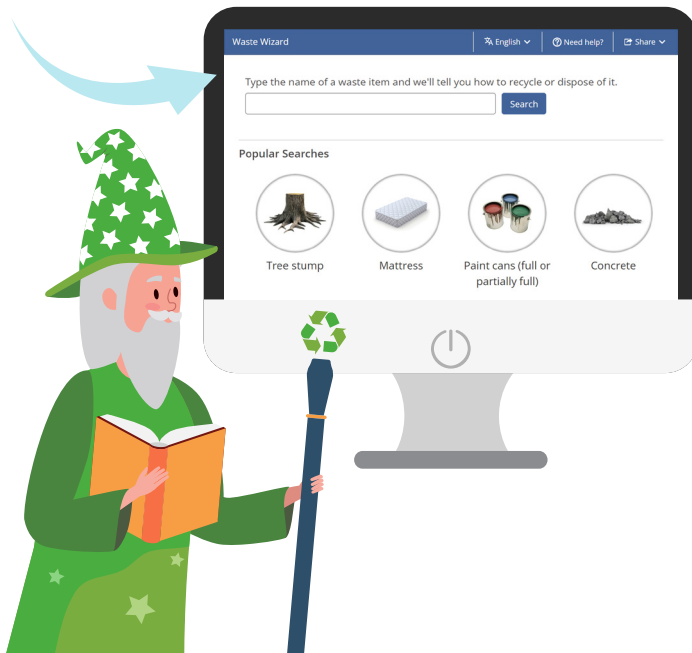
- You can drop it off at the City's Household Hazardous Waste Facility, Tuesday–Saturday from 9 am–4 pm, located at 2255 Abernathy Lane in Redding.
- Place your open paint containers in a safe location and allow the paint to dry. When the paint is completely dry, you can toss it in the trash can.

Here's a Tip! Clean your paint trays, brushes, and rollers in a sink with a drain that goes to the sewer (sink or bathtub).



Waste Wizard

If you have any questions about how to get rid of waste items, check out our online Waste Wizard tool! Type in the name of the waste item, and we'll tell you how to recycle or dispose of it. Visit cityofredding.org/wastewizard to get started.



There's No Poop Fairy?

Waste from our pets contains harmful bacteria that can be deadly to you and the environment.

Pet poop left on lawns and other open areas does not magically disappear or fertilize the grass. Pet waste can be washed away by water and carried into the storm drain system. When there's a lot of it, the harmful bacteria in pet waste can pollute local waters and make them toxic. Also, the nutrients in pet waste can increase algae growth in our waterways, harming fish and other aquatic life. Pet waste should be picked up using a plastic bag, scoop, or shovel and disposed of in the trash.

Great News! The Storm Water Management Program has partnered with the Parks Division to supply pet waste bags at our local parks and trails. In the last 5 years, this program has supplied 220,000 bags!

Bath Time for Fido

When giving your pet a bath, the wash water becomes contaminated with soap, pest control shampoos, and other chemicals. It's up to you to decide where it goes.

Wash water that flows into the storm drain is released without treatment into the same waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and drinking. Here's some things you can do to prevent pet wash water from entering our creeks and the river.

- Bathe your pets in the sink or bathtub.
- Wash pets on a lawn, gravel, or landscaped area, and allow the wash water to sink into the ground.
- Water used to clean pet beds or houses should be drained in a lawn or poured down the sink.
- Use a pet groomer to get rid of the wash water safely.



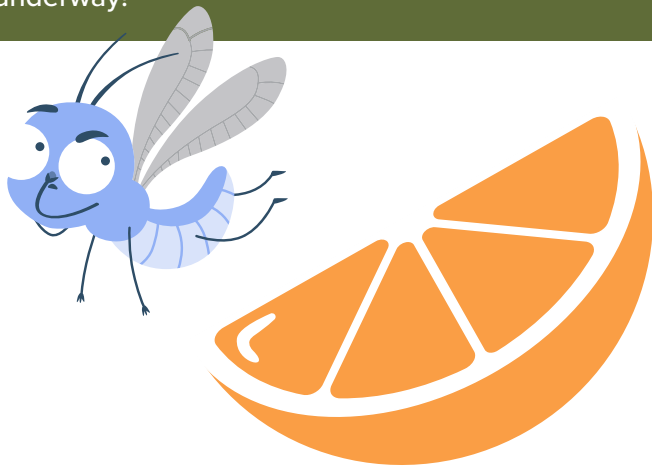
What's a Pyrethroid?

Pyrethroids are household chemicals that are used to kill bugs—but guess what? These chemicals can enter our waterways through runoff from rain and watering your lawn.

While there are many pyrethroids on the market, here are some eco-friendly things to keep out bugs:

- **Mint** is very effective for keeping bugs out of your home and garden. It's also perfect for ants, weevils, and lice.
- **Vinegar** is an excellent pest control method that can get rid of fleas and roaches. If you don't like the smell of vinegar, you can always use lemon juice instead.
- **Citrus** has a very strong smell that pests hate.
- **Diatomaceous Earth** is a powder that is safe to use and has proven to be effective against ants, roaches, and fleas.
- **Borax Powder** is a mineral salt that can help get rid of roaches and other insects.

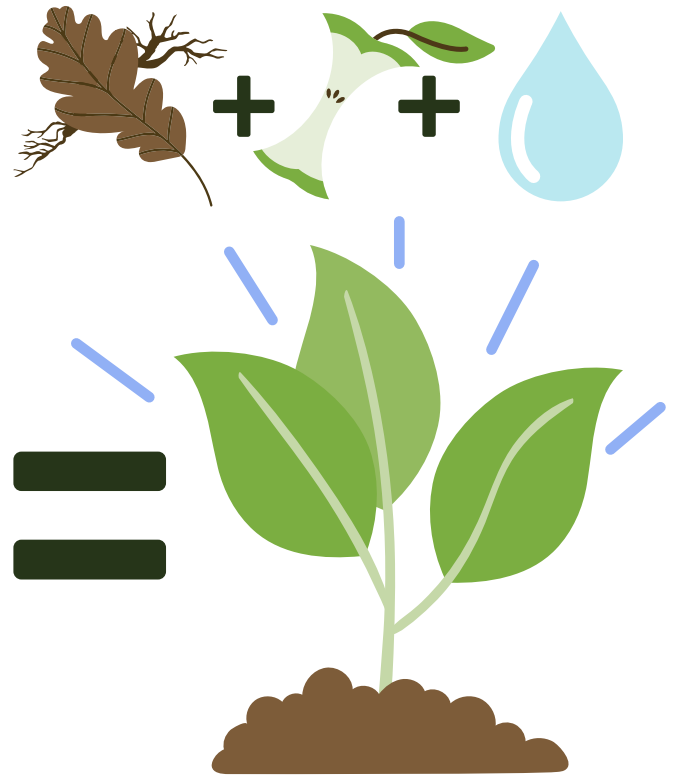
Fast Fact! In 2020, the City of Redding created a Baseline Monitoring Program to find out if our storm water contains pyrethroids and if those levels exceed water quality standards set by the state. Sampling is underway!



Want to learn more?

Visit cityofredding.org/StormWaterMgmt

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Compost

Did you know that you can use the leaves in your yard to compost? Composting is a natural way to turn green waste into plant food! Using compost in your garden improves the soil, helps to keep in moisture, and prevents plant diseases and pests. It also reduces the need for chemical fertilizers. When you choose to compost, you are recycling and reusing which helps keep waste out of the landfill.

Compost requires three basic ingredients:

1. **Brown Materials** (dead leaves, twigs, & wood chips)
2. **Green Material** (grass clipping & vegetable/fruit scraps)
3. **Water**

We can help keep those leaves and yard clipping out of the storm drains by using them to grow our yards and gardens.

Here's a Tip! Not ready to try composting at home yet? Bring your leaves to us! The City of Redding operates a 4.5-acre compost facility at the Solid Waste Transfer Station on Abernathy Lane. Visit cityofredding.org/compost to learn more about the City's composting efforts.