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OCTOBER 2007

Yard Trimmings Placement Frequently Asked Question's

Q. When can my trimmings go out for collection?

- **Street Pickup:** Friday, Saturday & Sunday before the first Monday of each month.
- **Alley pickup:** Friday, Saturday & Sunday before the third Monday of each month.

Q. What will get picked up?

A. Large dead wood, such as tree trimmings. Tree trimmings must be less than six feet in length and less than six inches in diameter. No single trimming can weigh more than 50 pounds. Crews will **NOT** collect: grass clippings, weeds, tree stumps, household items, tires, plastic, bags, boxes, cardboard, trash, junk, dirt, rocks, concrete, sod, ground cover, building materials, or scrap lumber.

Q. When does the City collect my yard trimmings?

A. Pick up on the **streets** begins the 1st Monday of each month. **It takes approximately two weeks to complete the street collections.** Pick up in **alleys** begins the 3rd Monday of each month. **It takes approximately two weeks to complete the alley collections.**

Q. Where should I place my yard trimmings for collection?

Alley Pickup: If you have an alley, place your trimmings in the alley. Trimmings placed in the alley should not extend more than three feet into the alley and must be at least one foot from the fence. Trimmings must be placed in back of your property only.

Street Pickup: Where alleys do not exist, place your trimmings at the curb in front of your property only. Trimmings should not extend more than three feet into the street and must be at least one foot from the face of the curb, and not more than four feet high. If a curb does not exist, trimmings should be one foot from the point of low drainage. Trimmings should be placed on the street in front of your property only, not in front of your neighbor's. All piles should be compact.

• *Please remember that yard trimmings should not be placed near or on driveways, walkways, sewer clean-outs, manholes, fire hydrants, drains, or other utility fixtures.*

For more information visit www.modestogov.com or contact the City of Modesto Community Forestry Division at (209) 342-2249.

Waste Tire Recycling Program

City of Modesto residents can recycle their waste tires for free! Monthly collection events are scheduled now through June 2008. To take advantage of this great program you must call your garbage company and request a coupon be mailed to you. Take the coupon and the waste tires to their transfer station for free disposal during selected dates. Upcoming dates are October 7-13, November 4-10 and December 2-8.

For more information, call Bertolotti Disposal Service at (209) 537-8000, or Gilton Solid Waste at (209) 527-3781. This program was made possible by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

2007 Collection Schedule

This calendar provides specific information about when to place yard trimmings out for collection. Trimmings are only collected once a month and it takes approximately two weeks for pick up in each collection area. *Questions? Call Urban Forestry at (209) 342-2249.*

Key for Yard Trimming Collection:

-  Only days you may place your trimmings out on the **STREET** for collection.
-  Day crews **start** to pick up **STREET** collection (First Monday of Month)
-  Only days you may place your trimmings out in the **ALLEY** for collection.
-  Day crews **start** to pick up **ALLEY** collection (Third Monday of Month)

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12 	13 
14 	15 	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2 	3 
4 	5 	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 	17 
18 	19 	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						2
3						4
10						16
17	1	2	3	4	5	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**LEAVES ONLY
No Yard Trimmings
Pile Leaves in Street**

* Due to the cyclic nature of mailing the City Beat with the utility water bills, some of the events/programs may have already occurred.

Practice Your Fire Escape Plan

Being alerted to a fire and knowing how to escape from one are extremely important, yet only 23% of households have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan. For this reason, the Modesto Fire Department is joining forces with the National Fire Protection Association to remind residents to **“Practice Your Escape Plan.”** During this year’s Fire Prevention Week, from October 7-13, firefighters and safety advocates will be spreading the word about the dangers of home fires, and teaching local residents how to plan and practice escape from a home in the event of a fire.

Are you prepared for a fire? Although it’s difficult to plan for the unexpected, here are some ways you can prepare you and your family.

- Install working smoke alarms inside and outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- Develop a fire escape plan that identifies two ways out of each room and determine a family meeting place outside.
- Make sure your plan allows for any specific needs in your household. If everyone knows what to do, everyone can get out quickly.
- Practice using the plan at least twice a year.
- Studies have shown that some children and adults may not awaken to the sound of a smoke alarm; they may need help waking up.
- If the smoke alarm sounds: Go to your closest exit and if you run into smoke, turn and use another way out. Don’t take time to pick up belongings; just make sure everyone is awake and get out. Move fast, but stay calm.
- Don’t forget to practice your escape plan during Fire Prevention Week!

Also remember, with daylight savings time ending on November 4, when you change your clock...change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Business Academy for Business Owners and Their Employees

The Modesto Police Department is offering a free Business Academy class from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 24, at the Modesto Police Department, 600 10th Street.

This training is offered to small businesses, financial institutions, and large commercial businesses and is open to business owners and their employees. Topics include: Forgery/Fraud/ID Theft, Homeless/Panhandling, Security/Robbery Prevention, Gangs and Drugs Awareness, Auto Thefts, Alarms, Tagging and Hate Crimes.

Space is limited and registration is required. Registration forms can be picked up at the main police department at 600 10th Street, or the northeast office at 3705 Oakdale Road. For more information, please contact CSO Bonn Panyanouvong at (209) 572-9569.

Parade and Downtown Extravaganza

Mark your calendars for the City of Modesto Celebration of Lights Parade and Downtown Extravaganza taking place on November 29 and December 1. Events include: tree lighting, holiday parade, craft faire, Dicken’s faire/farmers’ market and Dodge Ridge show. The Celebration of Lights committee needs your help to make this a successful event. To make a donation, call (209) 571-5582.



Reduce – Reuse – Recycle

Reduce, reuse, recycle is more than just a slogan! It represents the hierarchy of waste reduction. Reducing waste (creating less waste in the first place) has more of a positive impact on the environment than reusing existing waste or recycling the waste we do create. Also, finding ways to reuse existing waste has more of a positive impact than recycling.

Modesto residents can help the environment by making simple changes in the way they do things. The following are great examples of how you can reduce all types of waste:

- *Purchase in bulk* – eliminates multiple packages and saves money
- *Receive and pay bills online* – eliminates monthly paperwork and check writing
- *Use compact florescent lights* – saves energy costs and reduces light bulb usage
- *Use rechargeable batteries* – reduces hazardous waste disposal and saves money
- *Eliminate junk mail* – reduces paper waste and saves trees
- *Use a front loading washing machine* – saves water and energy
- *Drink tap water* (use a filter if necessary) – reduces plastic bottle use and saves money
- *Install sprinkler timers* – saves water and money
- *Walk, bike or rideshare* – reduces air pollution and saves money
- *Purchase a hybrid vehicle* – reduces air pollution and saves money
- *Use sturdy reusable bags when shopping* – eliminates need for carryout bags
- *Repair items when possible* – reduces need to purchase new items and saves money
- *Grow or build your own products* – reduces need to purchase from stores

Please consider these ideas and more when making your purchases and daily choices. Every little bit helps. Remember to reduce, reuse, recycle!



Holiday Garbage Route Changes

Garbage service will run one day late for all Thursday and Friday route customers during the week of Thanksgiving only. No other routes will be affected. Thursday routes will be picked up on Friday and Friday routes will be picked up on Saturday.

Reminder, Modesto’s garbage companies take only four holidays per year, New Years Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas.