

City Beat

www.modestogov.com

(209) 577-5200

TDD (209) 526-9211

USED MOTOR OIL HOME COLLECTION

Do you change your car's motor oil at home? Have the used motor oil collected at your home for FREE! Here's how:

1. Call your garbage company to schedule an appointment to have the oil picked up at your home:
Bertolotti Disposal (209) 537-8000
Gilton Solid Waste (209) 527-3781
2. Store the used oil in a one-gallon plastic container with a screw-top lid.
3. Place the container in front of your garage or up near your home the evening before your collection appointment, do not place the oil in the street or on sidewalk areas.

Limit: four (4) gallons per week. Do not mix the used motor oil with any other substance such as antifreeze. Oil cannot be recycled if it is mixed with other substances.

Questions? Call the Recycle Used Oil Hotline at (209) 577-5493.

BE WATER WISE THIS SUMMER

Summer is here and water demand is at peak levels. The City of Modesto's Water Division would like to remind you to be water wise and continue conserving water.

Since lawns are responsible for over half of outdoor residential water use, here are some helpful suggestions for conserving water with your lawn:

1. **FOLLOW THE CITY OF MODESTO YEAR-ROUND WATERING SCHEDULE.** Check the schedule online at: <http://www.modestogov.com/pwd/utilities/water/conservation/>
2. **MOW HIGHER.** Set your mower at 2-3 inches for Bluegrass and tall Fescue and 1 inch for Bermuda and Zoysia. Allowing the grass to grow taller (to 3 inches) will promote water retention in the soil.
3. **KNOW YOUR SPRINKLER SYSTEM.** If necessary, make adjustments by watching your sprinklers run. Check for leaks, clogs, obstructions and broken heads.
4. **CUT BACK ON FERTILIZER.** Too much nitrogen encourages water-thirsty new growth.
5. **WATER IN SHORT INTERVALS.** The soil can absorb the moisture without wasteful runoff.
6. **SWITCH TO LOW-VOLUME SPRINKLERS.** They apply water at a rate slow enough for the soil to absorb.
7. **INCREASE WATER PENETRATION.** Lawn aeration involves making holes in the lawn either by pushing a rod into it or by extracting a plug of soil. Oxygen, water and nutrients are able to better soak the soil and reach the root system. You can use either a manual or power aerator.
8. **REDUCE IRRIGATION IN SHADY AREAS.** Stretch the time between irrigations.
9. **SWITCH TO DROUGHT-RESISTANT GRASSES.** These include tall Fescue or hybrid Bermuda.
10. **PLANT DROUGHT-RESISTANT GROUND COVER.** Replace difficult to water strips of lawn or grasses with drought-resistant and low maintenance ground cover.

BULKY ITEM COLLECTION

The City of Modesto offers its citizens a convenient way to dispose of large bulky household items. Through the Bulky Item Collection Program each residential garbage service customer may have two bulky item pick-ups per calendar year. Residents must contact their garbage company to set a collection appointment: **Bertolotti Disposal** at (209) 537-8000 or **Gilton Solid Waste** at (209) 527-3781. Items should be placed in front of your home, in the street at the curb (not the alley), the evening before the scheduled collection day.

Acceptable Items	Unacceptable Items
Air conditioning units	Automobile parts
BBQs/Patio furniture	Bags or boxes of trash
Bicycles/exercise equipment	Business materials
Cardboard (dry & bundled)	Computer components
Couches/sofas	Construction debris
Dishwashers*	Dead animals
Dressers	Dirt/sod/yard trimmings
Hot tubs	Fencing material
Lawn mowers**	Glass or mirrors
Mattresses/bed frames	Liquids of any kind
Microwaves	Paint
Refrigerators/freezers*	Propane tanks
Tables/chairs	Televisions
Toilets/sinks/tubs	Tires
Water heaters	Toxic materials
Washers/dryers*	

*Doors must be removed

**All fluids must be removed

DO NOT PLACE MATERIALS OUT TOO EARLY OR ATTEMPT TO DISPOSE OF UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS; DOING SO MAY RESULT IN AN ADMINISTRATIVE CITATION.

DID YOU KNOW...

It is illegal to clean your garbage cans in your driveway or gutter because the water eventually ends up in city storm drains?

So... what IS the proper way to clean and rinse your garbage cans?

RESIDENTIAL: Rinse your garbage cans in your yard and empty the wash water onto a grassy area. The water will not harm the grass. Any solid material that may be washed out of the cans may be collected with a rake. Properly dispose of the waste in a paper or plastic bag and place it back into your garbage can.

BUSINESSES: Contact your garbage company to exchange your dumpster for a clean one. NOTE: there will be a fee for this service.

Bertolotti Disposal - (209) 537-8000
Gilton Solid Waste - (209) 527-3781

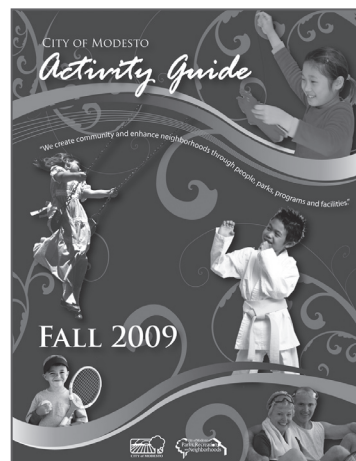
Also, restaurants should always double bag their garbage and clean spills with absorbent materials such as kitty litter or sand instead of hosing it into a storm drain.

Questions? Contact the City of Modesto's Solid Waste Division at (209) 577-5494.

FALL 2009 ACTIVITY GUIDE

Available Monday, August 3!

Download the Fall 2009 Activity Guide beginning Monday, August 3 at www.modestogov.com/prnd/activityguide.



Fun activities include:

- Art
- Computers
- Dance
- Golf
- Gymnastics
- Soccer
- Softball
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Zumba

... and more!

Call the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhoods Department at (209) 577-5344 to find out where you can pick up a FREE copy.