Spring 2013

P3 POLLUTION PREVENTION POST

YOUR NEWS AND INFORMATION SOURCE ABOUT: RECYCLING, POLLUTION PREVENTION, LESS TOXIC PRODUCTS

What's New?

Don't Forget to Recycle Your Filters

After an oil change, you recycle your oil. But did you remember to recycle that filter, too?



Filters contain small amounts of oil; and the steel in the filters can be recycled.

San Mateo County is giving out an oil filter recycling container to County residents who change their own oil. For your own container, email us at pollutionprevention@smcgov.org.

Over 60 locations in San Mateo County collect used oil filters from the public and some cities collect them curbside as well. Find out how to recycle oil and filters at our website: www.flowstobay.org/usedoil

Also check our website for **Filter Exchange events** this spring!

New Car Wash Discount Coupons are Now Available



There are 15 San Mateo County car washes participating in the program, with a variety of discounts available.

The coupons are valid for two years. By using them you will prevent car wash pollution from entering the storm drains near your home.

Send an email with your name and address to pollutionprevention@smcgov.org and we will mail one to you!

What's The Bag Deal?

Starting April 22, single-use shopping bags will be a thing of the past in most of San Mateo County. The Reusable Bag Ordinance goes into effect April 22 and applies to all retailers in County unincorporated areas and cities that have adopted the County's ordinance.



The ordinance requires retailers to stop giving out single-use plastic bags and instead only offer recycled-content paper or reusable bags for a charge of 10 cents per bag.

To avoid the charge, residents can bring their own reusable bag when out shopping. Help conserve resources, reduce litter, protect marine wildlife, and prevent waste!

Find more information about the ordinance and educational materials at our website: www.smchealth.org/bagban.

Bring Your Own Bag Tips:

- Keep reusable bags in the car, your purse, backpack, at work or in other areas where you will remember to take them to the store.
- Don't use reusable grocery bags for other purposes, such as carrying books, laundry or gym clothes.
- Regularly clean your bags. Most fabric/cloth bags can be washed in the washing machine. Wipe other bags with a sponge and mild soap and line dry to keep clean.

Help Keep San Mateo County Clean!

Do you want to help clean up your community in just a few hours? Not sure how to find out what cleanups are planned? Go to Spring Cleaning SMC on flowstobay.org!

The Spring Cleaning SMC web page lists the many spring cleanups taking place all over San Mateo County between March 21 and June 21.



These cleanups are important because wind and rain from winter storms can blow or flush trash into curbside gutters and landscaping. This trash can be captured during a spring cleanup before it ends up entering the storm drain. In some cases, trash that has ended up in ditches and creeks can be captured before it ends up in the bay or ocean.

Spring cleanups also remind neighbors to not litter as they are out and about throughout the summer.

The cleanups are a nice complement to Coastal Cleanup Day, which happens on the third Saturday in September. *Continued on page 2*

I Recycle My Oil and Filter. What About My Antifreeze?

Do-It-Yourselfers already know the right thing to do after an oil change is to recycle used oil and filters at a collection center or on the curb (if pick up service is available). But did you know that antifreeze from your car is also recyclable?

Waste antifreeze contains heavy metals such as lead, cadmium, and chromium in high enough levels to make it a hazardous waste and not allowed in regular trash.

Recycling antifreeze is cost effective and saves resources. Ethylene glycol, a primary ingredient of antifreeze, is produced from natural gas, a non-renewable resource.

To recycle antifreeze, contaminants such as heavy metals are removed. Then the liquid is reconditioned and restored with additives that contain critical antifreeze properties. The process costs less than producing virgin antifreeze.

For a list of antifreeze recycling locations, go to www.flowstobay.org/antifreeze.



If you accidentally mix your antifreeze with your used oil, the oil's now contaminated and must be dropped off only at the County's Household Hazardous Waste Facility. To make an appointment, call (650) 363-4718 or visit www.smchealth.org/hhw.

Check Your Car's Number!

The old standard of changing your oil every 3,000 miles is no longer the norm. Today's new technologies allow many newer cars to go longer between oil changes. Some vehicles can go 5,000, 7,000 or even 10,000 miles between oil changes under normal driving conditions.



"Checking your number" and changing your motor oil according to manufacturer recommendations can help lower the nation's motor-oil demand and thus save resources. In addition, it will save you money.

To see when your car needs a regular oil change, go to CalRecycle's Check Your Number website. www.checkyournumber.org.

Spring Cleaning SMC (con't)

By participating in both a spring cleanup and Coastal Cleanup Day, you are helping address the issue of trash twice a year, which makes a significant impact on the health of the creeks, rivers, bay, and ocean. It helps keep city streets clean, too!

Volunteers like you make a huge difference.

For a list of events coming up this spring, visit: www.flowstobay.org/springcleaningsmc.

Come Find Us This Spring

Spring brings many outreach events. Come find us at any of them - a few are listed below. We'll have information about safe gardening techniques, activities for children and much more. We look forward to meeting you!

Find all events at: www.flowstobay.org/calendar.

April 20
Pacifica Earth Day
Linda Mar Beach Parking Lot
1:30am-3:30pm

May 18
National River Cleanup
Colma Creek, South San Francisco
9:00am-Noon

June 8-16
San Mateo County Fair
Sustainable Living Hall



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