

# RECYCLING & WASTE NEWS

*Trash & Recycling Information for the Central Valley*

Www.CagliaEnvironmental.com *Preserving and Protecting the Environment* 1st Quarter, 2019

## What is Universal Waste?

*Universal wastes have been prohibited from disposal in the trash since February 9, 2006*

When we think of hazardous or universal waste, we imagine a toxic stew of chemicals. While those would qualify as universal waste, there are many commonly used materials at work and at home that qualify as universal waste. These products cannot be disposed of in the garbage, down storm drains, or into the ground. Doing so releases toxic chemicals into the air, ground water and soil, causing contamination of the environment.

**Here is a short list of common universal wastes. It is illegal in California to place any of these materials into your trash or recycling container:**

- ◆ Acids, Oxidizers, and Bases
- ◆ Aerosol Cans – Aerosol cans must be completely emptied before they can be put into the trash.
- ◆ Automotive related products, including antifreeze, brake fluid, diesel fuel, gasoline, and kerosene.
- ◆ Batteries – most household type batteries including rechargeable ones, silver button, mercury, alkaline batteries and most other types.
- ◆ Cleaning Solutions
- ◆ CRT glass – cathode ray tubes that have been broken.
- ◆ Fluorescent Bulbs and Tubes
- ◆ Lamps – discharge lamps, sodium vapor lamps, and any lamps that contain mercury or lead.
- ◆ Materials containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
- ◆ Mercury containing equipment – includes thermostats, thermometers, switches, pressure or vacuum gauges, dilators, tubing, mercury rubber flooring, dental amalgams, jewelry, ornaments and footwear.
- ◆ Motor Oil and Filters
- ◆ Nail Polish and Remover
- ◆ Needles and Sharps
- ◆ Paint and Solvents
- ◆ Pesticides and Herbicides
- ◆ Propane Tanks
- ◆ Pool chemicals
- ◆ Sharps, Needles and Lancets
- ◆ Tires
- ◆ Wood that is treated with chromium copper arsenate (CCA)

Keeping the environment free of toxic materials is important to keep our valley environmentally healthy. And, it is the law. For more information about universal waste disposal, you can call Fresno County: (877) 235-3005 or go to the Fresno County website: [www.fresnocountyca.gov/hhw](http://www.fresnocountyca.gov/hhw) For more information about universal waste and California state law: <https://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/HomeHazWaste/uwaste> If you have questions about materials that might be considered universal waste, contact us for guidance before disposing of them in your container.

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