



# Waste Wise

Reduce · Reuse · Recycle

A public service of Tillamook County Solid Waste

Fall 2009

## New law bans landfill disposal of e-waste

As of Jan. 1, 2010, Oregonians can no longer throw away computers, monitors and TVs in the garbage. Landfills, transfer stations and other disposal facilities will no longer accept these items for disposal. Anyone who knowingly breaks this law, can be fined.

However, this doesn't mean you must spend money to recycle your electronics.

Since January, 2009, Tillamook County residents have recycled 88,485 pounds of computers, monitors, and televisions through the free Oregon E-Cycles program.

As part of the new program – Oregon E-Cycles – manufacturers must pay for the cost of collecting and processing the recycled materials. So, when you take your electronic waste to an authorized collection site, there is no charge to drop it off.

In Tillamook County, there are two official e-waste recycling locations that will take your computers, monitors and TVs free of charge.

Don G. Averill Recycling  
1315 Ekloff Rd.  
Tillamook, OR 97141-9576  
(503) 842-4588

CART'M Recycling  
34995 Necarney City Rd.  
Manzanita, OR 97131  
(503) 368-7764

A third site, the Pacific City Transfer Station, 38255 Brooten Road, also accepts electronics waste for recycling for a nominal handling fee.

Individuals can bring in up to seven items at one time. If you are a household, a small business or nonprofit with 10 or fewer employees, you may take more than seven computers, monitors and TVs to a participating collection site at one time. However, you may be asked to verify your status as one of these entities. Please call collection sites ahead of time to inquire about any needed documentation and to ensure they have the capacity to handle your items.

If you are not one of these entities, collection sites may charge you for computers, monitors and TVs over the seven-item limit.

## Pacific City's 'Can Man' can

*His childhood hobby becomes his work*

He's known in Pacific City as "The Can Man." Ray Ireton has been collecting and recycling bottles and cans in the South County resort town since he was 10 years old.

"It's the only way to keep the environment clean," he said.

Ray graduated from Nestucca High School in 2006, but continued attending classes for special needs students until recently, when he reached the age of 21.

Ray only handles Oregon recyclable 5-cent glass and plastic bottles and aluminum cans. No wine bottles or boxes, thank you.

"Everyone here knows him," said Ray's adoptive mother, Pearl Ireton. "He walks through town collecting bottles and cans."

Ray also has many local residents trained to drop off cans and bottles at his recycling shed at 34400 Brooten Road, next to The Riverhouse Restaurant.

Ray said his recycling work started out as "something to do."

Pearl Ireton explained that family friends who have rental units in town needed someone to take cans and bottles left behind by tenants.

"If they have someone to take the cans out," she said, "it saves on the cost of disposal."

The Can Man's business was born.

Ray also earns money doing landscaping work and working part-time for the Pacific City Water and Sanitary District. But, recycling keeps him busy three full days a week.

When he was 16, Ray received a commendation from the Tillamook County commissioners for his efforts. By then, it was estimated he had collected 40,000 to 50,000 cans.

"People don't want to put recyclable cans and bottles in the trash," said Pearl Ireton. "And, with the economy the way it is, they're staying in more and using more recyclables."



Ray Ireton is Pacific City's "Can Man."

Collecting cans and bottles is one thing, but disposing of them is quite another, Ray noted.

On this part of the Oregon coast, his best options for collecting deposit money and disposing of cans are supermarkets in Tillamook and Lincoln City. But, sometimes, even the supermarkets have problems dealing with recyclables.

Gordon Plotts, manager of the Safeway store in Tillamook, explained that stores like his are required to take up to 144 items – or \$7.20 worth of deposits – a day from individuals.

"We don't always enforce that limit," he noted, adding that he tries to work with recyclers like Ray. Ray very often has a vanload of cans and bottles to dispose of.

"It's a storage problem for us and there's the sanitation issue," Plotts ex-

plained.

"I call ahead to let them know when I'm coming with a big load," Ray said.

There may be hope on the horizon, however, for store managers as well as recyclers.

Officials of the Oregon Beverage Recycling Cooperative and city officials in Gresham are working on a plan to set up the state's first industry-financed beverage container redemption center at a central location. The experimental facility would eliminate the need for individual stores in the area to provide on-site redemption facilities.

Industry officials say the center would have a staff and a higher limit on daily returns. If the Gresham experiment succeeds, the industry wants to set up nearly 100 such redemption centers around the state and bar returns at large grocery stores.

# What to do with batteries & bulbs

## Talking TRASH



By Jennifer Purcell

Tillamook County  
Solid Waste Coordinator

## New hazardous waste facility set to open in the spring

Solid waste authorities, water supply agencies, health care professionals and others recognize that discarded pharmaceuticals pose serious human health and environmental risks.

Drugs flushed down the toilet or poured down the sink enter wastewater treatment systems, which usually do not remove – or only partially remove – pharmaceuticals. This means that these chemical compounds pass through treatment plants and end up in our rivers or groundwater.

Tillamook County hosted its first pharmaceutical collection event in June, 2009. Its goal was twofold: to educate the public about the negative long-term impact of pharmaceuticals in our watershed and to provide a safe disposal option. In cooperation with the Sheriff's Department, we collected 22 gallons of unused, expired or otherwise unwanted prescription and non-prescription medications.

We plan to continue pharmaceutical collection as an annual event. However, pharmaceutical waste represents only a fraction of the potentially hazardous substances in our waste stream.

Historically, Tillamook County has conducted annual household hazardous waste (HHW) collection events to give county residents a safe way to get rid of household hazards such as paint, pesticides, automotive fluids, fluorescent tubes, other mercury containing light bulbs and household batteries, free of charge.

In order to provide more comprehensive HHW disposal options, the county is preparing to construct a permanent HHW collection facility, which we hope to have operational at the Tillamook Transfer Station in the spring.

This facility will operate a minimum of eight collection events each year. Disposal of HHW will continue to be offered as a free service sponsored by the Tillamook County Solid Waste Department.

This will be the only household hazardous waste facility on the north Oregon coast. Our community can be very proud of its ongoing commitment to minimizing the affects of hazardous substances on public health and the environment.

We have all been encouraged to save energy by switching to compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) and to increase our use of rechargeable batteries to cut down on the environmental impact of battery disposal.

However, we also have learned that CFLs contain mercury, which is a hazardous substance. And rechargeable batteries need to be recycled at the end of their lives.

Following are some guidelines to follow with your compact fluorescents and household batteries.

### Compact fluorescent bulbs

Because CFLs contain mercury, they cannot be discarded with your household garbage or sent to the landfill. They must be treated as a hazardous waste product, just like used oil, many household chemicals and pesticides. When a bulb burns out, place it in a safe place where it will not get broken until you can deliver it to a hazardous waste facility. (See "Talking Trash.")

### What to do if you break a CFL

Fluorescent light bulbs contain a very small amount of mercury sealed within the glass tubing. EPA recommends the following :

- Before clean-up, air out the room.
- Have people and pets leave the room, and don't let anyone walk through the breakage area on their way out.
- Open a window and leave the room for 15 minutes or more.
- Shut off the central forced-air heating/air conditioning system.

### Clean-up steps for hard surfaces

- Carefully scoop up glass pieces and powder using stiff paper or cardboard and place it in a glass jar with metal lid (such as a canning jar) or in a sealed plastic bag.
- Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder.
- Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes. Place towels in the glass jar or plastic bag.
- Do not use a vacuum or broom to clean up the broken bulb on hard surfaces.

### Clean-up on carpeting or rug

- Carefully pick up glass fragments as for hard surfaces.
- If necessary, vacuum the area where the bulb was broken.
- Remove the vacuum bag (or empty and wipe the canister) and put the bag or vacuum debris in a sealed plastic bag.



### Clean-up steps for clothing, bedding and other soft materials

- If clothing or bedding materials come in direct contact with broken glass or mercury-containing powder from inside the bulb, it all should be thrown away. Do not wash such clothing or bedding because mercury fragments in the clothing may contaminate the machine and/or pollute sewage.
- You can, however, wash clothing or other materials that have been exposed to the mercury vapor from a broken CFL, such as the clothing you are wearing when you cleaned up the broken CFL, as long as that clothing has not come into direct contact with the materials from the broken bulb.
- If shoes come into direct contact with broken glass or mercury-containing powder from the bulb, wipe them off with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes. Place the towels or wipes in a glass jar or plastic bag for disposal.

### Disposal of clean-up materials

- Immediately place all clean-up materials outdoors in a protected area until you can dispose of them as hazardous waste.

### Future cleaning of carpet or rug

- Air out the room during and after vacuuming
- The next several times you vacuum, shut off the central forced-air system and open a window before vacuuming.
- Keep the central heating/air conditioning system shut off and the window open for at least 15 minutes after vacuuming is completed.

### Battery recycling

#### Lead-acid automobile batteries

Nearly 90 percent of all lead-acid batteries are recycled. Almost any retailer that sells lead-acid batteries col-

lects used batteries for recycling. Reclaimers crush batteries into nickel-sized pieces and separate the plastic components. They send the plastic to a reprocessor for manufacture into new plastic products and deliver purified lead to battery manufacturers and other industries. A typical lead-acid battery contains from 60 to 80 percent recycled lead and plastic.

In Tillamook County, you can recycle your automobile batteries at county transfer stations in Tillamook, Manzanita and Pacific City and at City Sanitary Service in Tillamook. They are accepted at no charge.

### Dry-cell batteries

Dry-cell batteries include alkaline and carbon zinc (9-volt, D, C, AA, AAA), mercuric-oxide (button, some cylindrical and rectangular), silver-oxide and zinc-air (button), and lithium (9-volt, C, AA, coin, button, rechargeable).

- Alkaline and zinc-carbon batteries  
Alkaline batteries are the everyday household batteries used in flashlights, remote controls, and other appliances. Several reclamation companies now process these batteries around the country, or you may simply dispose of them with your household garbage or with materials that you take to local transfer stations. These batteries are not considered hazardous to the landfill.
- Button-cell batteries  
Most small, round "button-cell" type batteries found in items such as watches and hearing aids contain mercury, silver, cadmium, lithium or other heavy metals as their main component. Button cells are increasingly targeted for recycling because of the value of recoverable materials, their small size and their ease of handling.

### Rechargeable batteries

The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC), a nonprofit public service organization, targets four kinds of rechargeable batteries for recycling: nickel-cadmium (Ni-CD), nickel metal hydride, lithium ion, and small-sealed lead.

These batteries can be recycled locally at the following locations:

- Radio Shack, Tillamook;
- Tillamook Transfer Station, Averill Recycling;
- Manzanita Transfer Station, CART'M Recycling;
- Pacific City Transfer Station;
- Pacific City Hardware;
- City Sanitary Service, Tillamook;
- Tillamook City Hall;
- Tillamook County Public Works;
- Habitat For Humanity's ReStore, Bay City.

# Backyard garbage burning hazardous to health

The burning of yard debris is popular with many Tillamook County residents, particularly those living in rural areas. However, as money grows tighter, many residents may also be considering burning other household waste instead of paying the cost of garbage collection or landfill fees.

If you are thinking of doing so, be warned that burning most household waste is not only illegal in Oregon, it is also dangerous to your health and that of others.

That is because household waste produces a number of toxic substances when it is burned – substances that can pollute our air, our local grasslands and our water.

Today's packaging materials are largely made from a variety of plastic materials including polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Most plastics can produce poisonous chemicals when burned.

Burn barrels are inefficient and polluting; they produce low temperature fires, receive very little oxygen, and produce a lot of smoke. Under these conditions, many toxic substances are produced. Virtually all of the pollutants are released into the air close to ground level, where they are easily inhaled.

Pollutants emitted from burning household wastes in a burn barrel include carbon monoxide, very small breathable



particles, nitrogen oxides and such poisonous chemicals as benzene, styrene, formaldehyde, dioxins and furans.

Dioxins and furans are known to cause

cancer in humans. Unfortunately, burn barrels provide the right combustion conditions to promote the production of dioxins and furans.

Smoke from burn barrels also contains hazardous sulfur dioxide, lead, mercury and hexachlorobenzene. These pollutants can have immediate and long-term health effects such as:

- Asthma, emphysema or other respiratory illnesses.
- Nervous system, kidney or liver damage.
- Reproductive or developmental disorders.

Not only are the people who burn trash exposed to these pollutants, so are their families and neighbors. Children, the elderly and those with pre-existing respiratory conditions can be especially vulnerable.

When compared with municipal waste incinerators, burn barrels produce 10,000 times more dioxins and 1,000 times more furans for the amount of waste burned.

## What Materials Can Be Burned?

The only materials that are permitted to be burned in Oregon are untreated wood, paper and natural vegetative materials.

Oregon law prohibits the open burning of several materials, including plastics,

foam cups, meat trays and foam egg containers, rubber, plastic food wraps, carpeting and carpet padding, PVC piping and vinyl flooring. Other prohibited materials include asphalt roofing material, tarpaper, wire insulation and fiberglass.

Burning prohibited materials can result in serious fines.

## What You Can Do

- **Reduce.** You can reduce the amount of waste you generate by using durable, long-lasting goods and avoiding disposable items; buying products in bulk and looking for products with less packaging.
- **Reuse.** Reusing items is another way to reduce the amount of waste you generate. Repair, sell or donate used or unwanted items or organize a neighborhood swap event.
- **Compost.** Composting is a great way to dispose of yard trimmings and food scraps, while creating a natural, free fertilizer. As a community service to residents, the county provides composters at our wholesale price of just \$45, which saves you up to 50 percent. Contact the county Solid Waste Department at (503) 815-3975.
- **Recycle.** Check the back page of Waste Wise for a list of recycling sites.

# Tillamook County exceeds its recycling goal

In 2008, Tillamook County once again exceeded the recycling goal set for it by the state and recovered a total of 31.5 percent of all the household waste generated in the county during the year. This was up from 30.6 percent in 2007 and well above the goal of 30 percent set by the state.

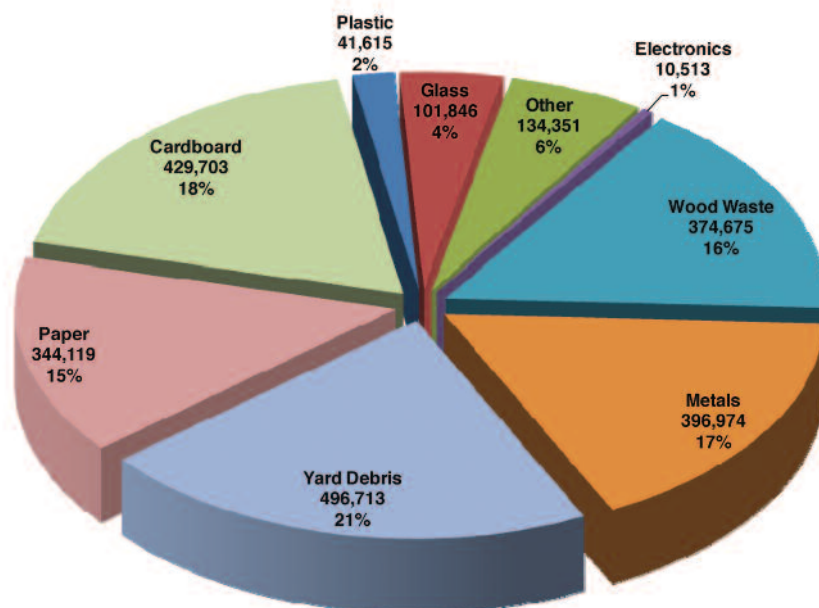
According to the annual report from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Tillamook County's recovery rate was above that of Lincoln County to the south, which reported a rate of 30.9 percent, but was below that of Clatsop County to the north, which reported a rate of 39.5 percent, thanks largely to a curbside recycling program available in some areas there.

Statewide, the impact of successful curbside programs translated into an average waste recovery and recycling rate of 48.2 percent in 2008, up from 46.5 percent the year before.

Overall, Tillamook County residents generated a total of 2,920 pounds of household solid waste per person in 2008. The recovery figures indicate that, of this, 921 pounds per person was recycled. This compares to 2,761 pounds of waste generated per person statewide, with 1,229 pounds of that recycled per person.

"When people recycle materials, industry is able to make new products with significantly less energy and lower

## Materials Recovered in Oregon in 2008



greenhouse gas emissions," said Mary Lou Perry, DEQ solid waste specialist. "People who recycle really make a difference. They should be heartened by the positive effect that recycling has on the environment."

The DEQ report estimated an energy savings in 2008 from recycling equivalent to 243 million gallons of gasoline – roughly 2.7 percent of total energy used by all sectors of the state's economy.

Greenhouse gas reductions in 2008 from recycling, composting and energy recovery amounted to the equivalent of eliminating tailpipe emissions from 660,000 passenger cars, or roughly 4.6 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions in the state during 2008.

The report, which is available on DEQ's website at <http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/sw/recovery/materialrecovery.htm> revealed that 27

of Oregon's 35 wastesheds showed increases in their recovery rates from 2008 over 2007. A full listing of material recovery rates statewide is also online.

DEQ calculates the state's material recovery rate by taking the total amount of material recovered (recycled) and dividing it by the total post-consumer material generated – the sum of all discards that are either disposed of or recovered.




In 2008, the state recovered 2,330,509 tons, or 48.2 percent of the total municipal waste stream for the year. The state disposed of 2,903,138 tons, and that amount added with total material recovered equals 5.23 million tons generated in 2008. This is an 8.2 percent decrease in waste generation from 2007.

Among the materials recovered in 2008, paper represented one third (33 percent), followed by yard debris (21 percent), metals (17 percent), wood waste (16 percent), glass (4 percent), plastic (2 percent), electronics (1 percent) and "other" (6 percent).

As a rough proxy for consumption, this drop in per capita waste generation suggests that Oregonians are buying and using less. While some of this decline is due to the sluggish economy, individuals and businesses are also making changes that may help to keep waste generation on lower levels even after the economy improves.



# Your Guide to Recycling in Tillamook County

	FACTS	HOW TO PREPARE FOR RECYCLING	WHERE TO TAKE IT
 <p><b>ALUMINUM</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Americans use over 200 million aluminum beverage cans a day.</li> <li>✓ Using recycled aluminum uses 95 percent less energy.</li> <li>✓ Aluminum cans can be recycled into new cans and back on store shelves in 60 days.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Rinse.</li> <li>✓ No other preparation required.</li> </ul>	City Sanitary Manzanita Transfer Station (CART <sup>™</sup> Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling)  “Redeemables” can be returned for deposit at all grocery stores in Tillamook County and are accepted as donation at Habitat for Humanity, 2610 Third St., Tillamook
 <p><b>STEEL CANS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Most metal food containers are made of steel.</li> <li>✓ Ferrous metals containing iron are attracted to a magnet.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Rinse.</li> <li>✓ Remove labels.</li> </ul>	City Sanitary Manzanita Transfer Station (CART <sup>™</sup> Recycling), Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling) Recycling Depots: Rockaway, Garibaldi, Bay City, Tillamook, Netarts
 <p><b>PAPER</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Paper is the No. 1 material that we throw away; it makes up 35 percent of our waste by weight.</li> <li>✓ One ton of paper made from recycled fibers instead of virgin fibers saves 7,000 gallons of water, 17-31 trees, 4,000 kWh of electricity, and 60 pounds of air pollutants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Anything that comes in the newspaper can be recycled with the newspaper.</li> <li>✓ Shredded paper can be recycled with mixed paper.</li> <li>✓ Cereal boxes, brown paper sacks, egg cartons, and other non-waxy cardboard packaging can be recycled with corrugated cardboard.</li> <li>✓ Flatten boxes.</li> </ul>	<b>Newsprint</b> is accepted at the following: City Sanitary, Manzanita Transfer Station (CART <sup>™</sup> Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling) Recycling Depots: Rockaway, Garibaldi, Bay City, Tillamook, Netarts; Kiwanis Recycling Trailer at Les Schwab, 1220 Main St., Tillamook <b>Magazines and catalogs</b> are accepted at: Manzanita Transfer Station (CART <sup>™</sup> Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling) Recycling Depots: Kiwanis Recycling Trailer at Les Schwab, 1220 Main St., Tillamook <b>Mixed Paper</b> is accepted at: Manzanita Transfer Station (CART <sup>™</sup> Recycling) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling) <b>Corrugated cardboard</b> is accepted at: City Sanitary Manzanita Transfer Station (CART <sup>™</sup> Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling)
 <p><b>PLASTIC</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Plastics are coded by material type, not recyclability or recycled content.</li> <li>✓ By weight, plastics make up about 11 percent of America’s municipal solid waste; 25 percent by volume.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ We recycle bottle-neck plastics #1-7; containers with a bottle-neck, regardless of plastic type.</li> <li>✓ Remove lids.</li> <li>✓ Rinse.</li> </ul>	City Sanitary Manzanita Transfer Station (CART <sup>™</sup> Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling) “Redeemables” can be returned for deposit at all grocery stores in Tillamook County; also accepted as donation by Habitat for Humanity, 2610 Third St., Tillamook, and other local non-profit organizations. Other plastics such as food containers, butter and yogurt tubs, and rigid plastics are not readily recyclable in Tillamook County. Contact your recycling center for more information about what is accepted.
 <p><b>GLASS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Glass containers are 100% recyclable.</li> <li>✓ Recovered glass is the main ingredient in new glass containers.</li> <li>✓ An estimated 80% of recovered glass containers are made into new glass bottles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Remove lids.</li> <li>✓ Rinse.</li> <li>✓ No need to remove labels.</li> <li>✓ Sort glass by color - clear, green, or brown.</li> </ul>	City Sanitary Service Manzanita Transfer Station (CART <sup>™</sup> Recycling) Pacific City Transfer Station (Nestucca Valley Sanitary) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling) Recycling Depots: Rockaway, Garibaldi, Bay City, Tillamook, Netarts  “Redeemables” can be returned for deposit at all grocery stores in Tillamook County.
 <p><b>ORGANICS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Yard debris and food waste (“organics”) make up approximately ¼ of the average household’s waste.</li> </ul>		There is no food waste collection system available to the public. Backyard composting is a great way to reduce your waste and produce a fertile soil amendment. Composters are available for sale at the Tillamook County Public Works office. Call 503-842-3419 for more information. Yard debris (excluding grass clippings) is accepted for recycling at: Manzanita Transfer Station (CART <sup>™</sup> Recycling) Tillamook Transfer Station (Averill Recycling)
 <p><b>HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE</b></p>	Many products can hurt people, fish and wildlife. Never dispose of household toxics down the drain, on the ground, in a storm drain or garbage can.		Tillamook County has traditionally sponsored an annual collection event offered free to the public. A permanent household hazardous waste collection facility is expected to be operational this spring at the Tillamook Transfer Station. If you are unable to hold onto your household hazardous waste until collection is available in Tillamook County, the closest facility is the Metro Central Station, located at 6161 NW 61st Ave., Portland. Visit <a href="http://www.oregonmetro.gov/garbage">www.oregonmetro.gov/garbage</a> for more information.

For additional information on recycling in Tillamook County, please visit our website at [www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste](http://www.co.tillamook.or.us/gov/solidwaste).

**City Sanitary**  
 (Operated by City Sanitary Service)  
 2303 11th Street, Tillamook  
 (503) 842-6262  
 Mon.-Fri., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Manzanita Transfer Station**  
 (Operated by Cart<sup>™</sup> Recycling)  
 34995 Necarney Rd., Manzanita  
 (503) 368-7764  
 Thurs.-Sun, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Tillamook Transfer Station**  
 (Operated by Averill Recycling)  
 1315 Ekloff Rd., Tillamook  
 (503) 842-2431  
 Open daily, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Pacific City Transfer Station**  
 (Operated by Nestucca Valley Sanitary)  
 38255 Brooten Rd., Pacific City  
 (503) 965-6898  
 Fri.-Sun., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.