

# Environmental Times

*News about your environment and customer services*

LWSP25

## One of the Biggest Problems- Plastic Bags!

**Spring 2025**

### Inside This Issue

Plastic Bags  
Spring Cleaning?  
Fire Danger  
HHW

### Holiday Schedule

**Memorial Day**  
Monday, May 26, 2025  
Service Delayed

EDCO will observe the  
Memorial Day holiday.  
**Residential collection will be  
delayed by one day all week  
following the holiday.**

**Fourth of July**  
Friday, July 4, 2025  
Service Delayed

EDCO will observe the  
Fourth of July Day holiday.  
**Residential collection will be  
delayed one day  
for Friday customers only.**

### Can We Help?

Do you have questions  
regarding your service?  
Contact one of our  
friendly customer service  
representatives through  
the Contact EDCO tab on  
our website, send us a text  
message, or call our office.



Plastic bags have always been an issue because they are non-biodegradable and take hundreds of years to breakdown. The plastic accumulates in the environment, polluting waterways harming wildlife, and spreads dangerous toxins into our environment. It is so important that we all do our part, and keep all kinds of plastic bags (including plastic grocery bags, newspaper delivery bags, or chip/snack bags) out of our blue recycling carts. Plastic bags cause problems during the recycling process. They get tangled in the machinery at our recycling facilities, leading to equipment malfunction and downtime. Additionally, plastic bags contaminate other recyclable material, making it unrecyclable. It is best to take plastic grocery bags to designated drop-off locations for proper recycling and disposal. Newspaper delivery bags and chip/snack bags belong in your grey trash cart. **Please place all recyclable material loosely in your recycling cart, and DO NOT bag any recyclable material.**

Additionally, we ask not to use plastic bags of any kind (including certified compostable or biodegradable) in your green organics cart. When mixed with organic materials, plastic bags contaminate the composting process and hinder the decomposition of organic waste. Additionally, plastic bags do not break down in composting facilities and can negatively impact the quality of the compost. Instead, when placing organic material into your green organics cart, use paper products such as paper bags, newspaper, paper towels and soiled cardboard boxes to wrap your food scraps. Paper products help control odor, absorb moisture and keep insects away from your organics cart.

## Let EDCO Help with Spring Cleanup Projects

Spring is officially here! Do you have junk piling up around your home? Let EDCO help you with your spring cleaning.



EDCO can help make the job of disposing of unwanted debris a bit easier with services that include bulky item pick-ups, temporary dumpsters and construction debris roll-off containers. Our customer service representatives can help give advice in order to provide you the appropriate service for your disposal needs. Whether you have just one large item or a garage full, contact EDCO and **"We'll Take Care of It!"**

As the City's contract refuse hauler, EDCO is the only authorized company to bring dumpsters, bins or containers in Lakewood. All other companies are prohibited from conducting refuse services in the City.

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**EDCO**  
edcodisposal.com

*"We'll Take Care of It"*

# IMPORTANT SAFETY REMINDER - FIRE DANGER



Battery fires in collection trucks are a growing concern due to improper disposal of lithium-ion batteries. Lithium Ion (Li-Ion) batteries are commonly found in cell phones, laptops, cordless phones, children's toys, household electronics or power tools and are considered hazardous waste when they are discarded. More and more dangerous incidents are being reported involving explosions or fires caused by improperly disposed cell phones or Li-Ion batteries. In general, **all batteries and electronic waste must be properly recycled** or taken to a household hazardous waste disposal facility or event, and **NEVER placed in trash, recycling, or green carts!** If batteries are not discarded properly, they can potentially explode and cause a fire in a collection cart, truck, or in a disposal facility when crushed.

Lithium-Ion fires are extremely dangerous due to the following reasons:

- **Thermal Runaway:** A damaged or overheating battery can cause a chain reaction where cells ignite one after another, escalating the fire.
- **High Heat Output:** Lithium-Ion batteries release intense heat when they catch fire, reaching temperatures over 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit.
- **Difficult to Extinguish:** Water, foam, and standard extinguishers are often ineffective. Specialized suppression methods are required.
- **Toxic Fumes:** Fires release harmful gases like hydrogen fluoride and carbon monoxide, posing respiratory risks.
- **Reignition Risk:** Even after being extinguished, a Lithium-Ion battery can reignite hours or even days later if residual energy is present.
- **Explosive Potential:** Pressurized gases within the battery can lead to explosions, spreading flames and debris. If this happens at a disposal facility, it can lead to a significant and potentially catastrophic situation, causing extensive damage to the facility, potential injuries to workers, possible evacuations of nearby areas, and a lengthy shutdown of operations due to the intense heat and rapid fire spread.

To prevent the dangers listed above, it is crucial to dispose of all types of batteries properly. For more information, visit [edcodisposal.com](http://edcodisposal.com), under the Resource Center Tab, and go to Special Items Disposal. **Lakewood residents can also bring their household batteries (i.e., AAA, C, D, AA, etc.) to City Hall during normal business hours for proper disposal. Proof of residency is required.**

## Household Hazardous Waste

Hazardous waste is unused or leftover portions of products containing toxic chemicals used around the home. Products labeled Caution, Warning, Danger, Poison, Toxic, Flammable, or Corrosive are considered hazardous.

### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE INCLUDES LEFTOVER:

Aerosol, Lighter Fluid, All-Purpose Cleaner, Used Oil/Oil filters, Antifreeze, Oven Cleaner, Auto Batteries, Latex Paint, Oil-Based Paint, Auto Fluids, Disinfectants, Pesticides, Drain Openers, Pool Chemicals, Gasoline (w/containers), Solvents, Furniture Polish, Electronic Waste, Household batteries and light bulbs.



Residents can properly dispose of toxic household items at no cost at the Environmental Collection Center located at EDCO Recycling & Transfer in Signal Hill located at 2755 California Avenue, Signal Hill, CA 90755. Open the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (closed the following holiday weekends: May 24, 2025, October 11, 2025 and December 27, 2025).

