

Trash Talk

DECEMBER 2017



What's going on with China & Recycling?

Your Hauler's Perspective



There are many questions surrounding China and how it effects or will effect our current local recycling practices. To understand better how this process works, we'll break down the recycling process:

- 1) When you put your recycling out at the curb, Thompson's Sanitary hauls it away in our service truck.
- 2) Our truck then brings it to our transfer station in Newport where it's loaded into a semi-truck and hauled to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). We haul to Garten MRF in Salem.
- 3) Once at the MRF, they sort the material through a series of conveyor belts and sorting technology (i.e. magnets picking out the metal).
- 4) After it's sorted, the MRF negotiates markets they can send each commodity to (cardboard, mixed paper, plastic, metals). Some of those markets are domestic, (for example: Garten sends their cardboard to Toledo GP) but many markets are in China.

In the past, China has accepted material from our MRF's with a 5-9% contamination rate (how much trash in the recycling). In a much-needed effort to clean up their environment, China is enacting legislation January 1, 2018, referred to as the "Green Sword", which includes lowering that contamination rate to .3% (notice the

decimal point before the number, not after), which in our industry is virtually perfect recycling. Oregon recyclers have also gotten conflicting messages about limits on what could be recycled in the plastics and mixed paper categories. These two factors (contamination rate & limits) have been the major cause for alarm and most likely sweeping changes in Oregon recycling. MRF's in Oregon have all slowed down their lines and hired more manual labor to try and get the contamination rate lower, so that has meant a pile-up of recycling.

Representatives from Thompson's, as well as from hauling companies and recycling processors from all over the State of Oregon have been meeting and attending seminars on a regular basis with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to figure out how we're going to move forward, including developing domestic markets. Thompson's belongs to two statewide organizations, Oregon Refuse & Recycling Assoc (ORRA), and Assoc. of Oregon Recyclers (AOR) who have been instrumental in getting us weekly (if not daily) information.

In the end, much of everyone in our industry sees this as a positive direction in recycling, but we're going to need the public's help in keeping our recycling clean, reducing contaminants like plastic bags, Styrofoam, glass, milk cartons, plastic cups and utensils.

Download WASTE 101 on our website.

In the Know

Holiday Service

All customers will be affected by Christmas and New Year's holidays this year.

Because TSS observes both Christmas (Dec 25) and New Year's (Jan 01) holidays which fall on Monday this year. For those two holiday weeks, all service day will be one day later (if you have regular Monday service, it will be on Tuesday) ending on Saturday.

Refrigerator/ Freezer Recycling Ending

As of March 30, 2018, the Central Lincoln PUD "Cash for Clunkers Program" will be no longer

Central Lincoln PUD has informed us that their "Cash for Clunkers" Refrigerator/Freezer recycling program that gave PUD credit when a customer recycled their old working refrigerator, will be ending March 30, 2018. The grant money for this program has run out. After that date, Thompson's Sanitary Service can still recycle your old refrigerator or freezer at our transfer station for a small fee, or you can call us to haul it for you.

Your guide to **HOLIDAY** Recycling & Disposal

Recycle in MIXED COMPOSTABLES Cart



Wreaths
Remove wires, bows



Food Waste



Christmas Tree
leave at curb next to cart



Tree Garland

Recycle in MIXED RECYCLING Cart



(Rinse first)
Plastic jugs, bottles, & tubs



Cardboard Boxes



Non-metallic Wrapping Paper & Cards



(Rinse first)
Tin, Aluminum Foil

Reuse or Donate (or Trash)



Garland



Decorations



Plastic Cups & Utensils

Bows



Throw in LANDFILL Cart



Holiday lights



Milk Cartons



Styrofoam

YOUR GREEN Holiday Checklist



It's said that holiday household waste increases by 25% during the period of Thanksgiving through New Year's holidays. So channel some of that ho-ho-holiday spirit into making some (fairly) painless sustainable choices this holiday season:

✓ Be creative when wrapping gifts. Re-use bags or bows; wrap with newspaper, old maps, blueprints, old calendars; or decorate brown paper bags. 8,000 tons of wrapping paper are used at Christmas each year. At the very least, recycle that wrapping paper.

✓ Send e-cards or recycled cards. The 2.65 billion Christmas cards sold each year in the U.S. could fill a football field 10 stories high.

✓ Avoid the accumulation of plastic shopping bags by leaving reusable bags in your car for use on impromptu shopping trips.

✓ Recycle your old household batteries when you're gifted new ones. Go to thompsonsanitary.com for drop off locations. 40% of all battery sales occur during the holiday season.

✓ Make Gatherings Zero Waste. Instead of disposable tableware, serve food on reusable dish-ware. Borrow dish sets and utensils or go thrift store shopping for a special holiday set. Decorate the table with flowers, greenery, or seasonal fruits. Prevent food waste: ask friends to bring containers for leftovers.



Reduce Reuse Recycle