

TRASH TALK

May 2023



Lithium Batteries

Lithium batteries can become a severe fire danger when damaged

Today, a wide range of electronic devices (computers, smart phones, toys, e-scooters, landscape tools, calculators, etc) have lithium batteries. These batteries have revolutionized our portable devices and have been proven safe for their intended uses. However, just as glass has a risk of creating shards if damaged, lithium batteries pose a risk of fire if they become damaged.

Lithium batteries can become damaged during the standard collection, transportation, and sorting processes. Both locally and nationally there is an uptick in fires which damage equipment and facilities.

Two years ago, on a Sunday, we had a significant fire in one of our trailers at the Agate Beach Transfer Station. If it wasn't for an employee who happened to be driving near our office and noticed smoke coming from the area, and then a quick responding Newport Fire Department, we could have experienced much more property loss. Please self-haul lithium batteries and electronic devices (as well as all



other batteries) to our **FREE battery and E-cycles drop-offs** at the Newport Recycling Center, 7450 NE Avery, Newport - OR - a satellite battery drop-off at the Newport Library, 35 NW Nye St, Newport. The batteries and E-cycles are both then recycled in responsible end markets.

Never put these items into your garbage or recycling roll cart:

- x Lithium Batteries
- x Rechargeables
- x Button Batteries
- x Smart Phones
- x Power Packs
- x Laptops/Tablets



In the Know

HHW Free Event

Countywide Household Hazardous Waste Event, Saturday July 29, Waldport Transfer Station.

Household chemicals lurking in your garage cabinet? Mark this date on your calendar and get rid of those toxins for **FREE!** The Lincoln County Solid Waste District and Lincoln County Haulers - Dahl Disposal, North Lincoln Sanitary, and Thompson's Sanitary team up together to host this annual event, which rotates to a different transfer station around the county each year.

Materials accepted:

Poisons, Pesticides herbicides, fungicides, and other poisons.
Heavy Metals: mercury & products containing elemental mercury (including fluorescent tubes). Corrosives: acids, bases, and reactives.



Paint Recycling

Recycle your old paint for FREE through the Paintcare program

Oregon is one of many states who has a paint stewardship law. That means it's required that a fee be applied to the price of architectural paint sold in Oregon. Retail stores must pass the fee on to consumers. That fee pays for Paintcare to facilitate paint recycling statewide. Thompson's, as well as Sherwin Williams and ReStore in Newport, are Paintcare drop-off sites. All paints must be dropped off in original containers. That includes Interior and exterior architectural paints, deck coatings, primers, sealers, and stains. See our website for a complete listing.



Compost Giveaway April 22



To celebrate Earth Day, Thompson's hosted its 8th annual compost giveaway Saturday, April 22nd. We were thrilled to be joined by the Lincoln County

Master Gardeners who were on hand to answer questions, provide pamphlets, and general gardening advice for this community event. In less than two hours, we gave out the two semi-loads of finished compost we hauled in from Pacific Region Compost (PRC), just north of Corvallis. This is the same facility we haul Newport's curbside mixed compostables waste to and within a 70-day process PRC turns it into nutrient-rich compost. One of the best ways to reduce our carbon footprint is to grow our own food and plant native plants and trees, as well as reduce greenhouse gases by making compost from food scraps and yard waste. It's a win-win for the environment!



Napkin Swap

The average American produces 4.5 pounds of waste per day. Staggering, yes? To reduce that, think about what your household could do. Swapping out paper with cloth napkins is one way. To reduce washes and your work load, assign a different napkin ring to each person in your family to reuse throughout the week. In the long run, these will cost less too!

If you do use paper napkins, opt for ones with recycled content.



Napkin rings of different colors for each member of the family.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

Walter Budzik



Walter with his furry child, Maebelline (age 1 in human years)

Coming to us last April, Walter Budzik just celebrated his one-year anniversary at Thompson's Sanitary. He's been an amazing addition to our management team in his position as Controller. Walter, an OSU graduate, has over 20 years of experience in the waste management industry coming to us from Recology in McMinnville where he started his career in their yard making compost and later earning his Accounting certificate from Linfield where he worked his way up the management ladder.



Walter with wife Sarah and daughters Mya and Lucy .

As Controller, Walter leads and directs all things financial for TSS, analyzing our company's decisions rooted in numbers. He also supervises and works with our customer service staff to give our customers the best possible experience while maintaining a family-like team environment. He lives in McMinnville, where he's lived most of his life (with the exception of college), with his wife of 23 years Sarah and their two daughters Mya (15 years) and Lucy (10 years). He spends his time watching his daughters participate in activities; driving to soccer games and track meets as well as marching band competitions. He also serves as PTA treasurer at their school.

Family is highest priority to Walter, so it's a big compliment when he says "... feels like I have two families, one in McMinnville and one in Newport". He goes on to describe what he enjoys about working at TSS, "having a job where the atmosphere is so friendly, that I look forward to working with the people I get to work with every day."



Standing proudly after negotiating the 'com dog' at Pronto Pup in Rockaway Beach.

TSS APP *it maximizes your service!*



Download our mobile app on your smart phone to maximize your service. Open the camera on your phone, hover over QR code on the left, and follow link to download. The app gives you access to your service day schedule, important service alerts, Waste Wizard (search our database of materials), schedule a bulky item pickup, or pay your bill.