



MODESTO
CALIFORNIA

www.modestogov.com
(209) 577-5200 • TDD (209) 526-9211

CITY OF MODESTO

City Beat

APRIL 2015



Help Prevent Sewer Blockages & Overflows

Especially during the winter months, it is important to remember that grease is often washed down the kitchen sink and into the plumbing system. Even a small amount of grease in sink drains can cause serious blockages in home plumbing or, even worse, a sewer overflow in your home or yard. These substances also cause clogging in Modesto's wastewater collection system, causing overflows that are messy, costly, and a potential threat to your health and the environment.

Here are some ways you can help protect the environment, your pipes, and Modesto's sewer collection system:

- Never pour grease material down sink drains or toilets
- Scrape grease material from all cookware and dishes into a can or the trash for disposal prior to washing. Don't rely on detergents to dissolve grease: They may just pass it down the line and cause problems in other areas.
- Use strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain strainers into the trash for disposal
- Cooking grease should be placed in the black garbage container with the normal weekly garbage. It would be advisable to allow the grease to cool so it doesn't melt plastic garbage bags



Call the City of Modesto 24/7 at (209) 577-6200 to report a sewer blockage or overflow.



FREE! BACKYARD COMPOSTING CLASS

{for Modesto Residents Only}

Tues., May 19, 2015
6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
at Modesto Junior College
Community Education
To register,
Call 575-6063



From Garbage to Garden

SAVE \$5.00
on the purchase of a
City of Modesto compost bin
when you complete the class!
Quantities Limited



Be a recycling super hero!

EARTH DAY

...in the park festival

4.18.15



Graceada Park • Needham & Sycamore Avenues • Modesto • 10am - 4pm

City of Modesto UTILITY BILLING



INTERACTIVE VOICE SYSTEM
NOW FEATURING
Automated Payment Extensions

IVR System
(209) 577-5395, Option 4

- Balance Information
- Payment History
- Payment Extensions

Available 24/7

The City of Modesto has implemented a new "self-serve" payment extension feature. This will support calls requesting additional time to pay on delinquent accounts. The new feature will allow customers to request their own 7 day extension on a Disconnect Notice. By calling the Interactive Voice Response system directly, customers will avoid the wait time to speak with a representative and receive an instant approval or denial of the extension request.

City Beat is printed on 30% recycled paper.

Expanded Used Motor Oil Home Collection:

Modesto Residential Garbage Customers*, If you are a do-it-yourself kind of person and you change your car's motor oil, you can have the motor oil and filter collected at your home for free. It's Free and Easy! The oil and filter will be collected on your garbage service day when you follow these simple steps:

1. Call your garbage company and schedule a collection appointment
 - Gilton Solid Waste 527-3781
 - Bertolotti Disposal 537-8000
2. Pour the oil into a plastic container with a screw-top lid. Do not mix oil with other materials such as antifreeze, brake fluid, or gasoline.
3. Drain the oil filter into the plastic container and place the filter in a plastic zipper bag**
4. On your appointment day, place oil and filters out no later than 6 a.m. SET THEM ON THE DRIVEWAY, NEAR THE HOUSE, AND NOT AT THE CURB. Limit 4 gallons and 3 oil filters per week

Do NOT mix your oil with any other substance such as antifreeze. Oil cannot be recycled if it is mixed with other substances. Contaminated oil must be taken to the Stanislaus County Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 1710 Morgan Rd, Fridays and Saturdays 8am – 12pm.

*This program is only available to residential customer with a black and a green garbage container.

**The City of Modesto has used oil containers and filter bags available to Modesto Residents.

For more information, call the Recycle Used Oil Hotline at (209) 577-5493.



**FOOD SCRAP
COMPOSTING
BUCKET**

From your garbage to our gardens!

CITY OF MODESTO RESIDENTS ONLY



PROGRAM DETAILS

Call your garbage service provider and request a bucket to be delivered FREE of charge to your residence

Gilton Solid Waste (209) 527-3781
Bertolotti Disposal (209) 537-8000

Or call the City of Modesto and request to pick one up at 1010 Tenth Street Place (209) 577-5494

Save your food scraps in your bucket and empty into your green can.

City of Modesto Waste Tire Recycling Events

PROGRAM GUIDELINES:

- City of Modesto residents only
- No businesses
- Tires with and without rims - OK
- Car, Truck & Motorcycle Tires - OK
- Up to 9 tires accepted at no charge
- No Commercial or Tractor Tires

WHAT TO DO:

- Call City of Modesto and request a Coupon: **(209) 577-5494**
- Gilton Solid Waste (209) 527-3781
- Bertolotti Disposal (209) 537-8000
- Take Tires to Garbage Company
- Do not mix tires with other waste

FREE DISPOSAL ON DATES LISTED BELOW

February 1-28 • April 1-30 • June 1-30

(Closed April 20)

Funded by a grant from the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)

Questions?
Call (209) 577-5494






Please join the City of Modesto Water Services Division at the upcoming Annual Earth Day in the Park Celebration, Saturday, April 18, 2015 from 10am-4pm at Graceada Park in Modesto. Learn how to conserve water, how we are managing the current drought, and pick up items to promote water conservation!

Please Continue to Conserve Water!

Stage One Water Restrictions Include:

- No outdoor watering on Mondays
- Outdoor water use only before noon and after 7 p.m.
- **Addresses ending in odd-numbers only water on Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday**
- **Addresses ending in even-numbers only water on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday**
- Car washing is subject to the above-cited limitations with the use of a positive shut-off nozzle
- Hosing of concrete areas, building exteriors, etc. may only be done with a City-issued permit and a positive shut-off nozzle
- Water leaks, once identified, must be repaired within 24 hours
- Restaurants are encouraged to serve water only upon request
- All landscaping (residential and commercial) must comply with existing and future landscaping ordinances

Water Conservation Tips

1. Turn off automatic sprinklers; if you have not already, place your automatic sprinklers on the "OFF" or rain delay mode. An average rain storm will sustain your grass and plants. If absolutely necessary, hand water as needed.
2. Check for leaking outdoor pipes or broken sprinklers; if you cannot fix them right away, turn off your irrigation valve until you have an opportunity to do so. This will eliminate excess run-off and water loss.
3. Check for toilet tank leaks; place a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank, if you see the food coloring seep in to the bowl, you have a leak.
4. Check for leaking indoor pipes and faucets; small leaks that are not repaired immediately can waste more than 50 gallons of water of a day or up to 25,000 gallons per year.
5. Install low flow aerators on your faucets; replacing an old inefficient faucet and aerators with a WaterSense labeled model can save the average family 700 gallons of water per year.

Year-round watering schedule for City of Modesto customers.

	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
IF YOUR ADDRESS IS...	ODD	DO NOT WATER	EVEN	ODD	EVEN	ODD	EVEN
MIDNIGHT TO NOON	WATER		WATER	WATER	WATER	WATER	WATER
NOON – 7:00 PM			DO NOT WATER				
7:00 PM – MIDNIGHT	WATER		WATER	WATER	WATER	WATER	WATER

ODD NUMBERED ADDRESSES END IN 1, 3, 5, 7, 9
EVEN NUMBERED ADDRESSES END IN 0, 2, 4, 6, 8

For more information or to report
water waste, call (209) 342-2246.

<http://www.modestogov.com/pwd/utilities/water/conservation/>

our community matters



april 2015

Keeping Modesto Green

The City of Modesto often receives questions from citizens about what we do to reduce waste. Many of our efforts go towards conservation. But in one case, we actually seek to create.

In 1998, the City of Modesto established a compost facility to divert yard waste from the landfill and process the material into a beneficial soil amendment. Like many other similar facilities in California, the facility processes green waste – grass, leaves, brush and tree trimmings – turning it into useable compost for residents and businesses. But the Modesto Compost Facility is the only facility in Stanislaus County which also processes paper and food waste. Each year, the facility processes approximately 60,000 tons of residential and forestry green waste.

The compost is sold to farmers, landscapers and back yard gardeners, who then till or mix the compost back into the soil, adding micronutrients beneficial to plants. Because

of its many attributes, compost has the unique ability to improve the properties of soils, reduce erosion, and increase water holding capacity for more efficient water use.

Homeowners can purchase compost in bulk or bag size at our facility at 7001 Jennings Road, Modesto. We are open Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 3:30pm and you can call us for information at 571-5144. The compost bags are also sold at the Sr. Citizen's Center seasonally (March 16 through November 13) for \$3.25 per bag.



Save energy and cut costs on your bills
with the Modesto HERO program!

Learn more at
www.heroprogram.com/modesto
or call 855-HERO-411.

Help Save Water by Xeriscaping

Few places in the US are struggling with drought more than the Central Valley. Many residents are looking for effective ways to reduce their water usage. Xeriscaping – sometimes mistakenly referred to as “zero-scape” landscaping – is an alternative approach to help reduce outdoor water use. You can help save water in the Central Valley by following these principles:

1. Plan and design – Create a plan that will help you get the most out of your landscape.
2. Soil amendment – Make sure your yard has the right soil quality and composition.
3. Efficient irrigation – Place different valves on trees, shrubs, ground covers and turf areas so you can time their irrigations separately. Water in the early mornings or late evenings to reduce evaporation.
4. Appropriate plant and zone selection – Plant low-water use or native plant species.

5. Use Mulch – Mulch reduces evaporation by cooling the soil beneath and prevents weak growth and erosion.
6. Limited turf areas – Small turf areas can be placed throughout the landscape to reduce water use.
7. Maintenance – A well-maintained irrigation system can keep plants healthy and water-use low.

For more information regarding Xeriscape design and water conservation, please visit our website at www.modestogov.com/savewater.



What goes in the green can?

In honor of Earth Day, please help the City of Modesto reduce landfill waste and reduce spending by disposing of waste items properly. Here is a quick reminder of what goes where.

Put us in the green can!

- Paper - newspaper, junk mail, shredded paper, magazines, phone books, tea bags, coffee filters, paper towels, paper napkins and paper plates
- Cardboard
- Food waste, including meat and bones
- Grass, leaves, and plant clippings
- Cut brush and tree limbs

We go in the black can!

- Household garbage or trash
- Diapers
- Plastic bags or packaging
- Polystyrene items
- Bottles and cans*
- Animal waste or litter box debris
- Flocked or treated holiday trees
- Wood or lumber (small pieces only)

Please do not overfill any cans beyond 100 lbs. and be sure that the lids can close.

These items cannot be placed in either can and must be taken to designated facilities:

- Hazardous, toxic, pharmaceutical, or e-waste
- Furniture or large items
- Dirt, rocks, concrete, or asphalt