



ALAN STYLES

Recycling

Think green when spring cleaning

Think of spring cleaning as a celebration of the season of renewal rather than a chore. Keep it green with these easy tips:

REUSE

Rather than load up your trash (and the landfill) with unwanted goods, consider whether they may be useful in another purpose for your home or garden, or to someone in need.

REPURPOSE

Repurposing a cabinet from inside your home to your garage, an old towel from your bathroom to the dog house, and a chipped saucer from the kitchen to a potted plant on the patio are all effective examples of reuse.

DONATE

Donate products in good condition to a local charitable organization.

SELL

Hold a yard sale or garage sale. To make it profitable and fun, gather together friends, neighbors or organizations and hold a group sale. Share the experience and the work!

Selling online and through local ads are also easy ways to keep useful items in circulation and make a few extra dollars.

RECYCLE

Sort by category (paper, plastics, metal, glass, etc.), load it

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RECYCLING

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up and drop it off at Sun Street Transfer Station in Salinas or the Johnson Canyon Landfill in Gonzales. After recycling, what's left for the landfill should be minimal and cost very little to dispose.

SAFELY DISPOSE

When you're clearing out the garage, workshop and cabinets, remember: Paints and solvents, pesticides, chemical cleaners, used fluorescent light bulbs and batteries are considered Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). HHW must be handled for safety and disposed of properly to prevent polluting our land and contaminating ground water. For safe and easy disposal, drop off your HHW items at the Sun Street Transfer Station or the Johnson Canyon Landfill.

KEEP YARD CLEAN

While removing the winter decay making room for all the spring shoots, be sure to keep your yard waste or "green waste" separate from your other waste. Keep it free from plastics, such as bags, ties and stakes, to keep it clean and green. If you don't already compost, this is a great time to start!

Visit www.svswa.org for information about HHW, composting, and more ways to reduce, reuse and recycle for a future without landfills.

► *Alan Styles is recycling coordinator for the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority. His column appears the third Saturday of the month in Central Coast Living. Contact him at alanst@svswa.org.*