

Keep old TVs from polluting the environment

After a four-month delay, the switch from analog television signal to digital television was implemented June 12. If you made the switch to a new television, what are you doing with the old one?

When it comes to any kind of useful item, reuse is always the best option. But if no one you know has a use for that old television set, or it is no longer functional, bring it to a designated household hazardous waste electronic waste drop-off facility, such as the one operated by the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority at Sun Street in Salinas.



ALAN STYLES
Recycling

Televisions, monitors, computers, cell phones and other electronic waste contain materials hazardous to health and the environment. Although they are safe with normal use, they can contain lead, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), mercury, cadmium, arsenic, zinc, chromium and selenium, which can leach into the ground and pollute water and air when improperly disposed.

SVSWA's e-waste recycling drop-off helps take the guesswork out of what do with old electronics, ensures proper disposal and maximum recycling of

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resources.

When you come to the household hazardous waste facility, bring your other hazardous wastes, such as batteries (household and automotive), fluorescent light bulbs, paint, toxic cleaners and solvents, oils, and other chemicals, including fertilizers and pesticides.

Not only is it illegal to dump these items in the trash or recycling bin; it also poses a health hazard to you and your family and pets.

Don't risk it. SVSWA offers safe disposal and prevents these harmful chemicals from polluting the local environment by keeping them out of the landfill.

Depending on supplies, the SVSWA facility at Sun Street also offers free paint for reuse, so come check out the supply before you start your next project.

The Sun Street household hazardous waste facility is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday at 139 Sun St. in Salinas.

In the southern part of Monterey County, the Johnson Canyon household hazardous waste facility is open the first Saturday of every month. For information about household hazardous waste and less toxic alternatives, visit the SVSWA Web site at www.svswa.org.

SVSWA is working toward a future without landfills, and you can help by doing your part to keep toxic wastes out of the landfill and ensure a better, safer future for the Salinas Valley and Monterey County.

► *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.*