Rate Schedule Effective July 1, 2026

County of Santa Cruz Recycling and Solid Waste Disposal Facilities

Fee Schedule for Loads Coming from Unincorporated Santa Cruz County and City of Scotts Valley

HAZARDOUS WASTE IS PROHIBITED IN TRASH OR LANDFILL

Customer Notice	Requirement
Surcharge	Loads from the Cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, Watsonville, and outside Santa Cruz County are subject to a 28% surcharge.
Residency	Proof of residency is required for all loads.
Payment	Accepted forms of payment: cash, checks, and major credit cards. Credit card fees apply. **** 3% credit card fee will begin on October 1, 2026 ****
Load checking	All loads may be checked for hazardous waste. Hazardous and other prohibited materials cannot be disposed of at County facilities. If these materials are found, the hauler must pay all costs to handle them. The County may report the issue to state or local agencies. Responsible parties may face civil or criminal penalties.
Unload deadline	Customers must finish unloading within 15 minutes after closing. If you cannot unload by then, the Special Handle rate may apply.

Facilities and Hours of Operation

Recycling and Solid Waste Services Administration	Ben Lomond Transfer Station	Buena Vista Landfill
701 Ocean Street, Room 410 Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (831) 454-2160	**9835 Newell Creek Road Ben Lomond, CA 95005 (831) 454-3951**	**1231 Buena Vista Drive Watsonville, CA 95076 (831) 454-5153**
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday-Friday Except State and Federal Holidays	Open: 7:30 AM-3:30 PM Mon., Tue., Thu., Fri., Sat.; 7:30 AM-2:30 PM Wed.; 7:30 AM-11:30 AM Christmas Eve. Closed Sunday, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day (subject to change).	Open: 7:30 AM-3:30 PM Mon., Tue., Thu., Fri., Sat.; 7:30 AM-2:30 PM Wed.; 7:30 AM-11:30 AM Christmas Eve. Closed Sunday, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day (subject to change).

Questions? (831) 454-2430 or visit www.SantaCruzCountyRecycles.org

RECYCLING SAVES YOU MONEY AND SAVES YOUR PUBLIC LANDFILL SPACE.

IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO MIX RECYCLABLES WITH YOUR REFUSE.

Disposal of hot ashes, recyclable materials, or e-waste is prohibited.

**Items are accepted at the discounted rate listed only when market conditions support recycling of the material. The Director of Community Development and Infrastructure will determine applicability of the discounted rate with 30 days advance notice; otherwise refuse rates apply. Check the fee schedule on the website or call (831) 454-5153 to get the rate currently in effect.

Disposal Rates

Type of Material	Per Ton / Rate	Minimum Charge
GARBAGE: Household, commercial and business refuse, upholstered furniture, painted lumber, dirt, stable waste. Call (831) 454-5153 for specific items.	$105.50	$31.50
TREATED WOOD WASTE (TWW): Must be declared and documented. Charged at the garbage rate. See the summarized TWW policy in this document and visit SantaCruzCountyRecycles.org for more information.	$105.50	$31.50
GARBAGE DROP BOX / ROLL OFF RENTALS: Hauler must be a Franchised Hauler with the County of Santa Cruz. Buena Vista Landfill only. Drop box reloading fee: $172.50 per occurrence.	$93.25	$31.50
SPECIAL HANDLE REFUSE: Includes agricultural plastics, large non-recyclable metal items, rancid waste, dead animals, waste requiring supervised burial, and any other materials designated by facility staff. **Not accepted at the Ben Lomond Transfer** Station. The Special Handle rate also applies to wood waste loads containing dirt, refuse, pieces over 8 feet long or 4 feet in diameter, or any materials not allowed under the Wood Waste and Yard Waste Acceptance Policy.	$172.50	$45.25
CONTAMINATED / NON-COMPLIANT GARBAGE, REFUSE AND TRASH: Garbage loads containing sortable recyclable materials that are disposed of in the garbage and contain more than 5% recyclable material in violation of County Recycling Ordinance, as determined by County staff.	$202.50	$55.25
CLEAN SORTED WOOD WASTE & YARDWASTE: No refuse, dirt, treated or painted lumber, poison oak, pampas grass, bamboo, yucca, palm, root balls, or materials over 8 ft. length x 2 ft. diameter, 4 ft. length x 3 ft. diameter, or 2 ft. length x 4 ft. diameter.	$70.00	$22.50
FOOD WASTE (SCRAPS): Fruits, vegetables, dairy products, grains, bread, coffee grounds and filters, eggshells, cooked meats and bones. No plastic, grease, glass, metal, raw meats, compostable or non-compostable utensils/service ware, condiment packages, or Styrofoam.	$103.50	$31.00
SHEETROCK / GYPSUM BOARD**: No refuse, dirt, or other contaminants.	$57.75	$23.50
CLEAN CONCRETE: Maximum size 3.5 ft. x 3.5 ft. x 8 in. No dirt, no concrete with exposed rebar or pipe, and no oversized concrete. Must be able to unload by hand. LIMIT ONE CUBIC YARD PER TRIP.	$103.00	$30.75
CLEAN ASPHALT: No dirt. Must be able to unload by hand. LIMIT ONE CUBIC YARD PER TRIP.	$103.00	$30.75
BASE ROCK, BRICK, TILE & PORCELAIN: No concrete contaminated fees will apply. Must be able to unload by hand. LIMIT ONE CUBIC YARD PER TRIP.	$103.00	$30.75

Type of Material	Per Ton / Rate	Minimum Charge
CARPET / FOAM CARPET PADDING**: Must be clean, dry, and rolled in 6 ft. sections, free of debris. Roll carpet and padding separately. Must be loaded into container to receive reduced rate.	$57.50	$22.25
TIRES: Waste tire hauler certification and manifest are required for disposal of nine (9) or more tires. The CalRecycle California Uniform Waste and Used Tire Manifest tracks generation, transportation, and final disposal of used/waste tires in California.	See tire size rates below	
Tires: 27 inches or less	$9.50 EACH	
Tires: 28 to 35 inches	$15.25 EACH	
Tires: 36 to 48 inches	$36.25 EACH	
Tires: 49 to 60 inches	$71.75 EACH	
Tires: over 60 inches	$179.25 EACH	
Bulk tire loads by weight over 25 tires. Per ton rate is used when tire count is unknown.	$455.00	N/A
APPLIANCES without Freon	$17.50 EACH	
APPLIANCES with Freon	$30.75 EACH	
REFRIGERATORS WITH AMMONIA	$172.50/TON	$45.25 minimum
PROPANE TANKS: 1 gallon to 5 gallons. Check local propane retailer for exchange policy.	$18.50 EACH	
PROPANE TANKS: 6 gallons to 10 gallons. Check local propane retailer for exchange policy.	$27.75 EACH	
MATTRESSES OR BOX SPRING.** LIMIT 15 PER TRIP PER HOUSEHOLD.	FREE	
MATTRESSES OR BOX SPRING FROM RETAILER OR BUSINESS.** LIMIT 15 PER TRIP. Call Bye Bye Mattress at 1-855-494-8400. See Mattress Disposal in California at byebyemattress.com.	$7.25 EACH	
ELECTRONIC WASTE: Television, computer monitors, and all cathode ray tube, plasma, or LCD devices. Broken TVs and monitors must be contained in a garbage bag.	5 FREE per day	
UNCOVERED / UNSECURED LOADS	$30.75 per load	

ALL LOADS MUST BE PROPERLY TARPED AND/OR SECURED

Vehicles arriving at the landfill/transfer station with loads that are not properly secured will be subject to a surcharge of the uncovered/unsecured load fee. Uncovered trucks are one of the primary sources of litter found along our roadways.

California Vehicle Code: VEH § 24002, VEH § 23114, and VEH § 23115.

Collection Service Reminder: Self-haulers in the unincorporated County may save time and money by using curbside trash, recycling, and yard waste service. To sign up, call GreenWaste Recovery at (831) 426-2711 or visit the GreenWaste Recovery Santa Cruz County service page.

General Acceptance Requirements

Topic	Requirement	Customer Note
Vehicles and VIN-bearing items	Mobile homes, trailers, cars, boats, motorcycles, and other VIN-bearing vehicles or vessels are not accepted for recycling or disposal.	Do not bring VIN-bearing items to the landfill or transfer station.
Airspace / Water Weight	Discounts are not provided for airspace or water weight, including excess rainwater or wet loads.	Customers are responsible for load condition at the time of disposal.
Commercial hazardous waste and asbestos	Commercial hazardous waste and asbestos are not accepted.	Businesses needing guidance should contact County Environmental Health at (831) 454-2022
State Disposal Fee	All refuse disposal loads include the applicable California Integrated Waste Management Fee of $1.40 per ton.	Fee is applied to refuse disposal loads.
Scale / Computer Outage	If the scale or computer system is inoperable, all vehicles will be charged by cubic yard (CY).	CY charges apply until normal scale operations resume.
Mixed Loads / Contaminated Loads	The higher unit rate applies to mixed loads and contaminated wood waste loads.	Customers should sort loads before arrival when possible.
Senior Citizen Discount	A senior citizen discount of $2.00 per load is available for customers age 65 or older. The discount applies only to self-hauled residential refuse and yard waste.	Discount does not apply to commercial, industrial, or non-eligible materials.
Load Inspections	Commercial, industrial, and residential loads may be inspected for hazardous or unacceptable waste.	Loads must follow posted acceptance policies and staff direction. Commercial or industrial hazardous waste loads will be turned away and may be referred to County Environmental Health.
Dead Animals	Every effort should be made to deliver dead animals to the landfill between 9:00 AM and 2:30 PM. Dead animals must be double bagged.	Contact the facility if special handling is needed.
Refuse Materials	Refuse materials must be contained to prevent dust, litter, or wind-blown debris. Loads that are unsafe or unsuitable for landfill disposal may be refused.	Ensure all refuse is properly contained before transport. Unsecured or unacceptable loads may be rejected upon arrival.

Ben Lomond Transfer Station Waste Acceptance Information

Material / Load Type	Transfer Station Restriction	Where to Take It / What to Do
Oversized garbage	Items larger than 8 feet long or 8 inches in diameter are not accepted.	Take to Buena Vista Landfill.
Recyclable materials	Sortable loads with scrap metal, pipe, lumber, wood waste, yard waste, stumps, or logs are not accepted in the refuse area.	Separate materials before arrival and use the proper recycling area.
Dirt and rock materials	Dirt, potting soil, rocks, sand, and base rock are not accepted.	Take to Buena Vista Landfill.
Large loads	Large loads and over-sized wood waste, yard waste, construction and demolition debris, dirt, concrete, rocks, sand, brick, and asphalt should not be brought to the Transfer Station.	Take to Buena Vista Landfill. Properly sorted materials may qualify for discounted rates.

Treated Wood Waste (TWW) Disposal Policy

TWW must be declared at the scale, documented, pre-sorted, and hand-unloaded into the designated bin. Mechanical dumping is prohibited unless authorized by County staff.

Requirement	Policy
Eligible source area	Santa Cruz County addresses only, including unincorporated areas and Capitola, Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz, and Watsonville.
Pre-sort / segregate	Separate TWW from all other material before arrival. Mixed or unsegregated loads may be rejected.
Scale declaration / tracking	Declare TWW at the Scale House. County staff will weigh the load and collect required customer/load information per DTSC requirements.
Hand unload / payment	Hand unload into the designated TWW bin, then return to the Scale House to complete payment.
Transport compliance	Customers are responsible for applicable DTSC ID, transporter, or variance requirements when required.

Customer Type and Delivery Requirements

Customer Type	Accepted Locations / Days	Requirements
Residents self-transporting home-generated TWW	Buena Vista and Ben Lomond: Monday–Saturday. Ben Lomond limit: 500 lbs/day.	Declare TWW at the Scale House. County staff will weigh the load and collect required customer/load information per DTSC requirements.
Generators, transporters, and haulers	Buena Vista and Ben Lomond: Monday–Saturday. Ben Lomond limit: 500 lbs/day.	Completed Waste Manifest Profile required before arrival and at Scale House.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Disposal

HHW includes paint, solvents, pesticides, auto fluids, cleaners, aerosols, pool chemicals, and similar products. Use approved HHW collection services. Details: HHW.SantaCruzCountyCA.gov.

Eligibility: Residential HHW is free for eligible unincorporated County, Scotts Valley, Capitola, and Santa Cruz residents; proof required. Watsonville: (831) 768-3133. Business/VSQG is appointment-only at Buena Vista Wed./Fri.; Santa Cruz County waste only; monthly limit under 100 kg / 220 lbs. hazardous waste and under 1 kg extremely hazardous waste. Over limit: (831) 454-2022.

Material / Service	Rate / Limit	Conditions
Residential HHW	Free; max 15 gal. liquid or 125 lbs. solid per trip; 5 gal. max containers.	Buena Vista: Wed. 7:30 AM-2:30 PM; Fri.-Sat. 7:30 AM-3:30 PM. Ben Lomond: Thu. 7:30 AM-3:30 PM. Questions: (831) 454-2606.
Business / VSQG	Fee-based; appointment required; must meet VSQG limits.	Buena Vista only, Wednesdays and Fridays.
Sharps / Needles	Free through MED-Project; red sharps container required.	**Not accepted at the HHW.** No loose, bagged, or improperly contained needles.
CFLs / Fluorescent Tubes	Free for residential; max 25 per visit.	Resident drop-off during HHW operating days.
PaintCare	No material charge for eligible products; $35 minimum may apply.	Quantity/container limits apply; use PaintCare retail take-back sites.

Transport: Keep HHW labeled and upright; do not mix chemicals. Unsafe, leaking, unlabeled, unknown, excessive, commercial, or non-accepted waste may be refused. Emergencies: call 911.

Waste Type	Unit	Price	Waste Type	Unit	Price
Sorting/handling fee	txn	$35.00	Paint materials / adhesives	gal.	$4.50
Absorbent	lb.	$1.00	PCB ballast / transformer	lb.	$3.50
Absorbent	bag	$15.00	Photo chemical liquids	gal.	$8.50
Aerosol cans, <=16.4 oz.	ea.	$1.50	Toxic liquids / pesticides	gal.	$6.00
Antifreeze / coolant	gal.	$1.50	Toxic solids / pesticides	lb.	$1.50
Inorganic cleaners	gal.	$5.00	Solar panels - broken	ea.	$100.0
Organic cleaners	gal.	$10.00	Solar panels - intact	ea.	$65.00
Gas cart. / pepper / CO2	lb.	$3.50	Household batteries	lb.	$1.50
Gas / kerosene / diesel	gal.	$4.00	Lithium-ion batteries	lb.	$5.00
Flares / fuses	ea.	$8.50	Fire extinguishers	ea.	$30.00
Freon cylinders	ea.	$19.00	CFL / D / U / misc. lamps	ea.	$4.00
Hg / thermometers	lb.	$10.00	Fluorescent tubes, <=4 ft.	ea.	$2.00
Hg thermostats / switches	ea.	$1.00	Fluorescent tubes, >4 ft.	ea.	$4.00
Motor / lube / hydraulic oil	gal.	$1.00	HID lamps / headlights	ea.	$4.00
Oil filters - auto / light truck	ea.	$1.00	LED lamps	ea.	$2.00
Oil filters - heavy equipment	ea.	$10.00	Shatter shield lamps	ea.	$3.00
1-lb. cylinders	ea.	$8.00	Toner / ink cartridges	lb.	$2.00
Oxidizers / bleach	gal.	$7.00	UV / neon lamps	ea.	$5.50
			Latex architectural paint*	ea.	$0.00

Notes: Hazardous waste limit is 220 lbs./month. Universal Waste and PaintCare are not subject to that limit. *Sorting/handling fee applies where required.