

When you are ready for spring cleaning, and want to clear out your home and or garage for a fresh start, here are some places that might come in handy:

To safely dispose of (and for free!) all old and unused prescriptions and over the counter medications, take them to the Police/Fire Administration Building at 1000 Villa St. The collection bin will be available for the public to dispose of unwanted medicines free Of charge during business hours (7am-7pm) daily. These are not supposed to be in the trash, or flushed down toilet. Disposing of medications here keeps them from poisoning the Bay *and* keeps them out of our ground water.

Please consolidate all pill-type medications (whether prescription or over-the-counter) into one container or zip-loc type of bag by pouring the pills into the one container or bag, and recycle the original packaging at home (this helps eliminate the unnecessary incineration of plastics and paper that can be recycled and helps protect your identity).

Pills that are in ‘blister-type’ packaging do NOT have to be individually removed- just bring the whole packet of them. All liquids/ointments should remain in their original packaging.

To dispose of burnt-out fluoresce tubes, CFLs and old batteries, go to the Blossom True Value Hardware store at 1297 El Camino Real, Mountain View (650.964.7871), or Orchard Supply Hardware at 2555 Charleston Road, Mountain View (650.691.2000). You are NOT supposed to put these in the trash! Note: They will not take broken bulbs.

A newer law requires “recovery fees” to be charged on paint purchases. Retailers have now become recovery sites for left over paints. No appointment needed (call 1st if you have more than 5 gallons) and no charge! Here are a few local paint recovery stores: Dunn Edwards at 1949 El Camino Real, in Mountain View 650-964-4526 and Kelly Moore at 180 E. El Camino Real in Mountain View 650-964-5220

According to the City of Mountain View’s web site, you may call **Recology Mountain View** at **650.967.3034** *for a free curb side pick up* for these items: household batteries, cell phones, answering machines & telephones, computer disc drives, calculators, keyboards, mouse (would that be mice?), micro-waves, some stoves, PDAs, camcorders, digital cameras, printers & scanners, radios & stereos, tape players/recorders, VCR & DVD players, washer/dryers, and water heaters. Note: there is curb side pick up *for a fee* for air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, computer monitors & laptops, televisions, and tires.

You can Santa Clara Hazardous Waste at 408-299-7300 to make an appointment to drop off hazardous wastes, such as pesticides, snail bait, solvents, paints, and cleaners, etc.

Whew! That felt good! What will you do with all of that “new” space?!

