Solid Waste Handling and Disposal

What is solid waste?
Solid waste includes garbage, trash, construction and demolition debris, old appliances, yard waste, etc. Solid wastes typically associated with cannabis cultivation include but are not limited to empty soil/fertilizer/pesticide bags, empty plant pots, dead or harvested plant waste and spent growth medium.

How should solid waste be handled?
Solid waste should be handled in a manner that:
- Prevents “vectors” - potential disease-carrying critters such as rats, mice, flies, and mosquitoes;
- Prevents health and safety threats and nuisances - fires, odors, dust, animal/insect attractants; and
- Prevents litter and prevents water contamination.

To comply with Humboldt County Code and State law and regulation, you must:
- Store all solid waste in suitable watertight containers with tight fitting covers.
- Remove solid waste that is “putrescible” (smelly) every week. You or your franchise area solid waste hauler may transport your waste only to a permitted facility.
- Remove all other solid waste often enough to prevent the attraction of critters, insects or the creation of a nuisance. Items made from fabric, such as clothing or upholstery, provide bedding material for rodents and should be stored securely and removed weekly to prevent vector propagation.
- Keep materials that are intended for reuse, recycling and composting stored in a clean, sanitary manner separate from solid waste.
- Remove your reusable or recyclable materials at a sufficient frequency to maintain your premises in a neat and sanitary manner.

You may compost any combination of green material, agricultural material, and/or food material if the total amount of feedstock and compost on-site at any one time does not exceed 100 cubic yards and 750 square feet.

But you must not deposit, bury, burn or otherwise dispose of any solid waste on your property or another’s property, unless it meets the requirements of composting materials as stated above or the burning of authorized materials is performed under a valid burn permit. (Contact the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District for info at 707-443-3093.) Note: Cannabis cultivation wastes, including spent growth medium with no further use, must be temporarily stored so that it is prevented from entering into surface waters, and so that any residues/pollutants are prevented from running off or leaching into surface or groundwater, until the wastes can be disposed of at an approved facility. While spent
growth medium can and should be reused for other agricultural purposes, do not dump or abandon it on the landscape or in or near waters.

**Solid waste disposal may only occur at a permitted solid waste facility.** Solid waste transfer sites in Humboldt County are located in: Alderpoint, Blocksburg, Eureka, Fortuna, Fruitland, McKinleyville, Orick, Orleans, Petrolia, Redway, Redwood Valley, Shelter Cove, Whitethorn and Willow Creek.

Contact the Solid Waste Program staff at 707-445-6215 for information on facilities that accept separated construction/demolition debris or green material for a reduced fee, or with other questions.