

Remove It and Roll It Up: How to Recycle Carpeting

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(Photo: Provided)

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According to the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE), more than 350 million pounds of carpet are buried in California landfills every year, where it stays for centuries without breaking down. In fact, used carpet is among the top ten materials disposed of in California landfills. But there is a better way: Carpet Recycling.



Salinas Valley Recycles (SVR) has partnered with the California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) and CARE to offer a carpet and padding recycling program that will help Salinas Valley achieve a future without landfills.

SVR's Sun Street Transfer Station is now an approved Carpet Recycling Center, which means SVR separates clean, dry carpeting and padding, and CARE collects and recycles it at no charge. SVR wants to pass on the savings to customers; but unfortunately, a great deal of the carpet received cannot be recycled because it is wet or contaminated and, therefore, must be landfilled. Consequently, carpeting and padding remain under the disposal

rate classification for Solid Waste to fund operational costs until the program is expanded.

SVR hopes to accept carpet and carpet padding for free recycling but needs your help to make that possible. The more people and businesses participate in recycling it right, the closer SVR gets to offering it as a free service. Recycling right is the key to keeping it out of the landfill, and it's easy.

First: Remove it!

Remove carpeting in strips or runners about 3-5 feet wide, so it can be easily rolled and handled.

Next: Roll it!

Roll carpeting separate from padding (do not roll them up together). Tie rolls or secure your rolls with tape to keep them from unrolling. Stack carpet tiles.

It is very important to keep carpeting and padding dry and free from debris, such as tack strips, nails, dirt and trash so it will be recycled and not buried in the landfill.

Finally: Recycle it!

Recycle your rolled carpet and padding at the Sun Street Transfer Station, located at 139 Sun Street, Salinas. If a load of recycling or disposal is not entirely carpeting and padding, be sure to keep the carpeting and padding separate from other recyclable materials, and separate from trash. The easiest way to do this is to put the trash materials on the bottom or back of your load and put the rolls of carpeting and padding on top for easy access.

The carpet will then be recycled into useful products, like new carpet, carpet padding, insulation and even traffic signs! As consumers, we can make a real impact toward a future without landfills by buying a carpet made of recycled materials, requesting that carpet installers recycle the old carpet and padding, and caring for carpeting to make it last longer between replacements.

For more information about carpet recycling, visit salinasvalleyrecycles.org or the CARE website at www.carpetrecovery.org and help us support carpet recycling!

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