



Environmental Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1

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Service information

If you see this in your neighborhood, call the MP!

+49 611-143-548 7777/7778



An overflowing garbage collection point: Overfilled bins and improperly disposed bulk waste highlight the need for regular collection and proper waste segregation.

The Recycling Center is open:

Mo. - Fr.: 12:00 – 15:30.

For information, call

DSN: 548-4071 or 548-4029,
Comm: +49 611-143-548-4071/4029

The Importance of Clean Cargo: Protecting Our Ecosystems and Operations

Transporting military cargo is essential to our mission, but it comes with risks that extend beyond logistics. Contaminated cargo—known as "Frustrated Freight"—can unintentionally introduce invasive pests, plant diseases, or harmful contaminants into our ecosystem. These issues not only disrupt operations by causing delays and increasing costs but also have lasting consequences for agriculture, the environment, and public health.

What Are Contaminants?

Contaminants are materials or organisms that travel with cargo unintentionally. Common examples include:

- **Soil:** Often carries bacteria, viruses, and seeds of invasive plants or harmful insects.
- **Plant Debris:** Leaves or other materials that can harbor pests such as the Asian Citrus Psyllid, which spreads citrus greening disease.
- **Hitchhiking Pests:** Insects, like the Asian Longhorned Beetle, that attach themselves to vehicles, containers, or equipment.
- **Wood Packaging Material:** Can host destructive wood-boring insects like the Emerald Ash Borer.

Why Does It Matter?

Invasive species cause over \$1 billion in economic damage annually in the U.S. These pests and diseases can decimate crops, threaten forests, and disrupt ecosystems. For example, past infestations of the Emerald Ash Borer led to the removal of millions of ash trees,

costing municipalities and property owners tens of millions of dollars.

Regulations to Know

To prevent these risks, federal laws and Department of Defense (DoD) regulations require strict measures:

- **The Plant Protection Act:** Prohibits the movement of pests and harmful plants into the U.S.
- **Defense Transportation Regulation (DTR):** Requires all military cargo to be inspected and cleaned before transport.
- **The National Invasive Species Act:** Focuses on controlling aquatic nuisance species.

Taking Action

Keeping cargo clean benefits everyone by reducing delays, avoiding costly quarantines, and safeguarding our environment.

- **Inspect Regularly:** Check cargo for soil, debris, and visible pests.
- **Educate Personnel:** Ensure those involved in shipping and receiving understand pest risks and how to mitigate them.
- **Explore Alternatives:** Switch to pest-resistant materials like plastic or metal pallets instead of wood.

By prioritizing clean cargo, we not only protect our mission but also contribute to a safer, healthier environment for future generations.

Solid Waste Management During the Holiday Season

Solid Waste Management During the Holiday Season

The holiday season, including Black Friday and Christmas, brings joy and celebration—but also a significant increase in waste. From food scraps to packaging and decorations, the environmental impact can be immense without proper planning.

By prioritizing **recycling**, we can reduce this impact. Materials like **cardboard boxes, aluminum cans, glass bottles, and plastics** can be separated and sent to recycling facilities to give them a second life. **Waste separation** ensures these items are processed correctly, reducing contamination and enabling reuse.

Solid waste, including uneaten leftovers and excess packaging, can be minimized through **thoughtful meal planning, reusable dinnerware, and eco-friendly decorations**. These small steps make a big difference for a sustainable holiday season.

Practical Tips for Sustainable Holidays

- **Know Your Local Recycling Program:** Understand the recycling guidelines in your area to ensure items like wrapping paper, food containers, and electronics are disposed of properly.
- **Reduce Single-Use Plastics:** Swap out disposable plates and utensils for reusable options.

- **Shop Smart:** Opt for locally sourced and organic products that support sustainable agriculture and reduce packaging waste.
- **Plan Meals Thoughtfully:** Avoid over-preparing food to minimize leftovers, and compost scraps whenever possible.
- **Dispose of Hazardous Waste Safely:** Batteries, old electronics, and other hazardous materials should be taken to proper disposal facilities to prevent environmental damage.
- **Share and Educate:** Inspire family and friends to adopt these eco-friendly practices and encourage sustainability in their celebrations.

By embracing these steps, we can make our holiday season a time not just of celebration but of conscious action for a healthier planet. Whether it's separating recyclables or planning for less waste, every small effort contributes to a larger, positive environmental impact.

This season, let's express gratitude not only for the joy in our lives but also for the opportunity to protect the planet we call home. Together, we can celebrate responsibly and set an example for a more sustainable way to enjoy the holidays.

Preparing for the Heating Season: Energy Efficiency and Safety Tips

Moisture control is the key to mold prevention!

Winter brings colder temperatures and a reliance on indoor heating, creating conditions that can lead to mold growth. Mold not only damages property but also affects indoor air quality, potentially causing respiratory problems or allergies.

To effectively manage mold:

- **Keep Bathrooms Dry:** Use tools like a shower squeegee on glass walls and ensure proper ventilation after showers.
- **Avoid Excessive Moisture:** Prevent heavy condensation by maintaining stable indoor temperatures and avoiding overheating.
- **Ventilate Smartly:** Slightly open windows in winter to improve airflow while retaining warmth.

Nonporous surfaces like glass, tiles, and metals can be

cleaned using soap or detergent, with precautions like gloves and masks to prevent exposure to mold spores.

Effective Mold Removal Options

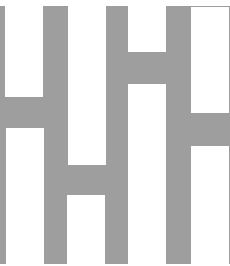
1. Natural Solutions:

- **Vinegar:** An effective, non-toxic cleaner that kills mold and can prevent regrowth. Apply directly or mix with water in a spray bottle.
- **Borax:** A natural alternative that doesn't require rinsing and provides long-lasting protection.

2. For Stubborn Mold:

- **Bleach:** A potent solution for hard-to-clean surfaces like tiles and showers. Use as a last resort and handle with care—always dilute with water, wear protective gear, and rinse thoroughly.

By adopting these measures, you can maintain a mold-free, energy-efficient, and healthier home throughout the winter months.



Recycling Guide

USAG Wiesbaden



Principles of **avoid, reuse, recycle** underlie policies established in Germany to foster sustainable materials management. The **Circular Economy Act** was designed to build a product life-cycle economy and avoid the generation of waste.



Properly sorting waste into recyclable fractions:

- ⇒ Saves energy & money
- ⇒ Reduces air pollution
- ⇒ Decreases greenhouse gas emissions



General Information

All the waste items that are listed under the other waste streams as not included or cannot be allocated are non-recyclable residual waste and trash.

This includes:

- ✓ Food residues
- ✓ Dirty aluminum foil/trays
- ✓ Coffee grounds & filters and tea bags
- ✓ All types of dirty plastic
- ✓ Dirty paper (food wrapping, disposable plates or napkins)
- ✓ Paper cups & plates
- ✓ Cigarette packs
- ✓ Cigarette ash & stubs
- ✓ Pens & pencils



Contact Information: EMD, Bldg. 1059, 65205

Residual/Trash

Items made out of paper and cardboard can be disposed in the container for Paper & Cardboard; for questionable items, refer to recycling information or put it into the regular trash.

This includes:

- ✓ Books & magazines
- ✓ Brochures
- ✓ Cardboard & boxes
- ✓ Catalogues
- ✓ Newspaper
- ✓ Office paper
- ✓ Paper packaging



This does not include & goes into regular trash:

- ✗ Dirty paper (food wrapping, disposable plates or napkins)
- ✗ Paper towels/tissue
- ✗ Drink cartons
- ✗ Carbon/Wax paper
- ✗ Fast food containers
- ✗ Paper cups & plates
- ✗ Cigarette

Paper & Cardboard

Some waste does not belong into the regular trash and also cannot be recycled, but be brought to special collection points.

This includes:

- ✓ Electronic scrap like radios, cables, computers
- ✓ Wood & bulky items like desks, lockers, chairs
- ✓ Toner cartridges
- ✓ Batteries
- ✓ Hazardous Waste like paint, motor oil, cleaning



For details about the disposal of special waste please launch the Garrison website or visit the Recycling Center on Clay Kaserne, Heining Str., Bldg. 2450.

Wiesbaden—Clay Kaserne, DSN: (314) 548-4086, Tel.

Special Waste

Yellow containers are for collecting all types of clean plastic items such as bags, cups and bottles as well as all food packing such as wrapping materials and milk or juice cartons.

This includes:

- ✓ Plastic bottles
- ✓ Plastic wrapping
- ✓ Aluminum items
- ✓ Plastic bags
- ✓ Juice/milk boxes
- ✓ Styrofoam cups & packages



This does not include & goes into regular trash:

- ✗ All types of dirty plastic
- ✗ Plastic foam
- ✗ Glass
- ✗ Paper & Cardboard

Plastics

For additional information about recycling please launch the Garrison website or visit the Recycling Center on Clay Kaserne, Heining Str., Bldg. 2450.

USAG Wiesbaden Recycling website:

⇒ www.wiesbaden.army.mil/sites/directorates/Refuse_Schedule.asp

Service hotline:

⇒ usarmy.wiesbaden.imcom-europe.mbx.waste-hotline@mail.mil

9 (0)611-143-548-4086

Contacts