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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Recycling Has Gone to the Toilet...Literally! CHaRM Adds a New Material in Celebration of America Recycles Day: Porcelain Toilets, Sinks and Urinals

You may call it a john, a commode, the head, the baño, but as of November 15th, America Recycles Day, local residents can call it a recyclable. Every year, in celebration of America Recycles Day, Eco-Cycle and the city of Boulder announce yet another new material to their lineup of unusual materials accepted at the Eco-Cycle/city of Boulder Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM).

“Every year the new item we add seems to get a little more unusual,” said Dan Matsch, Eco-Cycle’s CHaRM manager. “Porcelain toilets, sinks and urinals qualify as unusual and even a little gross, but we’re glad to have an opportunity to give these bulky items a chance to live again when their days as essential plumbing in your home or business are over.”

Toilets, sinks and urinals collected at the CHaRM will be sent to a company that grinds up old concrete into a material that can be used in place of gravel road base in area road construction projects. Ground porcelain is similar enough in compaction qualities to ground concrete that area road material contractors can add it to the mountains of old concrete they process for road projects. “Adding a new material to the CHaRM every year is an important part of the city of Boulder’s Zero Waste Plan,” said Shireen Miller, Waste Reduction Coordinator for the city of Boulder. “Recycling porcelain is important because it keeps materials out of the landfill and reduces the need to quarry gravel from area rock quarries and scar our beautiful Colorado landscape.”

Porcelain fixtures will be accepted for recycling only at the CHaRM; the public should not leave them at any other drop-off center. There will be a charge to offset the handling and transportation costs the CHaRM will incur with this new material, but you can save yourself some money (and save Eco-Cycle some labor) by removing all non-porcelain pieces in advance. The charge for toilets will be \$4 per toilet for porcelain only (other materials removed), or \$10 each for whole toilets. Sinks and urinals will cost \$2 each for porcelain only (plumbing removed) or \$5 for whole units.

The removal of supply lines, toilet seats and lids, toilet valves, and faucets is relatively easy and can be accomplished in a few minutes with a decent pair of pliers. Most toilets have a large brass ring and nut sticking out of the bottom of the tank which may prove to be a bit more challenging, unless you happen to have a large adjustable wrench or pliers that can open up to fit a three-inch nut. But don’t worry; if wrestling with the loo isn’t your thing, Eco-Cycle will be happy to do the work for you.

With the recent closure of Boulder's venerable Rayback Plumbing Supply, there is no other reuse or recycling option for toilets and sinks available to Boulder and Broomfield County residents at this time. Several cities, including Boulder and Longmont, offer rebate programs to encourage residents and businesses to replace older toilets with new low-flow toilets that do not require as much water per flush, including the new dual-flush models; check with your local government for details. Eco-Cycle will be working with area programs in the next few months to assure that you can get your rebate and get your toilet recycled as conveniently as possible.

For a full list of materials accepted at the CHaRM, as well as guidelines, hours and location, visit www.ecocycle.org

Guidelines for Recycling Porcelain Toilets, Sinks and Urinals

YES

All porcelain sinks, toilets, and urinals. An extra charge applies if non-porcelain pieces such as toilet seat, lid and plumbing fixtures have not been removed. Broken or cracked units are okay to include.

NO

Cast iron sinks
Bathtubs (Enamel-coated cast iron tubs can be recycled as scrap metal.)
Sink cabinets or countertops
Dishes, cups or other ceramics
Concrete
Biohazards

FEEES

Toilet, porcelain only (all other materials removed)	\$4
Toilet, whole (other materials still attached)	\$10
Sink or urinal, porcelain only	\$2
Sink or urinal, plumbing attached	\$5

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