

# NORTH METRO Waste, Inc.

"We Are Your Hometown Waste Company!"

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Volume Two, Number Three

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Third Quarter 2007



**NORTH METRO WASTE, INC.** would like to thank everyone who participated in its first on-line drawing for free residential trash service.

Names were randomly chosen by a committee of three, and all winners were previously notified.

*Debra Kohl - First Place Winner. Loyal customer since May 2006 and will receive One Year of Free Service.*

*Bill Mathews - Second Place Winner. Loyal customer since December of 2003 and will receive Six Months of Free Service.*

*Jerry Ennis - Third Place Winner. Loyal customer since November of 2004 and will receive One Quarter of Free Service.*

Anyone wanting to participate in our next on-line drawing must submit their entry either on line at [northmetrowaste.com](http://northmetrowaste.com) at "Quarterly Drawings" or by mail and be postmarked prior to the entry deadline. Entrant must be a customer at the time of the drawing. One entry per household, per quarter. Offer subject to change without notice.

#### Entry Deadlines:

Third Quarter – September 10, 1007

Fourth Quarter – December 10, 2007

First Quarter – March 10, 2007



**ON-LINE BILL PAY** will become available to all of our customers effective July 15, 2007.

Now our customers have the option to pay their waste bill on line via Web Manager. You can pay one time or select to have a recurring charge that will be deducted on the due date of your invoice.

Customers will also have the option to view their transaction history and order a service.

**YOUR WASTE BILL WILL HAVE A NEW LOOK** effective July 15, 2007. To better serve our customers, we have created a newer and more easy to read invoice. And, yes, included with our waste bill will be a return envelope!

Our new waste bill will also have all of the pertinent information that we need to relay to our customers on a quarterly basis; therefore, this will be the last of our Quarterly Newsletters.

### **CUSTOMER REFERRAL PROGRAM**

Happy with our service!

Refer someone to our company and receive a credit on your account for every sign-up.

*Residential service referral = \$5.00 credit*

*Roll-off service referral = \$10.00 credit*

*Front-load service referral = \$25.00 credit*

**NORTH METRO WASTE, INC.**

**SUMMERTIME SPECIAL!**

## **14 & 20 Yard Household Containers**



**BOOK YOURS BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30, 2007  
AND RECEIVE A FREE MONTH  
OF RESIDENTIAL SERVICE!**

**North Metro Waste, Inc.**

**149 River Mill Drive**

**Ball Ground, GA 30107**

**Residential Service: 770-926-6764**

**Commercial Service: 770-924-0294**

**Facsimile: 770-704-7047**

**Web Site: [www.northmetrowaste.com](http://www.northmetrowaste.com)**



## WHAT'S UP WITH YOUR ENVIRONMENT?

### True Grit: Safer Sand and Play Sets

Green Guide 120 | May/June 2007 | In Your Backyard

Among parents, sandboxes may trigger worries about sharp objects or about cats or rodents that might visit after dark. Wooden jungle gyms may inspire histories of scraped knees or bumped chins. But most parents don't consider that the sand or the wood itself might be a health hazard.

Twenty years ago, the Health Research Group, a division of Public Citizen, raised an alarm about sand safety after a geologist found play sand contained traces of the fibrous mineral tremolite, a form of the human carcinogen asbestos. But the stone industry insisted the sand was safe, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission declined to take action.

Of course, the risk of asbestos exposure is greatest to workers who handle the material every day—far more intense and prolonged than the exposure of a tot in the sandbox. Still, as Philip Landrigan, M.D., director of the Center for Children's Health and the Environment at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, points out, children breathe proportionately more air than adults, and they play close to the ground, where airborne particles swirl about.

Most importantly, he says, malignant mesothelioma—a lung cancer caused almost exclusively by asbestos—is extremely sensitive to limited exposure. "Even very small doses of asbestos exposure," Landrigan says, "can increase the risk of malignant mesothelioma for four or five or six decades".

Tremolite isn't the only potential hazard. A parent purchasing a bag of play sand may be startled to discover a warning label that the bag contains a substance "known to the State of California to cause cancer". California requires these labels because the primary ingredient in sand, crystalline silica, has been determined a human carcinogen by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. However, no reports exist of the disease in children exposed to silica-containing sand.

Finally, because the sandbox may indeed attract critters, infections are possible, especially from *E. coli* bacteria; keep cuts and scrapes well bandaged.

Or just follow Landrigan's advice: "I encourage my grandchildren to stay out of the sandbox," he says. He guides them instead toward the swings or the jungle gym.

That jungle gym warrants a second look, too. Many are made of wood preserved with chromated copper arsenate (CCA), the basis of which is arsenic, a carcinogenic chemical that can leach out of CCA-treated wood onto children's hands and into soil and groundwater. Although CCA has been banned in residential uses since 2004, millions of CCA-treated play sets still exist.

A newer alternative, ammonia cal copper quaternary, is considered less toxic to children than arsenic compounds, but its effect on the environment is still unknown. The most responsible choice remains naturally rot-resistant woods like cedar or redwood. Look for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)-certified wood, or choose play sets made from recycled plastics.

As a final precaution, avoid older sets with cracked, chipped or peeling paint, which may be lead-based. Lead, a neurotoxin, can cause learning disabilities and behavioral disorders.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HAVE A SAFER PLAYGROUND?

- Test your local playground's sand for asbestos. Find a lab through the EPA's asbestos info line by calling 202-554-1404.
- In home sandboxes, avoid "all-purpose" sand which has not been washed to screen out breathable particles. The Safe Sand Company sells asbestos- and silica-free sand ([www.safesand.com](http://www.safesand.com), 415-971-1776). Replace sand regularly to avoid contamination.
- In indoor sand tables, use beans or rice instead of sand—not great for molding but nice for pouring, measuring or bulldozing.
- If a wooden play structure has a greenish tinge, it has almost certainly been treated with copper, if not CCA. Test wood and soil for arsenic with a kit from the Environmental Working Group ([www.ewg.org/reports/poisonwoodrivals/orderform.php](http://www.ewg.org/reports/poisonwoodrivals/orderform.php)).
- Treated wood should be sealed every six months with water-based sealants, like those from AFM, or latex paint. And always, wash children's hands after they have been playing on any wooden structure—particularly before eating.