

The Gainesville Zero Waste News

Proper Disposal of Old Worn-out American Flags

Flag Day is June 14th and marks a great time to remember that the American flag is a powerful symbol of the nation's identity, unity, and values. Over time, flags can become worn, torn, or faded due to exposure to the elements. When an American flag is no longer in a suitable condition for display, it is important to handle its disposal or recycling with the respect and dignity it deserves.



Many local veterans' organizations, such as the American Legion or Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and Scout groups often have flag retirement ceremonies. These organizations conduct solemn and respectful ceremonies to retire old flags. Reach out to them to inquire about their specific procedures for flag disposal. They will ensure that the flags are respectfully retired, often through a ceremonial burning.

Flag manufacturers or retailers sometimes have initiatives in place to properly recycle or dispose of worn-out flags. They can provide guidance on the best way to handle the flag's retirement.

To find out more about proper flag disposal etiquette, visit vfw.org.

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