

*Jackie Lacey*  
District Attorney  
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NEWS RELEASE

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**Lowe's Settles Consumer Protection Lawsuit for  
Environmental Violations**

Lowe's Home Centers, a North Carolina-based company, today was ordered to pay more than \$125,000 to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office as part of a civil settlement for environmental violations.

The settlement stems from claims that 118 Lowe's stores statewide unlawfully handled and disposed of various hazardous wastes and materials including pesticides, aerosols, paint and colorants solvents, adhesives, batteries, mercury-containing fluorescent bulbs, electronic waste and other toxic, ignitable and corrosive materials.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, working jointly with 31 other district attorney's offices and two city attorney's offices, filed the suit in Alameda County Superior Court.

Judge George C. Hernandez, Jr., of Alameda County Superior Court signed the stipulated judgment April 1. Under the terms of the settlement, Lowe's was ordered to pay a total of \$18.1 million in civil penalties and costs to all prosecutorial and investigating agencies involved.

Some of the monies will be used to fund environmental hazardous waste minimization projects. The retailer also will be bound under the terms of a permanent injunction prohibiting future violations of law.

Lowe's was cooperative throughout the investigation and has adopted and implemented enhanced policies and procedures designed to eliminate the disposal of hazardous waste products in California. Stores are required to retain their hazardous waste in segregated, labeled containers so as to minimize risk of exposure to employees and customers and to ensure that incompatible wastes do not combine to cause dangerous chemical reactions.

MORE

An investigation conducted by the District Attorney's Environmental Law Section along with other prosecutorial and investigating agencies revealed that, for more than six years, Lowe's was routinely and systematically sending hazardous wastes to local landfills throughout California that were not permitted to receive those wastes.

The inspections further revealed that at some Lowe's stores batteries and compact fluorescent light bulbs were improperly disposed of rather than recycled.

The case was investigated by Deputy District Attorney Daniel Wright of the Environmental Law Section and the Los Angeles County Fire Department Health Hazardous Materials Division.

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**About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Annually, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecutes more than 60,000 felonies and 140,000 misdemeanor crimes.