

In an effort to improve Fresno neighborhoods, city workers will soon issue fines to residents who don't keep trash containers hidden on noncollection days.



DIANA BALDRICA/THE FRESNO BEE

Dalia Holm, a code enforcer, puts a warning on a trash bin in northwest Fresno, relating the city's new rule that trash containers have to be out of sight, except on collection day and the night before. Beginning next month, true enforcement will begin. After two warnings, residents who do not comply will be fined \$50. City workers have been explaining the new rule since March.

# Beautification or bust

By Matt Leedy  
The Fresno Bee

Fresnans were warned. Now they could face fines if their trash containers aren't hidden.

Code enforcers will begin issuing notifications Sept. 5 to residents who violate Fresno's new trash rules. After two notices, violators will receive a \$50 fine added to their utility bills. A second fine will cost \$100, and a third \$200. A person cannot be fined more than \$1,500 in a year.

"We are done with the educational phase and we are starting the actual enforcement," said Joleen Wofford, a community coordinator in the solid-

## Details

For more information about Fresno's ordinance requiring trash containers to be out of view, call (559) 621-1452. Fresno's Web site, [www.fresno.gov](http://www.fresno.gov), gives examples of proper and improper storage.

waste division.

The City Council approved a law last year that requires residents to keep their gray, blue and green containers out of sight, except on collection day and the night before.

City workers have canvassed Fresno

since March and tied warning tags that explain the law to violators' trash containers. The warnings suggest residents store the containers in back or side yards, or hide them behind small enclosures or hedges.

Initially, the warnings read: "City Adds Staff To Enforce Code Violation," followed by a fine schedule. Some residents confused it with a citation.

The warning tags were changed after City Council members criticized them in April.

The revised warnings begin: "The City of Fresno needs your help to keep

See **TRASH**, Back Page