




GREGORY D. TOTTEN
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

<http://www.vcdistrictattorney.com>

Twitter: @VenturaDAOOffice

Contact: Mitchell F. Disney
Senior Deputy District Attorney
Telephone: (805) 662-1706
E-mail: Mitch.Disney@ventura.org
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**Home Depot to Pay \$27.84 Million Settlement for
Environmental and Customer Privacy Violations**

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that the Ventura County District Attorney’s Office, along with the California Attorney General’s Office, District Attorney’s Offices in Alameda, Monterey, Riverside, San Diego, San Joaquin, Santa Clara and Yolo Counties, and the City Attorney of Los Angeles, has settled a \$27.8 million civil enforcement action against Georgia-based Home Depot U.S.A., Inc. (“Home Depot”) alleging that Home Depot unlawfully disposed of hazardous wastes and discarded records without rendering private customer information unreadable.

The complaint alleges that more than 300 Home Depot stores and distribution centers throughout the state routinely and systematically sent hazardous wastes to local landfills that were not permitted to receive those wastes, and discarded documents containing sensitive customer information into store trash bins, potentially exposing the information to identity thieves. The hazardous wastes included pesticides, aerosols, paint and colorants, solvents, adhesives, batteries, mercury-containing fluorescent bulbs, electronic waste, key shavings and other toxic, ignitable, and corrosive materials. The discarded records included customer names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses.

When notified of the investigation, Home Depot cooperated with investigators and dedicated additional resources toward environmental compliance and improving its hazardous-waste and customer-record management compliance programs.

Under the final judgment, Home Depot will pay \$18.4 million in civil penalties and reimbursement of investigation and prosecution costs. An additional \$2.5 million will be paid to fund supplemental environmental projects furthering consumer protection and environmental enforcement in California. Home Depot will expend at least \$6.8 million for above-compliance environmental expenditures.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

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