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**NEWS RELEASE**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**HOME DEPOT ORDERED TO PAY \$27 MILLION SETTLEMENT  
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND CUSTOMER SERVICE VIOLATIONS**

**RIVERSIDE** – Riverside County District Attorney Mike Hestrin, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra and eight other prosecutor's offices throughout the state announced today, March 8, 2018, that Georgia-based Home Depot U.S.A., Inc. has been ordered to pay \$27.84 million to resolve allegations of unlawful disposal of hazardous wastes and discarding records without rendering private customer information unreadable.

The judgment is the culmination of a civil enforcement action filed on Feb. 15, 2018, in Alameda County and led by the Riverside County DA's Office, the California Attorney General's Office, the DA's Offices in Alameda, Monterey, San Diego, San Joaquin, Santa Clara, Ventura and Yolo counties, and the City Attorney of Los Angeles, with assistance by the Department of Toxic Substances Control. The civil complaint filed by the prosecutors alleged that more than 300 Home Depot stores and distribution centers throughout the state were routinely and systematically sending hazardous wastes to local landfills that were not permitted to receive those wastes, and were tossing documents containing sensitive customer information into store trash bins, potentially exposing the information to identity thieves.

From 2013 to 2015, investigators with the Riverside County DA's Environmental Protection Team, along with environmental regulators throughout the state, conducted a series of waste inspections of dumpsters belonging to Home Depot stores. A total of 45 trash compactors belonging to 32 Home Depot stores were inspected. All 45 compactors contained hazardous waste and many of the compactors also contained discarded records containing sensitive customer information that had not been shredded or rendered unreadable. The unlawfully disposed of 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 containing customer information included customer names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses.

Upon notice of the investigation, Home Depot took steps to cooperate and to dedicate additional resources toward environmental compliance and improving its hazardous waste and customer record management compliance programs. Among other things, Home Depot conducted dozens of its own compactor waste assessments, and placed customer records lock boxes in strategic locations throughout its stores to ensure the proper management of those documents by its employees. In addition, in this settlement, Home Depot has committed to employing hazardous waste compliance managers dedicated specifically to ensuring the proper handling and management of hazardous wastes, and to conducting daily store inspections to ensure that hazardous waste and hazardous materials are being properly handled.

There are 24 Home Depot stores in Riverside County and all are subject to the terms of the settlement.

Under the final judgment, signed by an Alameda County judge, Home Depot must pay more than \$18 million in civil penalties and costs. An additional \$2.5 million will fund supplemental environmental projects furthering consumer protection and environmental enforcement in California, and Home Depot will expend at least \$6.8 million for above compliance environmental measures. The retailer will be bound under the terms of a permanent injunction prohibiting similar future violations of law.

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