



Recycling and Waste Reduction

KEEPING MILWAUKEE CLEAN AND GREEN

Fall 2017 City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works • MilwaukeeRecycles.com • 414-286-CITY (2489)

Are You Wish-cycling? Recycling right & avoiding the Dirty Dozen

The Top Twelve vs. the Dirty Dozen

When it comes to recycling in Milwaukee, there is good news! Milwaukeeans are continuing to recycle right and include the Top Twelve items in the curbside cart or bin. These items include plastic bottles and jugs, juice boxes, aluminum and tin cans, paper, and cardboard. For seven straight years we have increased recycling. Increases in recycling the Top Twelve means more recycling revenue, totaling \$8.5 million dollars over the past five years, which help offset City costs.

And we can do even better! In all this recycling we've seen the appearance of the Dirty Dozen. These are items that can't be recycled curbside but still end up in our carts and bins. Another term for the Dirty Dozen is residue and includes things like plastic bags and wraps, fire hazards like propane tanks, and tangles such as hoses and wire.

Our most recent review showed a slight decrease in the Dirty Dozen and with your help, we know we can reduce residue even more!



Workers shut down equipment three times a day to climb on the screens to cut plastic bags out of the equipment. Plastic bags should not be placed in your cart and recyclables should be loose in the cart.

Residue – why it's a resi-don't!

Residue, or things that don't belong in your recycling cart, is bad for three key reasons.

- 1. The People.** Residue can be dangerous. When people place hazardous wastes, needles, or propane tanks in their cart your recycling driver and the people sorting at the MRF could be injured.
- 2. The Planet.** Residue ultimately goes to the landfill. By placing garbage in your recycling cart, you are having it hauled to the MRF, processed, and then hauled to the landfill, which wastes a lot of energy and fuel. Some kinds of residue can also hurt the value and recyclability of other materials that do belong in the recycling cart. For example, motor oil contaminates plastics, so once your motor oil is recycled at either of the Drop Off Centers, the empty oil container belongs in the trash.
- 3. The Profitability of Recycling.** Residue is expensive. It costs money to process and landfill. It also costs money when equipment is damaged. Plastic bags, hoses, and extension cords get wrapped around various parts of equipment. These "tangles" need to be cut off the equipment by hand several times a day to keep the machinery moving.

Wish-cycling.

Have you ever wondered if something could be recycled? Often if there is a question, people err on the side of recycling. This well-intentioned guessing is called wish-cycling. The most common Dirty Dozen items that sneak into our recycling carts due to wish-cycling include plastic bags, scrap metal, and paper cups and



Styrofoam. To combat this residue make sure your plastic bags get returned to a retail location, scrap metal is taken to a scrap yard or a Drop Off Center, and paper cups and Styrofoam are avoided or placed in the garbage.

How to Help

Help Milwaukee Recycle For Good by only putting in materials that can be recycled, preparing them properly, and leaving out the Dirty Dozen. Post the back of this mailer in a spot that can easily remind everyone in the household what belongs in the recycling cart.

Want more?

- Visit the MRF with your community group, school group, or as a family to learn more about the entire recycling process
- Connect with us by taking the pledge online and signing up to receive our e-mail notifications or like us on Facebook
- Share information with others. Our website has a variety of community resources including flyers that can be shared with new neighbors from a neighborhood association, tips for working with your landlord if you are a renter, and a disposal guide that gives information on the best way to dispose of a variety of items.



**DO NOT PUT
FIRE HAZARDS IN THE
RECYCLING CART**

**THIS INCLUDES
PROPANE TANKS
BATTERIES
FLAMABLE LIQUIDS**



Where does my stuff go?

Reduce. Reuse. Recycle. Everyone has heard the phrase, but did you know it is not *just* a catchy phrase? It is a prioritized list that helps us identify the best ways to make less waste and properly dispose of items. Doing this helps make our city safe and clean, creates jobs, and protects the environment.



Old Clothing, Shoes, and Furniture

If an item cannot be repaired, consider donating. Many organizations recycle what they can't use.

If items must be thrown away, large items up to the size of a recliner can be placed out with the trash for free. Larger items? Free drop off and fee based collection options are available.

Do NOT place these items in the recycling cart.



Plastic Bags

Reduce plastic bags by using reusable bags. If you have plastic bags, wraps, bread bags, or similar items, take them to a retail drop off location for proper recycling.

Do NOT place these items in the recycling cart or place recyclables in plastic bags. Recyclables should be loose in the cart or bin for easy processing.



Brush

Leaves, brush, weeds, garden trimmings, and other yard wastes are banned from landfills and must **NOT be placed in garbage or recycling carts.** These items are composted which conserves natural resources while saving the City money.

Brush is collected April - November by special request made online or by calling (414) 286-CITY.

- Brush is woody trimmings from trees and bushes.
- Cut brush down to size. No branch should be longer than 4' or larger than 6" in diameter.
- Place a pile up to the size of a couch at your collection point.

Leaves, green garden trimmings, and weeds are only collected during the fall rake-out period (October 1 - November 15).



Cardboard Boxes

Reuse boxes when possible.

Cardboard must be recycled. Flatten boxes and cut to 3' x 3' or take them to a Drop Off Center.

Discard all plastic and foam before recycling.

Pizza boxes may be recycled if the grease spot is smaller than the size of your hand.



Food Waste

Reducing food waste, composting at home or at a community compost site, and using a garbage disposal are all great ways to keep food out of the landfill. Learn more at our website.

Rinse recyclables to make sure no food waste contaminates your recyclables.



Other Items

Visit MilwaukeeRecycles.com/Guide to see our searchable list of over 50 items! Not online? Give us a call at (414) 286-CITY (2489).

Home | HazMat COLLECTION

Just stop, drop & drive.

Easy!

FRANKLIN
10518 S. 124th St.

MILWAUKEE
3879 W. Lincoln Ave.

MENOMONEE FALLS
W124 N9451 Boundary Rd.

Get details & a list of items we accept at mmsd.com

Milwaukee County residents only. Please, no businesses.

Recycle clean, dry plastic bags and film packaging

Recycle at participating retailers

Recycle if Clean & Dry

Store Drop-off

PLASTIC BAG

how2recycle.info

never place in your recycling cart

Electronics Recycling

TVs, computers, computer monitors, and computer components must be recycled.

Crews will NOT collect these items. Bring items to a Drop Off Center for recycling.

Proof of residency required. 3 TV maximum.



3 WAYS TO ENTER TO WIN

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK TAKE THE RECYCLING QUIZ TAKE THE PLEDGE ON OUR WEBSITE

PRIZES INCLUDE
GIFT CARDS
COMPOST BINS
RAIN BARRELS



RECYCLING PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

All of those bottles, cans, envelopes, and cardboard boxes you put in your recycling cart add up to a great deal of environmental and economic savings!

First, your materials come to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) to be sorted and baled with other similar materials. Then they are shipped to companies that make new products. Curious to learn more? Visit our website or take a tour! Information is available at MilwaukeeRecycles.com.

In 2016 Milwaukee residents

- Collected over 25,000 tons of recyclables through the curbside collection program
- Saved more than 260,500 trees
- Conserved the equivalent of 337 railway cars of coal
- Reduced Greenhouse Gas emissions the equivalent of taking 13,249 cars off the road
- Avoided \$1,091,251 in landfill disposal costs

Thanks for recycling more and recycling right!

FREE TOURS

Are you curious about what happens to your recyclables once they are collected?

Come and see!

- Adult tours are 60 minutes. Several free tours are scheduled each month. Reservations and close-toed shoes are required.
- K-12 programs and tours are 45 – 90 minutes. A DPW grant covers the cost of the program at the MRF for public and private schools located in the City of Milwaukee. STEM and service learning extensions available.

Contact our education partner, Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful at (414) 272-5462 or register online at KGMB.org to schedule your tour or field trip today!



DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 1, 2017Begin raking leaves into the street for collection
- November 15, 2017Raking leaves into the street ends
- November 26, 2017Winter Drop Off Center Hours Start
- December 4, 2017Winter Collection Schedules Start
- April 1, 2018Summer Drop Off Center Hours Start
- April 2, 2018Summer Collection Schedules and Brush Collections Start

Visit our website in late Winter to learn about Project Clean & Green and other spring clean up opportunities.

Check our website for closures around City observed holidays.

SENSATIONAL SET OUTS



Recycle accepted items loose in the bin – not in plastic bags. Flatten cardboard. Bag shredded paper. Rinse containers.



Set out by 7 AM on collection day between the curb and the sidewalk with the lid opening to the street. Keep carts 3 feet away from other items. Return the emptied cart to your storage location by 10 PM.



Set out by 7 AM on collection day by rolling carts to the alley line with the lid opening to the alley. Keep carts 3 feet away from other items. Return the emptied cart to your storage location by 10 PM.



Up to 1 cubic yard (large recliner) can be set out with your regular garbage for collection. No requests are necessary. For over 1 cubic yard special fees and restrictions apply. **Learn more online or call 414-286-CITY.**



Electronics, appliances, tires, and yard debris* are not collected curbside. Take to a Drop Off Center. *Loose yard debris collected with fall leaves. Learn more below.

City of Milwaukee

organics Recycling

\$50

\$65

SAVE THE DATE

City of Milwaukee's 7th Annual
Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale

Sign up at MilwaukeeRecycles.com for a reminder when the online store opens. All items must be pre-ordered.

Pre-ordered pick up on Saturday May 19, 2018

LEAF COLLECTION

During the fall rake-out period (Oct 1 – Nov 15), rake leaves loose into the street. Leaves are composted so do not include plastic bags, litter, or pet waste.

Rake leaves:

- Loose into the street with a 1 foot gap between the leaves and the curb
- Away from storm drains and sewer grates
- Add garden trimmings and weeds on top. Do NOT include grass clippings or pumpkins.
- Separate from brush piles. Brush needs to continue to be collected in the usual way.
- No special request for leaf collection is necessary.

All other times of the year leaves must be mulched on the property or taken to a Drop Off Center. Leaves, green garden trimmings, and weeds are banned from the landfill and should not be placed in garbage or recycling carts.



Drop Off Centers



Accepted Materials

Recycled
 Antifreeze
 Car Batteries
 Motor oil and filters
 Tires (up to 5 passenger tires)
 Appliances
 Scrap Metal
Asphalt Shingles*
Concrete*
 Electronics (3 TV Max)
 Cooking oil
 Shoes (paired, no heels)
 Recyclables accepted curbside
 Large corrugated cardboard

Composted
 Brush and branches
 Grass clippings
 Garden debris
 Leaves
 Logs

Landfilled
 Garbage
 Old furniture
 Construction and remodeling debris*

*There is a charge for all construction related materials. Restrictions apply. Visit our website for more information.

Locations

North - 6660 N Industrial Road

South - 3879 W Lincoln Avenue

All year - Tuesday - Saturday 7 AM - 3 PM

Open Sundays through November 25, 2017

and again starting April 8, 2018

Visit city.milwaukee.gov/Sanitation for holiday closures.

PRESORTED
 STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 LGI

City of Milwaukee
 Department of Public Works
 841 N. Broadway, Rm 620
 Milwaukee WI, 53202



THE TOP 12

VS

THE DIRTY DOZEN

THE TOP 12

THINGS YOU CAN RECYCLE:



THE DIRTY DOZEN

THINGS YOU CAN'T RECYCLE:



LET'S MAKE MILWAUKEE CLEAN & GREEN!

Visit MilwaukeeRecycles.com/DirtyDozen to learn more about what you CAN and CANNOT recycle!

What's Inside:

- Are You Wish-cycling?.....1
- Where does my stuff go?.....2
- Program Highlights.....3
- Tours.....3
- Dates to Remember.....3
- Sensational Set-Outs.....3
- Leaf Collection.....3
- Drop Off Centers.....4
- The Top 12 vs The Dirty Dozen.....4

NO GARBAGE OR RECYCLING COLLECTION ON THESE CITY HOLIDAYS:

THANKSGIVING: November 23 & 24, 2017

CHRISTMAS: December 22 & 25, 2017

NEW YEAR'S: January 1, 2018

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY: January 15, 2018

GOOD FRIDAY: March 30, 2018

MEMORIAL DAY: May 28, 2018

INDEPENDENCE DAY: July 4, 2018

LABOR DAY: September 3, 2018

