



Recycling and Waste Reduction

Keeping Milwaukee Clean & Green

Fall 2019

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

Milwaukee Doubles Down on Recycling - You Can Help!

You've read the articles, seen the news – recycling markets are rough right now. With China and changes in the international market leading to fewer options to export, the supply of American recyclables has out-paced demand. This increased competition to get recyclable material into mills around the U.S. has driven down pricing, and recycling right is more important than ever. Some municipalities have had to consider landfilling some recyclables due to difficulty producing and shipping quality materials.

Not the City of Milwaukee. Your recyclables are continuing to be sold and made into new products. Each U.S. location is experiencing this downturn a little differently. Midwestern cities like Milwaukee often rely on relationships with local mills, built on quality of supply, instead of international export markets, so this has helped us continue to bale and ship recyclables collected through the City of Milwaukee curbside and drop off center programs. Milwaukee is still recycling all of your accepted materials.

Why Should I Recycle?

Did you know that recyclables revenue from our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) typically offsets 10-20% of the overall cost to provide our residential recycling service? By participating in the City of Milwaukee's recycling program, you help make this happen. With your help, residential recycling in Milwaukee diverted 25,451 tons from the landfill in 2018. Sending those tons to recycling instead of landfill helped avoid over \$1.1 million in disposal costs alone. The benefit doesn't stop there. The sale of those recyclables also generated over \$1.3 million in revenue, which helps the City offset the cost of municipal services. Recycling helps the City save money AND make money to support services. Now that's a win-win.

The more people participate and recycle accepted items, the more disposal costs are reduced and program cost offsets are increased. Remember earlier when we mentioned that increased demand to move recyclables requires increased material quality? Your recycling cart or bin is the first step in that process. Keeping contaminants out of recycling helps us better sort and produce the clean product that mills want to see.



Plastic bags wrap around MRF equipment, hindering sorting

What's the Deal with Plastic Bags?

Plastic bags are one example of a contaminant that should not be placed in your recycling. Bags wrap around the MRF equipment or can end up in final product bales as "residue", lowering market value and demand for our materials.

When wrapped around equipment, these bags hinder materials from being sorted into the correct streams. The recycling system must shut down while team members harness up to cut the bags out. Help keep workers safe and our process running, by taking plastic bags to a store drop off. Check your local grocery for a list of plastic bags and films they accept in their collection boxes.

Find your new recycling guide on pages 3-4 of this mailer

Recycle Right

By recycling right, we ensure that the entire system works and that it is sustainable. You can help with that too! We've included a brand new recycling guide on pages 3 – 4 of this mailer. Snip it out on the dotted line and hang it above your trash and recycling containers.

Follow these rules when it comes to recycling:

1. Know Before You Throw

Check your new recycling guide to see if a material is accepted in your recycling cart or bin.

2. When in Doubt, Throw it Out

If you don't see the item on the accepted materials OR it's listed in the contaminants section, make sure to put it in the trash.

What you do with your recycling – matters. What you do matters for the safety of the workers, what you do matters for keeping costs manageable, and what you do matters for the environment. You can have confidence that what you're doing matters. ■

Recycling Reminders



Heads up! Fall Leaf Collection Reminders

Leaves, brush, weeds, garden trimmings, and other yard waste are banned from landfills and must NOT be placed in garbage or recycling carts.

Fall Leaf Collection: Oct 1st – Nov 15th

During the fall rake-out period (Oct 1 – Nov 15), the City collects leaves for composting which conserves natural resources, saves money, and protects water quality by reducing leaves entering storm sewers.

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, pumpkins, litter, or bagged material.
- Separate from brush piles. Brush is not to be placed in the street.

No special request for leaf collection is necessary; leaf collection operations cycle through the city systematically. All other times of the year, leaves must be mulched on the property or taken to a Drop Off Center.



Leaves and brush properly set out for collection.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 1, 2019 Fall leaf rake-out begins.
 November 15, 2019 Fall leaf rake-out ends.
 December 1, 2019 Winter Drop Off Center Hours and Winter Parking Regulations begin.
 December 2, 2019 Winter Collection Schedule begins.
 April 5, 2020 Summer Drop Off Center Hours and Brush Collection Begin.
 April 6, 2020 Summer Collection Schedules begins.
 Visit Milwaukee.gov/snow to learn about City of Milwaukee Snow and Ice Control Operations and to sign up for winter parking alerts.
 Snow and ice must be cleared off of and around garbage/recycling carts.

Brush Collection: April – November (by request)

The City collects household brush piles of 2 cubic yards or less from April – November by special request. Brush consists of woody trimmings from trees and shrubs.

- Cut brush down to size. No branch should be longer than 4 feet or larger than 6 inches in diameter
- Place a pile up to the size of a couch between the curb and the sidewalk for collection
- Request collection online at Milwaukee.gov/clickforaction or call 414-286-CITY (2489)

Drop Off Center Update – New Fee Schedule

The City of Milwaukee's two Drop Off Centers have long provided residents with access to recycle and dispose unwanted domestic household items and yard debris. Prior to September 3, 2019, the only charge for service was for construction debris, and small businesses and contractors were not allowed to use the centers. However, observations revealed that small contractors in non-labeled vehicles accounted for approximately 60%-70% of all visits to the Drop Off Centers. DPW researched alternative self-haul options available to small contractors such as those who routinely perform handy work and property cleanups. Regional landfills can involve long haul distances for those working in the city. The City's Drop Off Centers provided an opportunity to increase service to the community in a fiscally responsible manner through a reinvented fee for service model.

The Common Council and Mayor passed an ordinance change in the spring of this year to allow access to the Drop Off sites by City residents and property owners, individuals and contractors, under a fee schedule. A new fee schedule was created and became effective September 3rd. It is based on load size, to provide access to both residents and small businesses such as contractors, handyman services, landscaping services, landlord maintenance services, etc. with an ability to recover associated operating costs while continuing to provide a safe, low-cost, disposal and recycling option in the community.

in a larger vehicle) remains free. Less than 6 cubic yards of brush and curbside recyclable materials of any quantity also remain free. The MMSD hazardous materials program continues to be available at the Lincoln Ave site to County residents only. Two changes that may affect non-business residents is the introduction of a recycling fee for tires (\$3 each) and televisions (\$5 each), but these prices remain below typical recycling fees at retail locations that accept these items.

We're very pleased to continue providing the community and all of its members with low-cost, safe, and convenient services for recycling and disposal needs.

Learn more about the new fee schedule, restrictions, and limitations at Milwaukee.gov/dropoff. ■

How Will I Be Affected?

Residents will still enjoy many of the same free services as they always have. Passenger car loads or approximately 1 cubic yard of debris (even

DROP OFF CENTER

Fee Guide

Approximately 1 cubic yard (yd³) Passenger Car		Free
Approximately 1-3 yd³ Truck - Minivan - SUV		\$20
Approximately 3-6 yd³ Small Trailer - Tall Truck		\$30
Approximately 6-10 yd³ Large Trailer - Small Box Truck		\$50
Approximately 10-18 yd³ Large Box Truck - Enclosed Trailer		\$90
Brush (6 yd³ +) Less than 6 yd ³ free!		\$20
Televisions Maximum of 3		\$5 each
Tires Maximum of 5		\$3 each

Get to Know Your Drop Off Center

North - 6660 N Industrial Road - *must enter Industrial Road from Mill Road* • **South** - 3879 W Lincoln Avenue

Summer Hours

Beginning April 5, 2020

Tuesday - Sunday 7 AM - 3 PM • Monday CLOSED

Winter Hours

Beginning December 1, 2019

Tuesday - Saturday 7 AM - 3 PM • Sunday - Monday CLOSED

Accepted Items

<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Recycled</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antifreeze Car batteries Motor oil and filters Cooking oil Appliances Scrap Metal Asphalt Shingles Concrete 	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Composted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brush and branches Grass clippings Garden debris Leaves
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Landfilled</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garbage Old furniture and mattresses Construction or remodeling debris 	

Unacceptable Materials

These items cannot be recycled in the curbside program. For a complete list of acceptable and unacceptable materials, visit our website MilwaukeeRecycles.com

- ✗ Appliances
 - ✗ Bagged Recyclables
 - ✗ Batteries
 - ✗ Car Parts (Brake Rotors, etc.)
 - ✗ Ceramics
 - ✗ Chains
 - ✗ Christmas Trees or Lights
 - ✗ Clothing
 - ✗ Construction Debris
 - ✗ Cords
 - ✗ Cups (Paper or Styrofoam)
 - ✗ Diapers
 - ✗ Drinking Glasses or Mugs
 - ✗ Food
- ✗ Garbage
 - ✗ Garden Pots or Trays
 - ✗ Hangers
 - ✗ Hard Cover Books
 - ✗ Helium Cylinders or Tanks
 - ✗ Hoses
 - ✗ Liquids
 - ✗ Light Bulbs
 - ✗ Loose Caps and Lids
 - ✗ Medical Waste & Medication
 - ✗ Motor Oil Bottles
 - ✗ Needles, Sharps, Syringes
 - ✗ Paint or Paint Cans
 - ✗ Paper Ice Cream Containers
- ✗ Paper Plates or Cups
 - ✗ Plastic Bags, Wrap, Film
 - ✗ Plastic Utensils
 - ✗ Propane Cylinders or Tanks
 - ✗ Scrap Metal
 - ✗ Styrofoam
 - ✗ Take Out Packaging or Containers
 - ✗ Tires
 - ✗ Tissue Paper
 - ✗ Toys
 - ✗ Window Glass or Mirrors
 - ✗ Wires
 - ✗ Wood
 - ✗ Yard Waste or Compost

Frequently Asked Questions



Why can't we include scrap metal, plastic bags, hazards, garbage, and tangles in the recycling bin?

These items damage equipment or cause serious fires. These materials can also risk recycling haulers' and facility workers' safety which can result in serious injury. Lastly, items that don't belong in the cart are costly to dispose of and can make other recyclables less valuable. For more information about proper disposal of these unaccepted materials, please visit our website.



How do I dispose of paint?

Latex paint should be dried and thrown in the trash. Oil based paints are hazardous waste and should be brought to a household hazardous waste collection site for safe disposal. Visit mmsd.com for Home HazMat information and locations.



How do I find out my household collection schedule?

Visit milwaukee.gov/collectionday for collection schedules, setout instructions, service requests, and more.



Playing With Your Food (Waste)

Did you know? According to their most recent waste characterization study, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) found that over 23% of all waste material in Wisconsin is composed of organics, such as food and yard waste. Diverting organics from the landfill has many benefits; it saves natural resources like land space, lowers emissions, saves money on hauling and landfill fees, and can even be used to produce a new product. Here are just a couple ways you can help from your own kitchen or backyard.

From the Kitchen

In any residence, an in-sink food waste disposer (or garbage disposal) is a convenient way to discard food scraps while keeping them out of a landfill. In the City of Milwaukee, disposals

grind food scraps into a liquid slurry which travels through sewers to water resource recovery facilities operated by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD). After water treatment is complete, some of this remaining material gets a second life as a component of Milorganite fertilizer. Just remember that not all food waste should be sent down a disposal. Keep hard foods like pits and rinds out of the disposal to help ensure proper function.

In the Backyard

Composting is great way to dispose of food and yard waste without ever leaving your backyard. You can compost in a home-made bin, a barrel, bucket, or in a tumbler for easy turning. This summer, the City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works partnered with Keep Greater

Milwaukee Beautiful and the Milwaukee Public Library to provide six Introduction to Backyard Composting Classes to help residents learn more. If you have interest in attending a future class on backyard, apartment, or vermi-composting (worms!), we'd love to hear from you.



Backyard composting class held at Milwaukee Public Library Tippecanoe branch in July 2019.

Does this bring joy?
NO? DROP IT OFF.

Year-round Drop-off
HOME HAZMAT COLLECTION

Franklin | Milwaukee | Menomonee Falls
10518 S. 124th ST. | 3879 W. LINCOLN AVE. | W124 N9451 BOUNDARY RD.

MMSD For more information visit MMSD.com MKE County Residents Only

Where do I RECYCLE plastic bags and wraps?
NOT curbside.

Find drop-off locations at
PlasticFilmRecycling.org/drop-off

film dropoff directory

Electronics Recycling

TV's computers, computer monitors, and computer components must be recycled. Crews will NOT collect these items. Bring them to a Drop Off Center for recycling. Proof of residency required. 3 TV maximum/ \$5 each.



RECYCLE

THANK YOU FOR RECYCLING THESE:



Cans



Aluminum and Steel Cans
empty and rinse

Cartons



Food and Beverage Cartons
empty and replace cap

Glass



Bottles and Jars
empty and rinse

Paper



Cereal Boxes, Newspaper, Magazines & Mail, Flattened Cardboard, and Paper Tubes

Plastic



Kitchen, Laundry, Bath: Bottles and Containers
empty and replace cap (#1△, #2△, #5△)

DO NOT RECYCLE THESE CURBSIDE:

Scrap Metal



No car parts or scrap metal

Plastic Bags



Do not bag recyclables; return plastic bags and wrap to retail stores

Hazards



No flammables, compressed cylinders, batteries, electronics, or sharps

Garbage



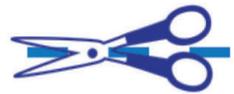
Empty all containers; no food, liquids, diapers, or garbage

Tanglers



No hoses, wires, or chains,

MilwaukeeRecycles.com



Guía disponible en inglés y español

NO COLLECTIONS ON CITY HOLIDAYS:

- THANKSGIVING:** November 28 & 29, 2019
- CHRISTMAS:** December 24 & 25, 2019
- NEW YEAR'S DAY:** January 1, 2020
- MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY:** January 20, 2020
- GOOD FRIDAY:** April 10, 2020
- MEMORIAL DAY:** May 25, 2020
- INDEPENDENCE DAY:** July 3, 2020
- LABOR DAY:** September 7, 2020

Service may be delayed due to snow plowing operations. Collection days may shift after each holiday. Review your schedule online at milwaukee.gov/collectionday

Follow Us!

Take the pledge to be a better recycler and opt in to e-notify for important events and updates from Milwaukee Recycles.

Milwaukee.gov/recyclecontact



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



What's Inside:

- Milwaukee Doubles Down on Recycling - You Can Help! 1
- Recycling Reminders 1
- Heads Up! Fall Leaf Collection Reminders 2
- Dates to Remember 2
- Drop Off Center Update - New Fee Schedule 2
- NEW Recycling Guide (back side) 3
- Playing With Your Food (Waste) 3
- NEW Recycling Guide (front side) 4