

2026

SANITATION FALL MAILER

NEW LEAF COLLECTION OPTION

A new paper bag option begins this fall.

DANGEROUS DISPOSAL NEWS

Keep tanks, batteries, & electronics
out of your carts.

YARD WASTE & SEASONAL SERVICES

Brush collection, pumpkin composting,
Christmas trees & food scrap drop-off.

COLLECTION DAY REMINDERS & HOLIDAYS →

NEW LEAF COLLECTION OPTION

Beginning this fall, DPW is offering a paper bagging option for leaf collection in addition to the traditional option of raking leaves to the street. During Fall Leaf Rake-Out (October 1–November 15), residents may place leaves in paper bags curbside and place a service request for collection, using [Milwaukee.gov/ClickForAction](#), the MKE Mobile Action app, or by calling (414) 286-CITY (2489). Leaves must be in paper bags. This new option helps keep leaves out of storm sewers, improves collection in parking-congested areas, and expands leaf disposal options for residents.



More leaf management options:

- Mulching and composting – The practice of chopping leaves into small pieces with a mower or leaf shredder. The nutrients in leaves can improve soil structure and support healthier grass and gardens. You can leave the pieces on the lawn or add them to your home compost bin. Download the composting guide at [Milwaukee.gov/Compost](#).
- Drop Off Centers - Leaves and yard waste can be brought to a Drop Off Center at no charge year-round. Visit [Milwaukee.gov/DropOff](#) for locations and hours.
- Leaf em' - Leaves can remain where they fall. While mulching is helpful for promoting a healthy lawn in spring, leaves will naturally break down over the winter.
- Rake Out - Residents can continue to rake leaves into the street during Fall Leaf Rake-Out (October 1–November 15). Trucks with large rakes will work methodically through the city to push and collect leaves in the street. Leave a 1-foot gap between the leaf pile and the curb so water can flow to storm drains.

Find more details on leaf programs at [Milwaukee.gov/Leaves](#)

Interested in home composting?

Win a free compost bin!

Visit [Milwaukee.gov/Compost](#) to enter.



Want a collection day reminder?

Register to receive texts of your garbage and recycling collection dates. Create an account and log in at [Milwaukee.gov/Enotify](#). Once logged into your account, click the “Subscriptions” drop-down and select “Text Messaging.” After adding your phone number and entering the confirmation code sent to your phone, click “Text Messaging” again. Add your address under the “Sanitation Notifications.” You will receive text messages reminding you of your garbage and recycling pickup dates the day before your collection.

CONTACT INFORMATION

 **414-286-CITY (2489)**

 **[Milwaukee.gov/Sanitation](#)**

 **[MilwaukeeRecycles.com](#)**

NO COLLECTIONS ON CITY HOLIDAYS

THANKSGIVING
NOVEMBER 26 & 27, 2026

MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 31, 2027

CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 24 & 25, 2026

JUNETEENTH
JUNE 18, 2027

NEW YEAR'S DAY
JANUARY 1, 2027

INDEPENDENCE DAY
JULY 5, 2027

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY
JANUARY 18, 2027

LABOR DAY
SEPTEMBER 6, 2027

GOOD FRIDAY
MARCH 26, 2027

Check your collection schedule at
[Milwaukee.gov/CollectionDay](#)



DANGEROUS DISPOSAL NEWS

Some items can put crews and yourself at risk of injury, start fires, or damage equipment and homes if improperly disposed of. Learn more below about the riskiest materials and how to safely dispose of them. **Do not place these items in garbage or recycling carts!**

Propane and Oxygen Tanks

Even when empty, tanks can contain residual gas, which can cause an explosion or fire when compacted in trucks. This summer, a DPW staff member was taken to the hospital after an oxygen tank was hidden in a cart. It exploded after being tipped and compacted in the truck. Please help keep the work environment safe for crews by properly disposing of tanks.

Where to Throw:

- Propane tanks should be returned to the retailer or manufacturer.
- The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District (MMSD) Home HazMat program now collects 1- and 20-pound propane tanks. Visit [MMSD.com](#) for drop-off location details.
- Oxygen tanks and other gas cylinders should be returned to the retailer or manufacturer.



Cart after tank explosion.

Batteries and Electronics

When batteries or electronics are put in garbage or recycling bins, the heavy equipment collecting, sorting, and recycling or disposing of the waste can easily damage the batteries. Batteries, especially lithium-ion batteries, can spark or explode if punctured or damaged. They can even produce enough heat to melt or ignite materials near the battery, even if it does not ignite.

Where to Throw:

- Residential electronics and vehicle batteries should be taken to a Drop Off Center ([Milwaukee.gov/DropOff](#)).
- The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District (MMSD) Home HazMat collection sites accept most rechargeable batteries.
- Additional battery collection sites can be found at [BatteryNetwork.org](#).



ADDITIONAL YARD WASTE DISPOSAL SERVICES

Yard waste, like grass clippings, garden debris, and weeds, is not collected curbside. These can be composted on-site or taken to a Drop Off Center year-round.

BRUSH COLLECTION

APRIL - NOVEMBER

DPW 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. Request collection online at [Milwaukee.gov/ClickForAction](https://milkaukeegov.com/ClickForAction), use the MKE Mobile Action app, or call (414) 286-CITY (2489).

- 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. (Do not place in street.)
- Brush is accepted year-round for free at the Drop Off Centers.

PUMPKIN COMPOSTING

YEAR-ROUND

Keep pumpkins out of the landfill by bringing them to a Drop Off Center for composting. To be composted, pumpkins must be free of paint, candles, and other decorations. Find location details at [Milwaukee.gov/DropOff](https://milkaukeegov.com/DropOff).

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

DECEMBER 26, 2026 - JANUARY 31, 2027

Residents receiving DPW curbside garbage and recycling services can request cut Christmas tree collection. Tree collection is separate from the regular weekly garbage service. Collected trees are shredded and composted. Starting December 26, request collection online at [Milwaukee.gov/ClickForAction](https://milkaukeegov.com/ClickForAction), use the MKE Mobile Action app, or call (414) 286-CITY (2489).

To be collected:

- Remove all lights, ornaments, and other decorations.
- Do not bag trees.
- Remove metal or wooden stand.
- Place tree at collection point.

*Wreaths free of all decorations, wire, and plastic can be placed at the collection point to be collected for composting.

**Artificial Christmas trees can be placed at the garbage collection point. Do not place them in garbage carts.

MILWAUKEE.GOV/HOLIDAYTREES

GARBAGE AND RECYCLING REMINDERS

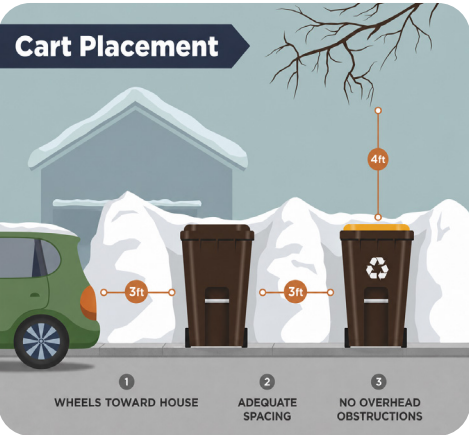
- ✓ Place garbage and recycling carts at the collection point by 7 AM on collection day.
- ✓ Schedules shift after holidays.
- ✓ Visit [Milwaukee.gov/CollectionDay](https://milkaukeegov.com/CollectionDay) to view garbage and recycling schedules.

Snow and ice may cause delays

- Leave your cart at the collection point until serviced.
- Keep the area around, on top of, and to your cart free of snow and ice.

Extra recycling during the holiday season

- Place extra recycling in a cardboard box and place it next to the recycling cart on collection day.
- Additional cardboard must be broken down and free of Styrofoam and other packaging material and placed next to or on top of the recycling cart.
- Do not bag recyclables.



CITY OF MILWAUKEE FOOD SCRAP DROP-OFF

Compost your food scraps with the City of Milwaukee Free Food Scrap Drop-Off Program! Sign-up is required to participate.

Find a location and sign up:
[Milwaukee.gov/FoodScraps](https://milkaukeegov.com/FoodScraps)

RECYCLE RIGHT

Help prevent contamination in the recycling stream!

- Learn what can and can't be recycled curbside by visiting [MilwaukeeRecycles.com](https://milkaukeerecycles.com) and [Milwaukee.gov/DropOff](https://milkaukeegov.com/DropOff) to find even more items available for recycling through Drop Off Centers.
- **Do NOT bag recyclables** - place loose into recycle cart.



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)

DROP OFF CENTERS

MILWAUKEE.GOV/DROPOFF

1

North: 6660 N Industrial Rd (must enter Industrial Rd from Mill Rd)

2

South: 3879 W Lincoln Ave

WINTER HOURS
NOVEMBER 29, 2026 - APRIL 3, 2027

Tuesday - Saturday 7 AM - 3 PM
Sunday & Monday: CLOSED

SUMMER HOURS
APRIL 4, 2027 - NOVEMBER 27, 2027

Tuesday - Sunday 7 AM - 3 PM
Monday: CLOSED

RECYCLE

Antifreeze • Car batteries • Motor oil & filters • Appliances • Scrap metal
Tires (up to 5 passenger tires) • Recyclables accepted curbside • Large cardboard
Concrete • Cooking oil • Electronics • Up to 3 TVs/, \$5/each

LANDFILL

Garbage • Old furniture & mattresses
Asphalt shingles • Construction remodeling debris

COMPOST

Brush & branches • Grass clippings • Garden debris • Leaves

Hazardous waste must be taken to a Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District Home HazMat Collection site.

Learn More at [MMSD.com/HHW](https://mmsd.com/HHW)

