



Recycling and Waste Reduction

KEEPING MILWAUKEE CLEAN AND GREEN

Fall 2015

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

RECYCLE RIGHT!

Make Your Efforts COUNT!

Last year, Milwaukee residents sent over 25,200 tons of household recyclables to the city's Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), instead of area landfills. Recovering these materials from the waste stream and sending them to industries where they are made into new products provides many benefits. Recycling reduces pollution, conserves resources, saves energy, supports jobs and fosters a strong economy. To maximize these benefits, reducing contamination is just as important as pledging to recycle more.

What is contamination? Any item that is unaccepted is considered contamination. That means sticking to the list is important, and **ONLY** recycling accepted items. Have you ever placed something in the recycling bin that wasn't on the list just because you hoped it would somehow get recycled? "Wishful recycling" is certainly well-intentioned, but its impacts on the recycling program overall are detrimental, and unaccepted items still end up in the landfill.

THE MANY PROBLEMS POSED BY CONTAMINATION:

- **Safety threat** – Hazardous contaminants pose serious health and safety threats to sanitation workers. For example, needles and medical sharps pose health risks through accidental needle sticks. Propane tanks may explode and cause fires (see inside).
- **Equipment damage** – Heavy, bulky and other odd-shaped items may damage the facility's sorting equipment and require costly maintenance and repairs.
- **Reduced recovery** – Too much contamination ultimately results in more material sent to landfills and less recycled.
- **Lowered efficiencies** – Contaminants including plastic bags and product wrap get caught in sorting equipment, requiring the system to be shut down while workers cut away this tangled material with scissors.
- **Reduced value** – Contamination soils

otherwise high-quality material, reducing the potential revenue from the sale of those materials.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **KNOW WHAT TO RECYCLE AND WHAT TO TOSS.** See inside to learn about what is accepted in Milwaukee's curbside recycling program and what is not.
- **Check out our "Dirty Dozen"** list inside for the most commonly encountered contaminants.

For more information on Milwaukee's Single-Sort recycling program, visit www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com!



MILWAUKEE RECYCLING IS NOW STATE-OF-THE-ART!



The City of Milwaukee retrofitted its Materials Recovery Facility (or MRF, pronounced "merf") with new, state-of-the-art Single-Sort recycling equipment, in partnership with Waukesha County. Old equipment that had reached the end of its useful life was removed and – you guessed it – recycled! Building and grounds improvements were made and the facility began operations in March, through a private company called ReCommunity Recycling. The facility serves the City of Milwaukee and 25 communities in Waukesha County.

The opening of the newly retrofitted facility in the Menomonee Valley means that Milwaukee's recyclables are once again processed in the city, as they were before Milwaukee switched to a Single-Sort recycling program in 2011.

Want to find out what happens at our Materials Recovery Facility? Take a tour and see recycling at work! Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful offers tours and educational programs for adults and school children. Register online at www.kgmb.org or call (414) 272-5462 for more information.



TAKE THE PLEDGE

to be a better recycler at

www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com

and be entered to WIN A COMPOST BIN!



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RECYCLING GUIDELINES

Have Questions? Call (414) 286-CITY (2489) | www.MilwaukeeRecycles.com

Please Recycle!

- ✓ Plastic bottles and containers 
- ✓ Aluminum containers, foil & pans
- ✓ Bulky #2 plastics (e.g. 5-gallon buckets)
- ✓ Cardboard & paperboard
- ✓ Cartons
- ✓ Glass bottles & jars
- ✓ Metal pots & pans
- ✓ Mixed paper & junk mail
- ✓ Newspapers, magazines & catalogs
- ✓ Phone books
- ✓ Steel cans & empty aerosol cans



Preparation guidelines: Please empty and rinse all recyclable containers → Break down or flatten corrugated cardboard boxes → Place shredded paper in a clear plastic bag (tied-off) or a paper bag, stapled shut

Do NOT place in recycling cart

Remember – although these items will contaminate your recycling cart, some of them may be recyclable through other avenues.

- ✗ Batteries
- ✗ Ceramics or China
- ✗ Coat hangers
- ✗ Drinking glasses
- ✗ Food soiled paper (clean pizza boxes ok)
- ✗ Glass cookware/bake ware
- ✗ Household items such as toasters & microwaves, etc.
- ✗ Light bulbs
- ✗ Mirrors
- ✗ Needles & sharps, other medical waste
- ✗ Porcelain
- ✗ Plastic bag & film
- ✗ Plastic utensils
- ✗ #3, 6, 7 or unmarked plastics
- ✗ Plastic bottles that contained motor oil or antifreeze
- ✗ Plastic buckets with paint or other product residue
- ✗ Styrofoam or foam packaging material
- ✗ Trash
- ✗ Tissue & paper towels
- ✗ Window or auto glass



DIRTY DOZEN

Here are some of the most common and most problematic contaminants found at our Materials Recovery Facility:

1. Propane tanks
2. Needles/Sharps
3. Scrap metal
4. Garden hoses
5. Plastic bags/product wrap
6. Small appliances (toasters, irons)
7. Wire and cables
8. Toys
9. Styrofoam
10. Diapers
11. Food waste
12. Wood/furniture



WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?

Here's all of the information you'll need to handle those difficult-to-dispose-of items.

PROPANE TANKS – as summer and the grilling season come to a close, you may be left with unwanted propane tanks or other gas cylinders. **DO NOT** place them in your garbage or recycling carts. **Gas cylinders pose serious explosion and fire risks**, and must be disposed of properly.

→ **If the tank is refillable:** bring it to your local propane supplier to check out the possibility of having it refilled.
 → **If the tank is not refillable:** many retailers have an exchange program that allows you to swap out and recycle your old, empty tank, providing you with a full one. If the tank is not refillable, check for recycling or disposal opportunities through retailers and the original manufacturer. Choose alternative products/tanks to avoid the use of non-refillable gas cylinders such as the one-pound tanks commonly used for small grills.

TVs & ELECTRONICS – In 2010, most consumer electronics were banned from landfills due to hazardous components that they may contain. These items pose risks to human and environmental health if not disposed

of properly, due to the hazardous components they may contain including lead, chromium, and mercury. Do not place them in garbage or recycling carts. It is also against City Ordinances to set them out at the curb or alley, and doing so may result in a fine. **City crews will not pick up any of the banned electronic items.** Take them to one of the City's Self-Help Centers, or visit dnr.wi.gov, search for "E-Cycle" and browse their list of collection sites to find one convenient for you.



BULKY ITEMS – There is no charge for collection of up to 1 cubic yard of bulky waste (about the size of an easy chair). Call to request a pickup of larger quantities; fees apply. Place your materials at your collection point on your collection day for pick up. Consider donating any items that are unwanted but still usable to a local charity or shelter.

BRUSH PICKUP – Call to request a pickup! Pickup requests are only taken during the months of April through November. There is no brush collection during the months of December through March. The City will not collect brush piles larger than 2 cubic yards.

APPLIANCES – **City crews will not pick up.** Appliances left in the public right of way may be cited and assessed a fee of up to \$500. For disposal, utilize retail exchange programs, bring them to one of the City's Self-Help Centers or check the Yellow Pages for a list of appliance Collectors.



DISPOSAL FACT SHEET

Questions about fees and restrictions?

Need to request service?

Visit Milwaukee.gov/mpw or call 286-CITY (2489)

Recycled = ♻️ Composted = 🌱 Landfilled = ✖️	City Collection	Drop off: City Self-Help Centers 6660 North Industrial Rd. 3879 W Lincoln Ave.	Drop off: Hazardous Waste Disposal Facilities See mmsd.com or call 225-2066	Other Alternatives/Notes
Aerosol cans (full)			✖️	Use, then recycle empty cans
Anti-freeze (used)		♻️	♻️	
Appliances		♻️		Check yellow pages; donate; utilize retailer exchanges
Ashes (double bagged)	✖️	✖️		
Asphalt roofing shingles		♻️		Fees and restrictions apply
Batteries, Auto		♻️		
Branches/Brush (up to 2 cubic yards)	♻️	♻️		Seasonal collection by request - April through November only.
Bug sprays			✖️	
Cell phones		♻️		Utilize retailer take-back programs
Christmas trees	✖️	♻️		
Cleaners: garage, auto or workshop			✖️	
Cleaners: household (Toxic)			✖️	
Construction debris	✖️	✖️		Call for restrictions, fee info
Cooking oil (used)		♻️		
Dead animals				Call for pickup from public right of way
Electronics (including TVs, computers)		♻️		Visit dnr.wi.gov , search for "E-Cycle" to find drop-off locations
Foam packaging	✖️	✖️		
Garbage	✖️	✖️		
Garden debris	♻️	♻️		Place on top of leaf piles Oct 1 - Nov 15 or compost*
Glass, window	✖️	✖️		
Grass clippings		♻️		Leave on the lawn or compost*
Halloween pumpkins	✖️	✖️		Compost*
Leaves	♻️	♻️		Mow and leave on lawn, compost* or rake to street Oct 1 - Nov 15.
Lightbulbs, fluorescent			♻️	www.focusonenergy.com
Microwaves		♻️		
Motor oil & filters (used)		♻️	♻️	
Needles, hypodermic (Sharps)				dnr.wi.gov , "medical sharps"
Organics, Food Scraps & Other Household	✖️	✖️		Compost* or use in-sink disposer (check manufacturer website or call for guidelines).
Organics, Yard Waste		♻️		Banned from landfills since 1993. Drop off at a Self-Help Center or compost*. Also see "Leaves," "Grass Clippings" and "Garden Debris" above.
Paint (oil based)			✖️	Donate unopened paint to charity
Paint (water based/latex; dried)	✖️	✖️		Donate unopened paint to charity
Pesticide containers (empty)	✖️	✖️		
Pesticide containers (full)			✖️	
Pet waste (double bagged)	✖️	✖️		
Propane or gas cylinders (empty)		♻️		Check yellow pages, see article pg. 2
Recyclables, household	♻️	♻️		See accepted materials pg 2
Shoes (used)		♻️		Paired only, No high heels
Steel/Metal		♻️		
Thermometers (w/Mercury)			✖️	
Thermometers (no Mercury)	✖️	✖️		
Tires (5 max)		♻️		
Yard Waste		♻️		Banned from landfills since 1993. Drop off at a Self-Help Center or compost*. Also see "Garden Debris", "Grass clippings" and "Leaves" above.

*Compost at home (visit dnr.wi.gov and search for "compost" for more information on how and what to compost) or visit KompostKids.org for map of Milwaukee community compost drop-off sites.



This city wide program is designed to foster neighborhood pride through the collection of excess household debris, street and alley sweeping, nuisance inspections, graffiti removal and other neighborhood beautification activities sponsored by community organizations.

During your spring Clean & Green week, place unwanted bulky items at your collection point on your scheduled garbage pickup day. After your Clean & Green week, there is a charge for all bulky collections larger than the size of an easy chair. During the months of April through June, visit mpw.milwaukee.gov/services/garbage_day and enter your address to find your Project Clean & Green week. Call or visit us online for information on restricted items.

Request services and get more information by visiting us online at milwaukee.gov/mpw or calling (414) 286-CITY (2489).



According to KAB and the Ad Council, 47% of those who don't recycle bathroom products say it is because they don't have a bin in the bathroom. Shampoo bottles, lotion bottles, cardboard tissue rolls, and more could all be made into new products if kept out of the garbage. So, put a bin in the bathroom and give your recyclables new life!

2015 Household Hazardous Waste

A FEW OF THE ITEMS THAT ARE ACCEPTED:

ANTIFREEZE, DRIVEWAY SEALER, PAINT
THINNER, VARNISH, SOLVENT-BASED
CLEANERS, NAIL POLISH REMOVER,
POOL CHEMICALS, WEED KILLER

City of Milwaukee Self-Help Station,
3879 W. Lincoln Ave., Milwaukee
Hours: Thurs., Fri., and Sat.: 7am – 3pm

For more information visit:
www.mmsd.com/dukes



PUT PLASTIC BAGS AND WRAP IN THEIR PLACE!

DO NOT place them in your curbside recycling cart! These items become tangled in sorting equipment at our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and require time-consuming clean up. Facility workers must cut away the tangled plastic bags and wrap by hand with scissors. Any plastic bag and film material that makes its way into our MRF becomes very dirty and difficult, if not impossible to market.

Where can you recycle plastic bags and wrap?

Put them in their place! Recycle plastic bags and wrap at participating stores. This way, the bags and wrap remain clean and dry, which makes them valuable to industries that produce plastic lumber.

Visit www.PlasticFilmRecycling.org to find a convenient drop-off location near you!



Self-Help Centers

City of Milwaukee Self-Help Centers provide Milwaukee residents with convenient drop-off locations to recycle and safely dispose of a long list of items. Each year, these centers take in 50-60 million pounds of yard waste, various recyclables, building materials and other items. They enhance overall recovery of resources; about 50% of all material received at these drop-off centers is diverted from landfills.

Locations: North side: 6660 N Industrial Rd

South side: 3879 W Lincoln Ave

ACCEPTED ITEMS

Recycled

- ✓ Used motor oil and oil filters
- ✓ Used antifreeze
- ✓ Automotive batteries
- ✓ Asphalt roofing shingles*
- ✓ Electronics (limit 3 TVs)
- ✓ Appliances
- ✓ Scrap metal
- ✓ Tires (up to 5 passenger tires)
- ✓ Corrugated cardboard
- ✓ Household recyclables
- ✓ Used shoes (any type except high-heels)
- ✓ Concrete*
- ✓ Used Cooking Oil

Composted

- ✓ Brush
- ✓ Grass clippings
- ✓ Leaves and garden debris

Landfilled

- ✓ Garbage
- ✓ Old furniture
- ✓ Construction or remodeling debris*

*There is a charge for all construction related material (minimal quantities exempt). This includes roofing material, brick, stones, concrete, lumber, drywall, paneling and other construction material. No commercial loads allowed.

For hours and more information, please visit www.Milwaukee.gov/mpw or call (414) 286-CITY (2489).

Proof of City of Milwaukee residency or property ownership is required, plus a valid driver's license. Please note: Dumping after hours is illegal and will result in a fine.

Self Help Centers will be closed: Thanksgiving, November 26 & 27; Christmas, Dec. 24 & 25; New Year's, Dec. 31 2015 & Jan. 1, 2016.

Over 2.4 MILLION POUNDS of electronics were collected at Self-Help Centers in 2014, the fourth full calendar year of the E-Cycle Wisconsin producer responsibility program that was created through state legislation in 2009.

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
Wauwata, WI
Permit No. 81

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



NO GARBAGE OR RECYCLING COLLECTION ON THESE CITY HOLIDAYS:

THANKSGIVING:

November 26 & 27 2015

CHRISTMAS:

Dec. 24 & 25 2015

NEW YEAR'S:

Dec. 31 2015 &

Jan. 1, 2016

MARTIN LUTHER

KING, JR. DAY:

January 18, 2016

GOOD FRIDAY:

March 25, 2016



Leaves & Brush 2015

FALL LEAF COLLECTION BEGINS OCTOBER 15TH.

YOU MAY RAKE LEAVES INTO THE STREET BETWEEN OCT. 1ST AND NOV. 15TH.

Visit mpw.milwaukee.gov/services/garbage_day and enter your address for a projected 3-day window for when to expect leaf collection on your street.

Leaves, brush, grass and other yard waste are banned from landfills and must not be placed in garbage carts. They are collected separately from garbage and composted, conserving natural resources while saving the City money.

DO'S AND DON'TS:

- ✓ Keep leaves away from storm drains in the street
- ✓ Keep piles away from sewer grates
- ✓ Place garden debris in leaf piles
- ✓ Do not put leaves in plastic bags
- ✓ Do not put brush in the street
- ✓ Do not put leaves, brush, grass or other yard waste in your garbage carts

HEALTHY LAWN TIP: Forget bagging. Just mow over grass clippings and leaves and let the pieces lay on your lawn – both you and your lawn will be happier! Visit dnr.wi.gov for more information on “leaf mulching” and “grasscycling”.

During the past several years, recycling has been on the rise in Milwaukee. From 2009 through 2014, recycling increased by over 20% on a pounds per household basis!

DON'T FORGET!

Recycling carts/bins must be placed at the collection point by 7AM on your collection day. Check your schedule at mpw.milwaukee.gov/services/garbage_day

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

After the holidays, take your real tree to one of the City's Self-Help Centers to be ground into mulch or composted. Remove all decorations and wires first. If you can't make it to a Self-Help Center, you may dispose of your Christmas tree by placing it at your garbage collection point.

Also – remember to recycle during the holidays! Cans, bottles, plastic containers and boxes are sure to abound in the aftermath of holiday festivities. Don't forget to recycle greeting cards and wrapping paper as long as they are free of ribbons, foil and other non-paper decorations.

Winter Garbage and Recycling Collection

YEAR-ROUND GARBAGE CART SETOUT

Throughout the entire year you are responsible for moving your garbage cart(s) to the collection point (within a foot of the curb or right at the alley line) by 7 AM on your pickup days.

FOR STREET COLLECTION

➔ Place your cart(s) between the curb and sidewalk at least three feet away from vehicles or other objects.

FOR ALLEY COLLECTION

➔ Place your cart(s) at the alley line at least three feet away from garage or other objects.

CARTS must be returned to the storage location by 10PM on collection days per City Ordinances 79-5 (violation may result in a fine).

EXCEPTION: Pickups canceled due to winter weather will be made up on the next work day – leave cart at collection point.

RECYCLING

Holidays and the management of snow and ice by City crews will cause recycling collection schedules to change in the winter. This year, **winter collection schedule changes will begin on Monday, December 7th, 2015. Residents must clear snow and ice to provide access to carts.**

REMEMBER!

Collection schedules are available online at: mpw.milwaukee.gov/services/garbage_day and also by calling (414) 286-CITY (2489).

Extra items must be placed at the collection point for pickup. Note! There is a charge for collection of trash piles larger than 1 cubic yard (roughly the size of an easy chair).

REMINDER! In select neighborhoods with automated garbage and/or recycling collection, residents need to:

- ✓ Keep 3 feet of clearance between carts and other objects (garages, vehicles, mailboxes, poles, trees, snow banks, etc.)
- ✓ Face handle of carts away from the street

