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# Weather delay notifications: [join.wasteline.org](http://join.wasteline.org)

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## Plan Ahead to Prevent Thanksgiving Waste



Each year, Americans discard an estimated 200 million pounds of food from Thanksgiving meals, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). That’s a staggering amount of turkey legs, wings, and side dishes lost to waste.

This holiday season, a bit of planning can go a long way toward reducing waste while allowing you to fully enjoy time with family, friends, and football. Consider these strategies to make your Thanksgiving both satisfying and sustainable:

- **Plan your menu thoughtfully.** Develop a complete menu before you shop. Take inventory of what you already have in your pantry and purchase only the items you need.
- **Reimagine your leftovers.** Turkey and other holiday staples can be repurposed into soups, sandwiches, casseroles, and salads. A quick recipe search online can spark inspiration.

- **Rethink tradition.** If turkey isn’t a favorite in your household, choose a main course everyone enjoys. The essence of Thanksgiving lies in the gathering, not the menu.
- **Practice portion mindfulness.** Serve moderate portions to minimize waste, and use scraps like vegetable peels or meat bones to create flavorful stocks and broths.
- **Give back.** Donate unopened nonperishable items to local food pantries, such as the Omaha Food Bank.
- **Prep for leftovers.** Have containers you don’t need back ready to send home with guests, share with neighbors, or freeze for a packed lunch in the future.

And for those who prefer a simpler celebration, remember that Thanksgiving doesn’t have to be elaborate to be meaningful—even Charlie Brown found joy in popcorn, jellybeans, and toast.

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO.  
1086  
OMAHA, NE

WASTELINE | OMAHA PUBLIC WORKS  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION  
5600 SOUTH 10TH STREET  
OMAHA, NE 68107-3501

RECYCLING

## Recycle Your Post-Holiday Packaging

The holiday season brings joy, celebration—and often, an abundance of packaging. Whether you shop in stores or online, gifts, and deliveries can quickly lead to piles of boxes, foam, and plastic wrap. The good news: much of it can be recycled locally with just a little effort.

Here’s how to responsibly dispose of your post-holiday packaging and shipping materials:

**Curbside Recycling (Green-Lid Cart)**  
Flatten and recycle your cardboard shipping boxes in your green lid recycle cart. There’s no need to remove tape or staples. Used wrapping paper can also be recycled—just be sure to leave out ribbons, bows, and glittered paper. Remember to include other recyclables from your kitchen, such as cans, plastic bottles, and food boxes.

**Plastilite Corporation**  
For **expanded polystyrene (EPS)**—commonly known as Styrofoam®—make a trip to **Plastilite Corporation**, located at 4930 Battlefield Drive in northeast Omaha. This facility accepts the rigid white foam items or molded corners often used to protect electronics, appliances, and

glassware during shipping. Drop off your EPS in the clearly marked collection bin. More information is available at [plastilite.com/recycle](http://plastilite.com/recycle).

**Hefty® ReNew® Program**  
If your holiday cleanup includes bubble wrap, plastic air pillows, foam peanuts, or clear plastic overwrap, the **Hefty® ReNew® orange bag** program offers an easy solution. These special bags — available online and in the trash bag aisle of many local stores — can hold a wide variety of otherwise not recyclable plastics, including foam takeout containers, foam egg cartons, and molded EPS blocks. Once full, place the sealed orange bag in your green lid recycling cart or drop it off at any of the city’s full-service recycling centers.

**Not Sure What to Do?**  
For packaging material not covered here, visit [omaharecyclingguide.org](http://omaharecyclingguide.org). Simply type in the item and click “search” to learn the best disposal option.

A little extra effort this season helps keep Omaha cleaner, greener, and more sustainable—all year long.





# Recycle Your Live Christmas Tree — Take Note: There Are Changes This Year

If you are among those who enjoy the scent and tradition of a live Christmas tree, remember to put it to good use once the celebrations are over. Omaha’s Christmas tree collection program, a city tradition for more than 35-years, continues this season — but with a few important updates.

The City of Omaha will operate **Christmas tree collection sites** from **December 24, 2025, through January 9, 2026**, during daylight hours. Trees will be ground up and used to make Oma-Gro compost.

Before bringing your tree to a site, please:

- Remove all **lights, ornaments, nails, wires, and tree stands**.
- If you’ve wrapped the tree in plastic for transport, **take the plastic bag home** and dispose of it with your regular trash.
- **Flocked trees** are accepted; however, **wreaths and evergreen roping** are not.
- When you arrive, place your tree neatly **on top of the existing pile** to make room for others.

**Please note:** All sites will close on **January 9, 2026**. Dropping off a tree after that date will be considered **illegal dumping** and may result in fines of up to **\$500, loss of your driver’s license for six months, and cleanup costs**.

## 2025–2026 Drop-Off Locations

### Updated Location

- **Kelley Softball Complex of Tranquility Park North** – 12302 Fort Street.  
Then to the end of Dido Albert Federowich Memorial Drive.

### Other Locations

- **F Street Football Field** – “F” Street East of 156th. Parking lot east of field.
- **Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium** – Northwest corner of the parking lot; near Bob Gibson Drive and South 13th Street
- **Orchard Park** – 66th Street, north of Hartman Avenue
- **Ta Ha Zouka Park** – 20801 Elkhorn Drive

Volunteers from the Rotary Clubs of Omaha and Douglas-Sarpy Master Gardeners will assist residents at the Kelley Softball Complex and F Street Football Field locations from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on December 27–28, 2025, and January 3–4, 2026.

If you’re unsure which site is most convenient, visit [trees.wasteline.org](https://trees.wasteline.org) for an interactive map and location details.

Let’s keep Omaha clean and green this holiday season — recycle your tree responsibly!



Properly dispose of unwanted household, lawn, garden, and automotive chemicals at  
**UnderTheSink.**

**Residential Waste Only**

### Hours:

Wednesday	9:00am - 4:45pm
Thursday	9:00am - 6:15pm
Friday	9:00am - 4:45pm
Saturday	Call for an Appointment

**402-444-sink [7465]**  
**[www.underthesink.org](http://www.underthesink.org)**



## Special Assistance

Special collection for garbage, yardwaste, and recyclables is available. Households where all occupants of the home have a medical disability, or are at least age 70, qualify for the service.

It can take several weeks to get the service set up. To apply, call **402-444-5238** from 8am to 8pm weekdays.



## Set out by 6AM

**Carts must be removed from the curb by 10AM the **day after** collection.**

- Keep carts separate from each other, and other objects (mailboxes, light poles, etc).
- Only material in your cart will be collected.
- Keep lids closed during storage and collection.
- Excess yardwaste must be in paper yardwaste bags with a paid sticker.





Illegal dumping, including placing recyclables on the ground outside containers at drop-off sites, is punishable by a fine of up to \$500, loss of drivers license for 6 months and all clean up costs. [Omaha Municipal Code, Chapter 34, ARTICLE I, Section 4.]

## Full Service Drop-off Sites

The full service sites accept all of the recyclables that are collected from Omaha's curbside program. Plus, there is a purple container for glass bottles.



### WEST DROP-OFF SITE

Parking Lot  
20801 Elkhorn Drive  
The site is open: Daily: 7AM - 7PM



### NORTHWEST DROP-OFF SITE

Mulhall's  
3615 North 120th Street  
(120th & Maple)  
The site is open: Daily: 7AM - 7PM



### NORTHEAST DROP-OFF SITE

Creighton University  
Burt Street between 29th & 30th Street  
(West of the former Creighton Dental College Building)  
The site is open:  
Daily: 7:30AM - 6PM (Sept. - March)  
Daily: 7:30AM - 8PM (April - Aug.)



### SOUTHEAST DROP-OFF SITE

River City Transfer  
6404 South 60th Street  
(between Q and Harrison)  
**NOTE:** This site accepts recyclables free and is a dump location for bulky items. There is a fee for all materials except recyclables.  
The site is open:  
Monday through Friday: 6AM - 4PM  
Saturday (Easter to Thanksgiving)  
Hours: 6AM - 1PM  
Saturday (Thanksgiving to Easter)  
Hours: 7AM - 11:30AM



### SOUTHWEST DROP-OFF SITE

First Star Recycling  
10330 'I' Street  
Use the East driveway to First Star Recycling.  
The site is open: Daily: 7AM - 7PM



### CENTRAL DROP-OFF SITE

**Relocated and Reopened!**  
Parking Lot  
333 South 72nd Street  
Accessible only when north bound.  
The site is open: Daily: 7AM - 7PM



## Glass Only Drop-off Sites



**FAR WEST CENTRAL**  
HyVee  
1000 S 178th Street (180th & Pacific)  
The site is open: 7AM - 7PM



**WEST CENTRAL**  
Westwood Plaza  
12075 West Center Road (Near Taco Bell)  
The site is open: 7AM - 7PM

# REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE RIGHT.



Omaha  
Recycling  
Guide.org

Get answers to recycling questions & find out what goes where!

Can you recycle it?

SEARCH

TRY IT TODAY!



The Omaha Recycling Guide is a partnership of Keep Omaha Beautiful, The City of Omaha, and FirstStar Recycling.



### WASTE

## Big Family? No Problem!

If you have a big family and generate too much garbage or recyclables to fit into the pair of 96-gallon carts, don't worry! **A household of 5 or more members qualifies for an additional cart at the City's expense.** You can choose an extra waste cart or a recycling cart. Just complete the registration form which is available at **wasteline.org** or call **402-444-5238** to have the form mailed to you.

For all other situations, FCC Environmental Services will lease an additional cart for an annual fee. You must pay in advance, and the fee includes delivery. The information for leasing a cart is available at **wasteline.org**.



# Thank You For Recycling These:

## Gracias por reciclar estos materiales:



**Paper**  
(all colors and types)  
**Papel**  
(de todo color y tipo)



**Cardboard**  
(flatten)  
**Cartón**  
(desarmado)



**Food Cartons and Cups**  
(empty and clean)  
**Cartones de comida y tazas**  
(vacíos y limpios)



**Aluminum and Steel Cans**  
(empty and clean)  
**Latas de aluminio y acero**  
(vacías y limpios)



**Plastic Bottles, Jars, Jugs, and Cups**  
(empty and clean)  
**Botellas de plástico, tarros, Jarras y tazas**  
(vacíos y limpios)



**NO Yardwaste**  
(goes in your black lid cart)  
**Nada de desperdicios de jardín**  
(póngalos en la carretilla de tapa negra)



**NO Glass**  
(take to recycling drop-off location)  
**Nada de vidrio**  
(llévelo a un puesto de reciclar vidrio)



**NO Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap**  
(return to retailer)  
**Ninguna bolsa ni envoltura de plástico**  
(devuélvalas a la tienda)



**Do not Bag Recyclables**  
(recyclables must be loose in cart)  
**No ponga en bolsas los reciclables**  
(los reciclables tienen que estar sueltos en la carretilla)



**NO Tangles**  
(no hoses, wires, chains, or electronics)  
**Nada enredante**  
(ni mangueras, alambres o cadenas, ni cables electrónicos)



**NO Food or Liquid**  
(empty and rinse all containers)  
**Nada de comida ni líquidos**  
(vacíe todos los recipientes y enjuáguelos)

RECYCLING

## When In Doubt Leave It Out

### Not Everything Is Recyclable

Markets have dramatically changed, and are not tolerant of contamination. **Do not bag recyclables.** Complex plastic items such as child safety seats go in the black lid waste cart. Things other than containers are not recyclable.



**DO NOT** place any of the following items in your recycle bin.

**DO NOT** bag recyclables.



**FOOD & TRASH**



**PLASTIC BAGS**



**ELECTRONICS**



**FOAM CONTAINERS**



**SCRAP METAL**



**DIAPERS**



**HOSES**



**BATTERIES**



**CORDS**



**WIRE HANGER**



**SHARPS**



**CAR PARTS**

## Personalize Your Wasteline Calendar

To create your personalized collection calendar, visit **Wasteline.org/calendar**. Enter your address, click on "Get a Calendar," and follow the prompts. The printable calendar includes your trash and recycling collection days, as well as information on yardwaste collection and neighborhood cleanups.

If you prefer using a smartphone, you can download the "Wasteline Omaha" app. This app provides push notifications to keep you updated.



Get the App!



Legal Notice: Placement of solid waste (garbage, recyclable materials, and yardwaste) by a resident along a privately owned street or road implies permission for the City's solid waste collection contractor to drive onto that street or road to perform contract work. Accordingly, such residents and owners of private streets and roads shall assume the risk of incidental damages incurred in the course of performing work while driving on the surface of these private streets and roads. Incidental damages may include cracks in the surface of the roadway or cave-ins due to collapsed sewers or poor street surface substrate. The City's contractor is not exempt from causal damages to personal property or premises adjoining private streets and roads. Please call the Solid Waste Hotline 402-444-5238 for questions or concerns about collection on private streets and roads.