

Wasteline

NEW EXPANDED EDITION

OMAHA SOLID WASTE PROGRAM



RECYCLING, GARBAGE, AND YARDWASTE INFORMATION FOR THE CITIZENS OF OMAHA, NEBRASKA

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Separate Yardwaste Collection May 4 to June 12, 2026

WASTE

YARDWASTE

RECYCLING

GLASS

Spring is in the Air: Your Guide to Spring Cleanup Days



It is time to refresh your space! Spring Cleanup Days are back, offering residents a convenient (and free) way to dispose of large items that don't fit in your weekly carted collection. Whether it's that worn-out mattress, leftover construction scraps, or a rusty grill, Spring Cleanup will help you clear out the clutter.

Mark Your Calendar

Cleanups run from **9:00am to 2:00pm** on the following Saturdays: **April 18, April 25, May 2, May 9, May 16.**

Who can participate? Everyone! It is open to all Omaha residents. You do not need to be a member of a neighborhood association to participate. To find a drop-off site near you simply visit cleanup.wasteline.org.



What You Can (and Can't) Bring

To keep the process moving smoothly, please review our updated guidelines:

Accepted Items

- Furniture
- Mattresses
- Carpeting
- Construction Material
- Appliances (Select sites only)
- Scrap Metal (Bikes, grills, etc.) [take to appliance site for recycling]
- Yardwaste (Select sites only)
- Lead Acid Batteries (Select sites only)

Prohibited Items

- Tires (Now a separate event. See below)
- Rocks, Concrete, or Dirt
- Tree Trunks, Logs, or Stumps
- Railroad Ties
- Liquids & Hazardous Chemicals (accepted year round at UnderTheSink)
- Business or Commercial Waste

Special Drop-Off Locations

Some items require specialized handling and can be taken to these dedicated facilities:

Hazardous Materials:

Visit **UnderTheSink** They will be open during cleanup Saturdays from 9:00am to 2:00pm — no appointment necessary. Learn more at underthesink.org.

Yardwaste:

Leaves, brush, and garden debris can be taken to **Oma-Gro** from 9:00am to 2:00pm on cleanup Saturdays. Learn more at omagro.com.

Pro-Tips Before You Arrive

Lend a Hand:

To keep lines moving, residents are responsible for unloading their own vehicles. If your items are heavy, please bring a friend to help!

Community Impact:

Please note that some neighborhood associations may set aside reusable items for resale or donation to fund local community projects.

PRE-SORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.
1086
OMAHA, NE

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

Tires Collected At Separate Events
Plans are being made to collect tires at events **separate from the spring and fall cleanups**. To follow developments in this effort, visit tires.wasteline.org.

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



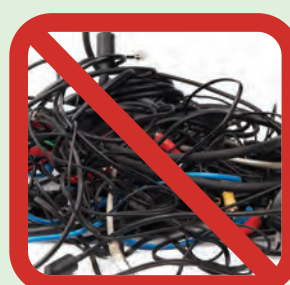
DIAPERS



HOSES



BATTERIES



CORDS



WIRE HANGER



SHARPS



CAR PARTS

The State of the Cart: 2025 Tonnage and Recycling Audit Results

Operating an efficient, effective, and environmentally beneficial solid waste collection program is a team effort between the City of Omaha, our processing partners, and you. Last September, our recycling contractor, **First Star Recycling**, conducted a comprehensive two-week audit to assess the quality of materials coming from both residential curbside carts and city drop-off sites.

The results are a “mixed bag,” and we have some work to do to get our program back on track.

The Cost of “Wish-cycling”

The 2025 audit revealed that contamination in our recycling stream rose to **20% of total weight** — a 3% increase over 2024. While this may seem like a small jump, it has significant consequences:

- **Taxpayer Impact:** High contamination rates increase processing fees, which ultimately costs the city and its residents more money.
- **Operational Delays:** Every non-recyclable item must be manually or mechanically sorted out, wasting time, and reducing the efficiency of the entire facility.
- **Safety Hazards:** Certain items can damage expensive machinery or even pose a physical risk to the workers on the sorting line. Everything from plastic bags, to batteries, and even toys may have recycling’s chasing arrows emblazoned on them, but that doesn’t mean it is recyclable. Bags

Omaha Collection Numbers						
2025	Recycle		Waste		Yardwaste	
January	1,909.73	14%	11,289.55	85%	70.61	1%
February	1,335.56	14%	8,399.45	86%	–	0%
March	1,973.58	15%	10,852.74	85%	–	0%
April	1,940.93	13%	12,638.23	87%	29.53	0%
May	2,032.55	11%	14,541.44	80%	1,631.46	9%
June	1,900.60	13%	12,437.67	85%	350.36	2%
July	2,292.95	13%	15,550.47	87%	–	0%
August	1,879.57	12%	14,342.80	88%	–	0%
September	1,810.29	12%	13,261.99	88%	–	0%
October	1,827.67	12%	13,028.93	86%	248.34	2%
November	1,580.74	10%	11,381.85	72%	2,737.61	17%
December	1,983.50	14%	12,803.61	85%	156.10	1%
Total 2025	22,511.53	13%	150,528.73	85%	5,224.01	3%
2024	23,863.63	14%	144,523.97	83%	5,021.97	4%
2023	22,350.47	13%	140,976.99	83%	5,529.41	3%
2022	22,701.66	14%	137,284.61	83%	5,812.53	4%
2021	24,899.21	14%	144,953.31	82%	5,923.81	3%

damage equipment, toys are a mixture of materials, and batteries can start a devastating fire.

The “Top Offenders” to Keep Out of Your Cart

The audit highlighted several “tangles” and contaminants that cause the most trouble. Please ensure the following items **never** go into your green lid recycle cart:

- **Loose Plastic Bags:** These are the #1 enemy of recycling centers. They wrap around spinning gears, forcing the entire facility to shut down for hours of maintenance.

The Exception:

You may only recycle plastic bags if they are securely packed inside a

purchased **orange Hefty® ReNew™ bag**.

- **Garden Hoses, Extension Cords, and Christmas Lights:** These are “horrible tangles.” Like plastic bags, they bind up equipment instantly.
- **Diapers and Food Waste:** These items are not just non-recyclable; they are “gross contaminants” that can ruin an entire load of perfectly good paper and cardboard.
- **Grass Clipping and Leaves:** If it was growing it does not go in your green lid recycling cart. Place in the black lid cart or in paper yardwaste bags, with sticker applied when required.

*Please see **Cart**, Page 4*

Shred Wisely: A Guide to Protecting Your Identity and the Environment



As Tax Day approaches, many of us find ourselves staring at a growing mountain of paperwork. While your first instinct might be to shred everything, “shredding wisely” ensures your private information stays safe without creating unnecessary waste.

1 Shred Less, Recycle More

Rarely do you need to shred the entire page or document. To reduce waste, try this: **Tear off only the section containing the combination of your name, address, and account number.** Shred that small piece and place the rest of the clean page in your regular recycling.

2 Choose the Right Way to Shred

Not all shredding is created equal. Here are the three best ways to handle your sensitive documents:

- **Community Shred Events:** These are often free and convenient, though they may have volume limits

and longer wait times. Shred events will recycle the material.

Professional Services:

Many shipping and office supply stores offer shredding for a small fee. Again, this is a way to get your shred recycled.

Shredding at Home:

If you shred at home, **do not put loose confetti in your green lid recycling cart.** It slips through sorting machines and ends up in the landfill. If you must use your curbside bin, **shred the minimal amount** and seal it in an envelope. If your minimal amount grows you could seal the shredded paper inside a paper grocery bag with tape but this is not ideal, so at that point it is best to simply place it in the trash.

3 What to Shred and When

Recycle Whole (No Shredding)

- Sales or ATM receipts (no or incomplete account info)

- Expired warranties
- General advertisements/flyers
- Credit card “transaction” slips (no or incomplete account number)

Shred Now (If no longer needed)

Again, only the portion with name, address, and account, need be shredded

- Bank & Utility statements
- Paid credit card
- Sales or ATM receipts with complete account number
- Pay stubs
- Paid medical bills

Wait 7 Years (Tax Records)

- W-2s and 1099s
- Tax-related receipts
- Records for tax deductions
- Canceled checks (tax-related)

4 What to Keep Forever

Important — Certain documents are too vital to destroy. Ensure these are stored in a safe, fireproof location:

- **Personal Records:** Birth and death certificates, Social Security cards, marriage/divorce decrees, and adoption or citizenship papers.
- **Property Records:** Auto titles and home deeds (keep as long as you own them).
- **Tax Returns:** Always keep a copy of your filed returns, even if you shred the supporting receipts after seven years.
- **Home Improvements:** Keep these receipts until you sell your home to help calculate capital gains taxes.

Spring into Yardwaste Season!



As the growing season arrives, it's time to prune, plant, and refresh your landscape. Whether you have a handful of clippings or a backyard full of branches, we have several options to help you manage your yardwaste.

Special Separate Collection:

May 4 – June 12, 2026

MAY							2026
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31							

JUNE							2026
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30					

During this six-week window, the City offers a special **no-cost yardwaste collection** with two major benefits:

- **No Stickers Required:** You do not need to purchase yardwaste stickers for paper bags during these dates.
- **Eco-Friendly Composting:** These bags are collected separately from your garbage and taken to be turned into nutrient-rich compost.



May 4-June 12 window, each bag requires a purchased sticker.



Note on Brush: Bundles of brush are **NOT** included in the no-cost collection. They always require a yardwaste sticker and should be bundled securely for pickup.

- **Backyard Composting:** Turn your leaves and grass into “black gold” for your garden! For a great starting guide download **Publication G222** by the Nebraska Cooperative Extension.



[Scan or click here to download](#)

Year-Round Disposal Options

Outside of the special separate collection window, you have three easy ways to handle your yardwaste:

- **Curbside Pickup:** Place small amounts directly in your **black-lid garbage cart**. For larger amounts, use paper yardwaste bags placed next to your carts on your regular collection day. **Note:** Outside of the

- **Oma-Gro Drop-Off:** Residents can haul yardwaste directly to the City's facility at **6502 South 60th Street** at no cost. **Hours:** Weekdays, 7:00am – 6:00pm (Closed City holidays). See page 4 for more information on **Oma-Gro**.

WASTE

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.

WASTE

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.

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**.

RECYCLING

GLASS



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.



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



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.)



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

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Oma-Gro Is Moving!

We are in the final phase of relocating our composting operations. Please take note of the location changes:

New Site: 6502 South 60th Street. Open now for drop-offs, but not sales.

Old Site Closing: The original facility at 15705 Harlan Lewis Road in Bellevue will permanently **close on May 29, 2026**. Until then (or while supplies last), you can still purchase finished Oma-Gro compost at this Bellevue location.

What is Oma-Gro?

Oma-Gro is the City of Omaha's trademarked compost — a high-quality soil amendment made right here from your recycled yard waste. **To help us make the best compost possible, please follow these guidelines:**

YES: Please Compost

- Grass clippings & Leaves
- Garden waste (fruit/vegetables)
- Twigs & Brush
- Branches (under 2" diameter)

NO: Keep These Out

- Lumber, or Sawdust
- Plastic bags, or Nylon twine
- Rocks, Dirt, or Sod
- Pet waste, or Litter

Cart, from page 2

What's Inside the Cart? (By the Numbers)

While the volume of garbage increased slightly this year, the breakdown of actual recyclables remained relatively steady. Here is the current makeup of Omaha's recycled material:

Material Type	% of Total
Cardboard	32%
Paper	28%
Jugs, Bottles & similar	> 10%
Aluminum Cans	about 3%
Steel Cans	about 3%
Hefty® ReNew™ Bags	0.5%
Aseptic Cartons (Juice/Soup)	0.5%

Shipping Containers: Online purchases are less frequently arriving in a cardboard box. Instead shippers

are choosing envelopes and pouches. Be aware that paper envelopes are recyclable, but those padded with plastic (bubble mailers) are not and should go in the garbage. Plastic pouch mailers may go in an orange Hefty® ReNew™ bag to recycle, otherwise those should also be placed in the garbage.

Your Golden Rule: "When in Doubt, Throw it Out"

We appreciate the enthusiasm of our residents, but "wish-cycling"—the act of putting something in the green lid recycle cart hoping it can be recycled—actually does more harm than good. If you aren't 100% sure an item is accepted, the safest choice for the system is to place it in the garbage. On a positive note, our **drop-off sites** showed significantly lower contamination than curbside carts—thank you to everyone using those sites correctly!



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	By Appointment Only

For an appointment or additional information:

402-444-sink [7465]
underthesink.org



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!



Keep
Omaha
Beautiful

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

Personalize Your Wasteline Calendar

To create your personalized collection calendar, visit **Wasteline.org/WIDGET**. 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.



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.

RECYCLING

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)

Not in your green lid cart. ¡NO! En la carretilla de tapa verde



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)