



WASTELINE



March 2011
City of Omaha
Jim Suttle, Mayor

Recycling, Garbage and Yardwaste Information for the Citizens of Omaha, Nebraska
Public Works Department Robert G. Stubbe, P.E., Director Environmental Quality Division



Omaha Recycling Gets Juiced

JUICE BOXES THAT IS, along with milk cartons and soup boxes too, are now recyclable in your curbside recycling bin and at Omaha's recycling drop-off sites. Omaha's recycling processor Firststar Fiber has added equipment to their sorting process enabling them to add these food cartons. These food cartons are easily recognizable and are available in two types:

- ▶ shelf-stable, also known as "aseptic" that often contains products such as soup, soy milk and juice
- ▶ refrigerated, also known as "gable-top" that contain products like milk, cream and fresh juice.

Cartons are made mainly from paper, as well as thin layers of polyethylene (plastic) and/or aluminum. Shelf stable

cartons contain on average 74% paper, 22% polyethylene, and 4% aluminum. These layers provide protection from light and air, allowing the product inside the carton to remain fresh for a long time, compared to similar products in different packaging.



Refrigerated cartons contain about 80% paper and 20% polyethylene. Often the shiny thin plastic layer is commonly mistaken as a "waxy" layer. However, no wax is used on these types of cartons.

Cartons are not difficult to recycle as long as the right systems are in place. Since cartons are made mainly from paper, they are valuable as a recyclable commodity and may be made into many different new products. Some cartons are recycled into tissues, while other cartons are used to make office paper. In some cases, cartons are even being used as one of the materials for wall board manufacturing. The plastic and aluminum from the packaging are also recycled into new products.

Cartons are a smart environmental choice for consumers. They are light-weight, and have a great product to package ratio. This means if you choose a product in a carton, you are taking home on average 94% product and only 6% package. The light-weight cartons also contribute to efficient transportation because the square cartons fit on trucks better and thus require fewer trucks for deliveries and this means less greenhouse gas emissions. **!**

One Can One Purpose

A trash can labeled **YW** should never be used for garbage. You must remove the **YW** label if you need to use the trashcan for garbage.

Only a yardwaste collection truck will stop for cans marked with a **YW**, so if it holds garbage it won't be collected and will be tagged as inappropriate material by the yardwaste truck and left to be corrected and collected the following week. **!**



Favor de llamar al 402-444-5238 si tiene alguna duda sobre el sistema de colección de basura en Omaha.

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

2010 Omaha Solid Waste Results

Notes about 2010

The struggling economy continued affecting the amount of recyclables available in 2010. However half of the months in 2010 were higher than 2009, so that is a good sign.

Another good sign is that as manufacturing has revived, so has the revenue the City receives for recyclables. From the low in January 2009, commodity prices have continued to rise steadily.

In 2010, over \$650,000 in revenue was brought in from recycling and \$360,000 of landfill tipping fees were avoided by recycling.

Due to an excess in the amount of brown waste (leaves) at the City's composting facility, about 4,500 tons of yardwaste was sent to the landfill instead of the composting facility. For proper decomposition, there must be equal amounts of each type of yardwaste, brown (leaves) and green (grass). **!**

2010 [†]	Garbage		Recycling		Yardwaste	
January	7,429.10	85%	1,319.50	15%	-	-
February	6,386.57	85%	1,089.23	15%	-	-
March	8,582.50	86%	1,430.72	14%	-	-
April	11,940.03	81%	1,507.95	10%	1,225.67	8%
May	7,729.13	53%	1,271.95	9%	5,501.83	38%
June	9,619.20	60%	1,325.90	8%	5,106.90	32%
July	9,022.76	62%	1,203.25	8%	4,240.18	29%
August	8,733.06	65%	1,391.97	10%	3,238.04	24%
September	8,494.34	64%	1,365.89	10%	3,435.82	26%
October	7,421.92	60%	1,291.47	10%	3,748.10	30%
November	10,278.90	65%	1,440.45	9%	4,121.87	26%
December	8,940.59	85%	1,630.24	15%	-	-
Total 2010	104,578.10	69%	16,268.52	11%	30,618.41	20%
Total 2009	101,874	68%	16,511	11%	30,770	21%
Total 2008	107,487	70%	17,586	12%	27,840	18%
Total 2007	99,164	66%	16,459	11%	34,176	23%
Total 2006	98,985	66%	15,156	10%	35,928	24%
Total 2005	98,270	65%	16,710	11%	35,391	24%

[†] Reported in Tons (2,000 pounds)



Yardwaste Set out by 6AM

There is no limit to the amount of properly prepared yardwaste that can be collected. Place yardwaste within 5-feet of your curb and leave 2-feet of space between Yardwaste and Garbage containers. **Yardwaste collection season begins the week of the first Monday in April and continues through the week following Thanksgiving.**

Yes!



- Grass clippings and leaves.
- Garden waste such as fallen apples, rotted or excess vegetables and fruit.
- Trash cans up to 32 gallons and weighing up to 45 pounds, marked with a **YW** on both sides.



- Special yardwaste paper bags weighing up to 40 pounds.

- Unlimited number of properly prepared marked cans, paper bags or brush bundles.
- Bundles of branches and brush, tied with string or twine. Bundles may weigh up to 30 pounds.
- Branches may be up to 2 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length.



No!

- Plastic bags used in yardwaste collection.
- Mixtures of yardwaste and garbage.
- No saw dust, lumber or treated lumber/wood.
- Litter, trash or garbage.
- Whole cans of dirt or sod.
- Street sweeping sand, litter or rocks.
- Cardboard boxes of yardwaste.
- Pet waste or kitty litter.
- Branches over 2 inches in diameter.
- Branches over 4 feet long.
- Plastic twine, nylon twine or wire used to bundle brush or branches.
- Rope of any kind.
- Unbundled brush.

Yardwaste collection season begins the week of April 4, 2011 and continues through the week following Thanksgiving, November 28 to December 2, 2011.

Solid Waste Assistance



Special collection assistance for garbage, yardwaste and recyclables is available to households where all residents in the home have a medical disability, or are age 70 or older.



It takes several weeks to get the service set up. To apply, call 402-444-5238 from 8AM to 8PM weekdays.

Solid Waste Holidays & Yardwaste Collection Schedule

- First week of yardwaste collection: April 4-8, 2011. (Always begins the first Monday in April.)
- Holidays that delay collection by one day:
 - Memorial Day: Monday, May 30, 2011.
 - Independence Day: Monday, July 4, 2011.
 - Labor Day: Monday, September 5, 2011.
 - Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 24, 2011.
- Last week of yardwaste collection: November 28-December 2, 2011. (Always ends the week following Thanksgiving.)
 - Christmas Day: On a weekend and does not affect collection in 2011.
 - New Year's Day: On a weekend and does not affect collection in 2012.



Clip and Save

Worth Noting

The Yellow Pages Association, a trade association representing publishers of the ubiquitous and oft-spurned directories, now offers a national opt-out website, www.yellowpagesoptout.com.

In addition to offering a way for consumers to choose to not receive the telephone books, the website also offers tips on how to recycle directories and what publishers are doing to green their operations. **O!**



Garbage

Collection Missed? Call 402-444-5238 after 7PM on your collection day.

Because of state and federal laws, there are limits to the types of waste you may include in your garbage. Each household is limited to 5 properly prepared trash cans or clear bags of garbage per week.

Yes!



- Trash cans up to 32 gallons that weigh up to 45 pounds when full.
- Clear plastic bags that weigh up to 30 pounds when full.
- Up to 5 containers of garbage per week (example 2 trash cans and 3 bags).
- Place within 5 feet of curb, approved alley or other approved location.

No!

- A mixture of garbage and yardwaste.
- Christmas trees.
- Rocks, dirt and concrete.
- Dead animals.
- Any liquids.
- Loose pet waste or cat litter.
- Tires, engines or other large auto parts.
- Bulky items (couches, chairs, stoves, etc.).
- Dark plastic bags that you can't see through.
- Motor oil and automotive batteries.
- Cardboard boxes (empty or full) when not in a can or bag.
- Items outside a can or clear bag.

Note: Garbage cans must be removed from the curb by 10AM the day after collection. O!

Trash Can Garbage Time

You may not do it often, but every once in a while a trash can will need to be thrown away. But how?

Because trash cans come in all shapes, sizes, and conditions and to avoid misunderstandings, Deffenbaugh follows strict procedures for trash can disposal.



Call the City at 402-444-5238. The City will take down your information and mail you a letter with further instructions and a personalized placard.

A Deffenbaugh Supervisor will collect your empty and unwanted trash can for disposal. **O!**



Omaha's Premium Quality Compost

Oma-Gro is a natural compost product made exclusively of grass clippings, leaves and ground wood.

Ask for **Oma-Gro** at your favorite garden supply store or buy it direct from the production facility!

www.omagro.com

City of Omaha Composting Facility
402-444-6665
15705 Harlan Lewis Road
Bellevue, NE 68123-5728

Sign up to be notified of holiday and weather delays in collection
<http://join.wasteline.org>



Recycling

Place Materials Out in Green Bin, Before 6AM.

All Clean Paper—To prevent litter, place in a Paper Sack or Small Cardboard Box
(Do not use plastic bags)

Includes: Most all clean paper.
Things like:

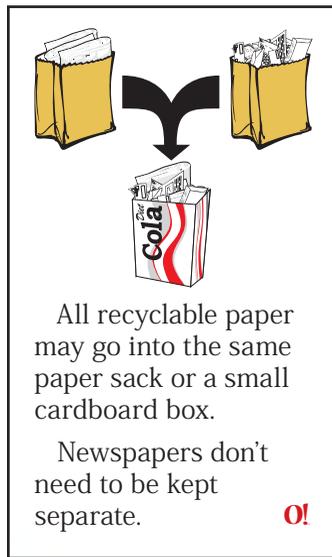
- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Magazines | Greeting Cards |
| Newspaper | School Paper |
| Detergent Boxes | Phonebooks |
| Junkmail | Paperback Books |
| Catalogues | Wrapping Paper |
| Cereal Boxes | Paper Egg Cartons |

Lay sack or box either inside bin, on top of bin, or next to your bin with the opening facing away from wind.

Corrugated cardboard. Break down flat and place under bin. For lots of boxes, fold and stuff multiple boxes into one box. Set out next to recycling bin.

NO! Do not include: Any soiled paper or these non-recyclable items:

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Pizza Boxes | Hardbound Books |
| Styrofoam | Rubber Bands |
| Tissue Paper | Paper Plates |
| Plastic Bags | |



Containers—Loose in the bin
(Not in plastic bags)

Gable top and Aseptic cartons, including—juice boxes, milk cartons, juice cartons, and broth boxes.

Aluminum cans & Steel (tin) cans, including—empty aerosol cans, empty and dry paint cans. Please don't flatten aluminum cans.
Tip: Place the top of food cans inside can and crimp closed.

Plastic bottles marked PETE, including: Bottles that held pop, cooking oil, mouthwash, shampoo or cleaners.

Plastic bottles, tubs or snap top containers marked HDPE, including those that held milk, juice, cleaners, or other food items.

Hard plastic packaging and plastic bottles marked V, usually used to hold small electronics; must be cut open and is referred to as "blister packs."

Plastic bottles, cups, tubs or snap top containers marked PP, including dairy case items, many other food containers and reusable/disposable food storage containers.

Use a paper bag or a small box to hold extra recyclables.

NO! Don't recycle these plastic items, no matter what: Toys, cookie trays, motor oil bottles, lawn chemical bottles, or hazardous chemical bottles

NO! Glass bottles or jars. (Glass may be taken to drop-off sites or placed in garbage)

NO! Lids or plastic bottle caps of any kind. Remove and throw in garbage.



Bottles only



Bottles
Food Containers



Bottles
Containers
Packaging



Bottles
Food Containers
Packaging

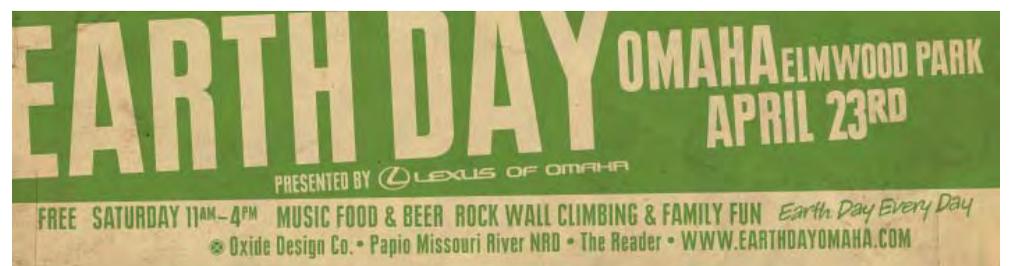


Play Fair

Socially responsible companies have been a popular trend. Most notable of these companies is Newman's Own, the late actor Paul Newman's 25 plus year old company that focused on organic products and donated profits to charity. Over the years, socially responsible companies have been most prevalent in the food arena, but not exclusively. Furniture and flooring using sustainable forest practices and clothing made without using sweatshop labor have a strong social responsibility history.

A new area for social responsibility is sporting equipment. Being concerned about soccer balls, basketballs, and footballs that may be manufactured in sweatshops or as "piece work" in developing countries by children, Scott and Susan James started Fair Trade Sports, a company that sources sporting goods only made by adults who earn a living wage working in a healthy working environment. Fair Trade Sports subscribes to several certification programs including the Forest Stewardship Council, and the Fair Trade Federation. Fair Trade Sports sells their products through retailers and direct to the consumer.

In their own way, even the corporate giant Nike has joined the socially responsible movement by working to avoid sweatshops and running a recycling program for worn out athletic shoes—over 25 million so far. The recycled athletic shoes become the "Nike Grind" used to make playing surface for basketball courts, tracks, soccer fields, and tennis courts. Nike has donated over 300 Nike Grind athletic surfaces so far.



Quotes Requoted

Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without

US Office of War Information
World War II Poster, 1943



Source: Northwestern University Library

Is Your Bin a Has-Been?

Replacement and additional recycling bins are available to single family households within the City of Omaha, from these locations. Your damaged recycling bin can also be recycled at these locations.

UnderTheSink, Special Waste

Facility 4001 South 120th Street
Drive around building to parking lot and enter office.

Available Wednesday 9AM – 4:45PM,
Thursday 9:00AM – 6:15PM,
Friday 9:00AM – 4:45PM,
Saturday 9:00AM – NOON.
Holiday hours posted at
www.underthesink.org.

Omaha Joint Use Facility

8750 Vernon Avenue
(64 blocks North of Dodge).
Available Monday through Friday,
excluding City of Omaha Holidays,
8:00AM – 2:00PM.
Enter the office at the Southwest
corner. Do not drive into the
facility's maintenance yard.

Omaha Sewer Maintenance Facility

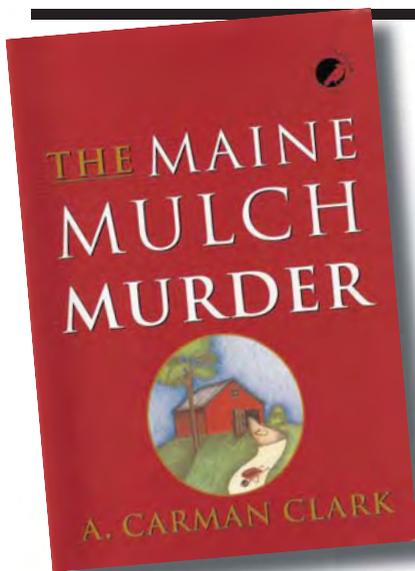
6880 Q Street
Available Monday through Friday,
excluding City of Omaha Holidays,
8:00AM – 3:00PM.
Enter the office on the South side.
Do not drive into the facility's
maintenance yard.

Omaha Traffic Maintenance Facility

4303 South 50th Street
Available Monday through Friday,
excluding City of Omaha Holidays,
8:00AM – 3:00PM.
Enter the office on the West side.
Do not drive into the facility's
maintenance yard.



Murder at the Mulch Pile



If you are looking for some light summer reading, check out *The Maine Mulch Murder* by A. Carman Clark (Larcom Press, 2001). Not many murder mysteries begin at a mulch pile as this one does. However, when Amy Creighton goes to pick up sawdust to mulch her strawberry bed, she uncovers the body of a young man. Thus, the private Amy leaves behind the book she is editing and the garden in need of mulch to help local law enforcement officials unravel a mystery.

From antique dishes collected by an old friend to the tidy habits of a neighbor, Amy and the town constable piece together the clues to the young man's death, unearthing a long-buried secret in the process. In the meantime, she and the constable make peace with their own past, rekindling an old friendship and a lost romance.

And, yes, the strawberry bed does get its mulch—but not until after the mystery has been solved in the final chapter. **O!**

Little Steps.

Big Impact.

Ozone is a gas that can occur both in the Earth's upper atmosphere and at ground level. Atmospheric ozone is vital for protecting life from the Sun's ultraviolet rays. At the ground level, however, ozone is harmful to humans and the environment.

Ground-level ozone is formed when nitrous oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) react in the presence of sunlight and heat. The primary sources of NOx are combustion of natural gas, gasoline, diesel and coal. The major sources of VOCs are solvents used in industry, and consumer products.

Although Omaha's air appears relatively clean, health studies have shown that levels of ozone typical of the Omaha area can cause a variety of health problems including chest pain, coughing, throat irritation, and

congestion. Particularly susceptible are young children, the elderly, people with prior lung problems like emphysema, bronchitis, and asthma, and to a lesser degree those who work or exercise outdoors.

What can you do to keep the air you breathe cleaner? You don't have to change your entire life, just take some little steps to make a big impact. For example: mow your lawn and refuel your vehicle in the evening instead of during the middle of the afternoon; stop at the first click when fueling your car; combine errands to reduce vehicle miles traveled; and conserve energy at home by washing in cold water, using CFL lighting, and installing a programmable thermostat.

See what you can do to help reduce ozone in Omaha at www.LittleStepsBigImpact.com. **O!**

Spring Clean Up

For seven Saturdays between April 2 and May 21 Omaha residents have the opportunity to dispose of bulky or difficult to dispose of items such as chairs, couches, appliances and tires. Spring Clean Up is not a disposal program for regular household garbage for which collection is provided weekly.

Spring Clean Up also offers the opportunity to dispose of large limbs and brush that would be difficult to dispose of using the City's weekly yardwaste collection. Each spring clean up site will have vouchers available that will cover the disposal cost of tree limbs and brush at an off site location that Saturday.

Not every Spring Clean Up site will collect all materials. Appliances, tires and automotive batteries will only be collected at one designated site each Clean Up Saturday.

The Spring Clean Up program is a joint effort of Keep Omaha Beautiful, Inc., the City of Omaha, and the many neighborhood organizations that provide the volunteers to staff the collection sites.

Spring Clean Up is open to all Omaha residents. People that utilize a Spring Clean Up site do not need to be a dues paying member of the sponsoring organization, nor do they have to pay any fees to use a Spring Clean Up site or for the limb and brush disposal vouchers.

To find a Spring Clean Up site near you, call 402-444-4636 beginning after March 28, 2011. **O!**

Collection Pointers

- ▶ Place all materials at your collection point by 6AM.
- ▶ If your collection is missed, call 402-444-5238 after 7PM on your collection day.
- ▶ Leave a couple feet of space between your yardwaste, recyclables and garbage containers.
- ▶ Keep your garbage dry—use plastic bags or trash cans with lids.
- ▶ One cap full of household ammonia per garbage container will deter animals from investigating and searching for food in your garbage.
- ▶ Use clear trash bags.



Within 5 feet of curb or alley.
Collection problems: 402-444-5238

Garbage:
Up to 5 containers

Metal or plastic can with handles.
32-gallon, 45-pound max.



Clear plastic.
30-pounds max.
Tie shut.



Leave space between

Recycling:
Must use bin

No plastic bags.
No glass.
Paper in paper bag or box.
Flatten cardboard boxes.



Leave space between

Yardwaste:
No container limit

Growing Season Only

Metal or plastic can with handles.
32-gallon, 45-pound max.
Marked YW.

Paper bags only.
40-pounds max.



Bundle with string.
4-feet long max.
2-inch diameter branches max.
30-pounds max.



Set out by 6AM