



WASTELINE

November 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



You Can Recycle That?

THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST heard questions heard by staff making a presentation or participating at a public event. Let's turn that question around to an emphatic statement **"Yes! I can recycle that!"**

Paint Cans

As long as the cans are made of metal, are empty and dry; paint cans are recyclable in your recycling bin and at drop-off sites. The lid must be removed. Paint cans with leftover paint still in them may be taken to **UnderTheSink**, the household chemical disposal facility for Douglas and Sarpy Counties. Learn more at www.underthesink.org or call **402-444-sink [7465]**.



Aerosol Spray Cans

Just use up the product and the spray can is recyclable. It's OK for the can to still have propellant as long as the product was used up. If the spray can isn't empty, and won't work, the correct place to dispose of it is at **UnderTheSink**.



Paper Egg Cartons

Yes, egg cartons and other molded forms made from paper are recyclable. Just toss them in your bin. In general, all paper items that are thicker than tissue and not soiled with food are recyclable. So be sure and recycle things like the tube from toilet tissue and paper towels.



Juice Boxes, Milk Cartons, Soup Boxes

These are new items just added in March this year. They are all recyclable. If possible we recommend rinsing the container before placing in your bin.



Pill Bottles, DVD cases Plastic Take-out Drink Cup

These items are usually made from Polypropylene ♻️. All are recyclable along with bottles or containers marked ♻️, ♻️ and ♻️. You may want to remove the pharmacy label



just for privacy. Another tip is to nest smaller bottles inside larger ones.

Now a couple of old habits to correct

Paper Labels on Steel/Tin/Metal cans

No need to remove the paper labels; the furnace is plenty hot to burn them up. If you want to remove them and put them in with your paper for recycling that's great.

Lids

Our preference is that lids be removed and disposed in the garbage. The reason is loose lids fall out during sorting and go to the landfill anyway and lids on containers don't compact as tightly. Not to mention the bad sour milk smell that lingers when a lid is left on.



A big **thank you** to everyone who recycles in Omaha. In the first nine months of this year, over 12,000 tons have been recycled and that generated over \$750,000 in revenue for the city. **!**

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

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10 Tips for a Better New Year

NOW IS A GOOD TIME to think of how we can end 2011 on a positive note and make 2012 an even better year—for ourselves, our families, our homes, and our budgets. Consider these 10 tips:

1. Scan your pantry shelves for food that your family won't eat. We all have canned and boxed goods that we purchased but never got around to using. Check the "use by" or "best by" dates and donate unexpired items to a local food pantry or other non-profit organization.
2. Give more of your time and talent. If you are feeling that you can't afford to donate as much money to your favorite causes, commit more of your time and energy.
3. Start your exercise, weight-loss, or other self-improvement program on borrowed or shared equipment. If you stick with the program or hobby, you can purchase your own supplies and equipment later, if you need them.
4. Precycle. You do this by shopping for groceries and other products

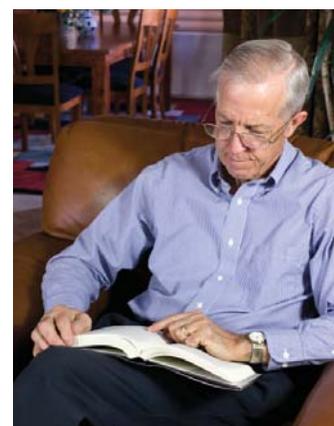


with recycling in mind. Know what you can recycle and choose products packaged in those materials. Better yet, try to buy items with no packaging whenever possible. For example, if you need a bunch of bananas or two apples, you don't need a plastic produce bag.

5. Commit to recycled-content products. Successful recycling programs depend on having manufacturers use your recyclables. If you need a new fleece vest or jacket, look for fleece made from recycled soft drink bottles.

6. Take an inventory at home. Do you have supplies for a hobby that you never started? Now would be a good time to begin. Do you have books on your shelf that you haven't read? Don't buy a new book—read one you already own. The same goes for movies—have you watched all of the DVDs you have at home? If not, start now.

7. Find your library card. The library is a great resource for no-cost



entertainment. Look for books, magazines, CDs, movies, and more. Visit www.OmahaPublicLibrary.com to see what's new and find a location near you.

8. Before you buy, ask yourself these questions: Do I need this? Do I need something new right now? Will this gift last beyond the moment? Does it have too much packaging? What will happen to it when it's no longer needed?
9. Stop making "wish lists." Whether you make them online, write them on a scrap of paper, or keep them in your head, wish lists keep you thinking about what you want but don't yet have.
10. Start thinking now about planting a garden in the spring. A garden can be a relaxing hobby and also a good source of food for your family. Even if you just have a small patio, consider planting tomatoes or peppers, which can grow in a pot. **!**

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.



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

O!

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.

Yardwaste

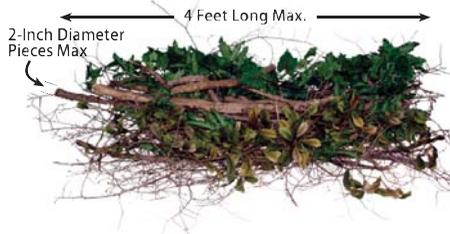
2011 Season Ends
Nov 28 - Dec 2

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 that weigh up to 45 pounds, marked with a **YW** on both sides.
- ✔ Special yardwaste paper bags that weigh 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.



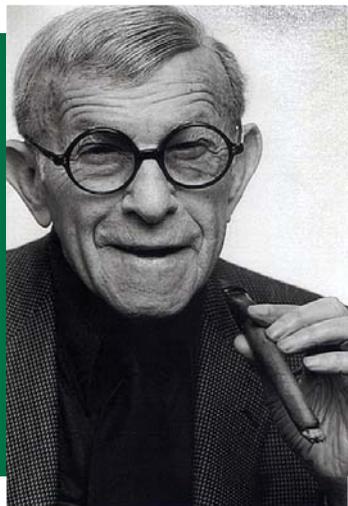
No!

- ✘ Plastic bags used in yardwaste collection.
- ✘ Mixtures of yardwaste and garbage.
- ✘ 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.
- ✘ Brush that is not bundled.

Quotes Requoted

I can remember when the air was clean and sex was dirty.

George F. Burns, 1896-1996
American Comedian



www.omagro.com

www.wasteline.org

www.omaharecycles.com

Collection Pointers

- ▶ If your collection was 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.
- ▶ If your recycling bin becomes damaged or lost, call 402-444-4500.
- ▶ Yardwaste collection continues until week of November 28-December 2, 2011.
- ▶ Set out all material by 6AM.



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

Garbage:
Up to 5 containers



Recycling:
Must use bin



Yardwaste:
No container limit
Growing Season Only





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:

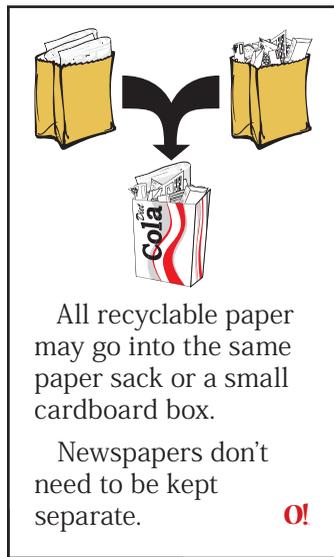
- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Magazines | Greeting Cards |
| Newspaper | School Paper |
| Detergent Boxes | Phonebooks |
| Junkmail | Paperback Books |
| Catalogues | Wrapping Paper |
| Cereal Boxes | Paper Egg Cartons |

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. This packaging is 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.



We've Come a Long Way...Maybe

ACCORDING TO A NEW SURVEY commissioned by SC Johnson, the household cleaning products company, Americans are becoming much more confident with their knowledge about the environment.

That is despite the often confusing or even contradictory messages that are put forth by competing interests. Everything from global warming to paper versus plastic bags have advocates and detractors with their stack of scientific data supporting their case.

The survey conducted by GfK Roper Consulting compares how opinions have changed over the past 20 years. The survey measured only opinions, not the accuracy of what the individual knew about environmental issues.

According to the survey, 73% of Americans say they know a lot or a fair amount about environmental issues and problems. That's up 20 percentage points compared to the survey conducted in 1995.

Also, fewer people now agree with the statement: "I am very confused about what's good and what's bad for the environment." Just 18% agree with that statement in 2011, down a whopping 21 percentage points from the survey conducted in 1990.

However, increased knowledge may have led to a tempering of expectations. Compared to 1990, fewer Americans answered that they can make big steps to protect the environment, but in 2011 more are saying they can at least make small

steps that have a positive impact on the environment. For example, 58% said they recycle on a regular basis; twice as many as 20 years ago. Also reported was that 29% said they buy "green" products.

The full report is available from the SC Johnson website, www.scjohnson.com.

Go Figure

A disposable, carry-out coffee cup, whether made from paper or Styrofoam weighs about one ounce. If you drink one carry-out coffee every work day, you'll throw away 260 cups per year and create over 16 pounds of non-recyclable waste for your caffeine fix.



Worth Noting

Keeping up with the neighbors has a new meaning at the website Low Impact Living (www.lowimpactliving.com).

The website provides information about the impacts of using resources and producing waste. You can also jump right in and use the

measurement tool to determine your household's impact on the environment.

The impact calculator provides suggestions of home and lifestyle changes with the projected savings for the environment and your personal finances.

Garbage Collection a Dangerous Business

A U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR report for 2010 confirmed that garbage collection is one of America's most dangerous jobs.

A total of 26 solid waste collection workers lost their lives on the job in 2010, making solid waste collection the seventh most-dangerous job in America, according to information released by the department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The National Solid Waste Management Association (NSWMA), the trade association for the industry has promoted the Slow Down to get Around message because their worker's safety is a direct result of the



public's interaction with collection vehicles.

Do your part by:

Slowing down when approaching a garbage truck making its rounds. Stop to allow workers to do their jobs.

Looking for workers before attempting to pass the truck.

Checking for traffic approaching from the opposite direction before proceeding slowly around the truck.

Avoiding distractions like texting, talking on the cell phone, or lighting a cigarette while driving. **!**

House Numbers Required

Having house numbers is a public safety issue when the police or fire department is responding to an emergency or apprehending a suspect.

Easily visible house numbers also aid Deffenbaugh in completing their collection rounds and responding to collection problems. In 2007, the Omaha City Council added a provision to the Municipal Code that requires house numbers on the alley side of houses in addition to the street side.

House numbers should be large enough to be seen from the street or alley, and in a contrasting color from their background. Illuminated numbers that can be seen at night are

an added benefit. Numbers that have been painted over should be replaced.



If your home is on an alley, please add house numbers to the alley side of your home and assist neighbors who may have difficulty completing this task. Every home should examine their house numbers to see if they will serve them in an emergency.

Remember, the life or home you save could be your own. **!**

Holiday and Yardwaste Collection Schedule for 2012

THERE ARE SIX HOLIDAYS that occur during the work week that are observed by the City's solid waste collection contractor.

Following a weekday holiday, collection is delayed by one day for the remainder of that week, with Friday's collection occurring on Saturday.

Yardwaste collection begins the first Monday of April and continues

through the week following Thanksgiving. During the winter months, yardwaste is not collected—separately or with garbage. Live Christmas trees are considered yardwaste and are not collected until yardwaste collection begins in the spring. Christmas Tree collection sites are provided as noted in this issue of

WASTELINE. **!**

Solid Waste & Yardwaste Collection Schedule

Holidays that delay collection by one day:

▶ 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. Regular collection schedule.

▶ New Year's Day: On a weekend. Regular collection schedule.

▶ First week of yardwaste collection: April 2–6, 2012. (Always begins the first Monday in April.)

▶ Memorial Day: Monday, May 28, 2012.

▶ Independence Day: Wednesday, July 4, 2012.

▶ Labor Day: Monday, September 3, 2012.

▶ Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 22, 2012.

▶ Last week of yardwaste collection: November 26–30, 2012.

▶ Christmas Day 2012: Tuesday, December 25, 2012.

▶ New Year's Day 2013: Tuesday, January 1, 2013.



Clip and Save

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.

Recycle That Christmas Tree—It's Just Natural.

CHRISTMAS TREES ARE NOT collected as part of Omaha's garbage service. Omaha residents have two options for disposal of natural Christmas trees: 1) Take the tree to one of the collection sites listed here using the same means you got it home; 2) Place the tree securely in your yard and wait for yardwaste collection to resume in April.

As usual, you must remove all lights, decorations, the tree stand and the plastic bag from the tree before recycling. Flocked trees will be accepted. As an added convenience, the sites will be staffed with volunteers from the Omaha Rotary Clubs and Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, on

December 31, 2011 and January 7 and 8, 2012, from 10AM until 4PM.

The grinding company for this year's Christmas Trees has also opened up their facility as a mid-city collection point for Christmas Trees. Hughes Mulch Products at 3211 Keystone Drive will accept Christmas trees Monday to Saturday from 8AM to 5PM.

The Christmas tree collection sites will close on Tuesday, January 10, 2012.

Beyond the tree...

Wrapping paper, gift catalogues and greeting cards are all recyclable and may be recycled with



your other clean paper as described in this edition of **WASTELINE.**

All the metal cans, paper egg cartons, soup boxes, juice boxes and the plastic bottles marked PETE, HDPE, V, and PP from holiday entertaining are recyclable as well. But remember, to be recycled, glass bottles must be taken to one of the recycling drop-off sites. If you have more recyclables than your green bin will hold, use a small box or paper bag to hold the extra recyclables. Set the box out with your green bin or take the extra recyclables to one of the recycling drop-off sites. **!**

Christmas Tree Collection Sites (except as noted sites are open during daylight hours)

Tranquility Park, North 120th Street & West Maple Road

Brown Park, "U" Street between 15th & 18th Streets

Orchard Park, North 66th Street & Hartman Avenue

"F" Street Football Field, South 156th & "F" Streets

Ta Ha Zouka Park, 20801 Elkhorn Drive

Kelly West Park, 87th Street & Park View Boulevard

Wehrspann Lake, Highway 370 between I-80 and 168th Street. Wildlife Management Area south parking lot.

Bellevue Old Sarpy County Landfill, 8902 Cedar Island Road

Papillion Senior Center, 1001 Limerick Road

Papio Bay, 815 East Halleck Street

LaVista Sports Complex, 7350 South 66th Street, 2 blocks south of Harrison Street

Hughes Mulch Products, 3211 Keystone Drive. Only open 8AM to 5PM Monday to Saturday.