



WASTELINE

November 2014
City of Omaha
Jean Stothert, Mayor

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

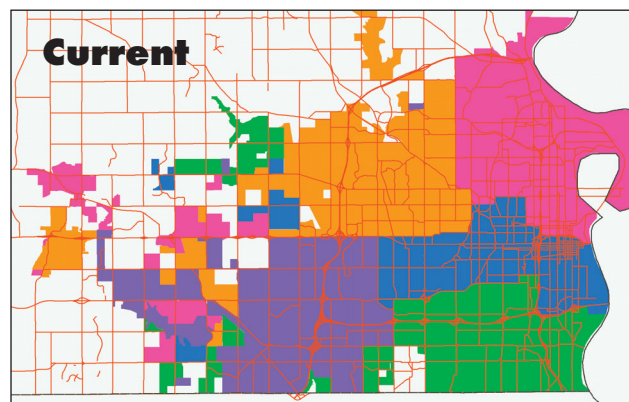
**Thanksgiving,
Christmas Day, and
New Years Day
will affect the
collection schedule.**

Waste Collection Update

A LOT WILL CHANGE and a lot will remain the same over the next several months.

Streamlining for Efficiency

A big change that has been in the works for nearly two years, is how



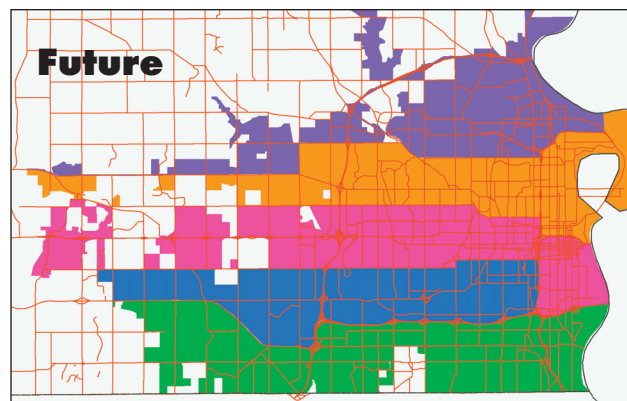
Omaha is divided up into each of the collection days. Almost three-fourths of the households will receive a new collection day assignment, so your collection day is likely to change. This is the first citywide day-of-

collection change in more than 30 years. Over the years, as Sanitary and Improvement Districts were brought into the City, a jigsaw puzzle of collection days on Omaha's western edge was created.

These new collection day areas are designed to be more efficient and more cost effective. The new collection days are streamlined from east to west using major streets as boundaries and will easily grow along with the City.

The new collection days will take effect the week of January 5-9, 2015. No doubt, the transition to the

new collection days will come with some growing pains, but to ease this transition we will be mailing another issue of **WASTELINE** next month and an individualized postcard right after Christmas reminding residents of the change. To get a jump on things, you can look up what your collection day will be by visiting <http://newday.wasteline.org>.



Changes to Omaha's solid waste collection are done carefully and

deliberately. We have to be certain of our decisions because the contract is big; really big. In fact, the solid waste collection contract is the City's largest general fund contract. That is because we're collecting from more than 130,000 households and this makes it one of the largest collection contracts in the country. Besides being big, the contract is cost effective. The cost for garbage, recycling and yardwaste collection is \$96.76 per household, per year. This is one of the lowest collection costs in the entire nation.

Remaining the Same

The **What:** Container types and limits will not be changed at all. Garbage will still be limited to any combination of five 32-gallon trash cans that weigh up to 45 pounds when filled, or see-through plastic bags that weigh up to 30 pounds. The same recyclables will still be collected from City issued recycling bins. Yardwaste will still be collected from

either 32-gallon trash cans that weigh up to 45 pounds when full, or in special paper yardwaste bags that weigh up to 40 pounds. Bundles of tied up brush will be collected when they weigh up to 30 pounds.

The **How:** Cans, bags and bins of each material will be emptied manually into the appropriate truck. All material must be within 5 feet of the curb or from designated alleys. Collections will be from

6AM until 7PM. Six holidays will be observed; New Years Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Special "by the house" collection for the elderly and handicapped will continue to be offered to those who qualify.

New Owners

As was reported by the news media back in October, Deffenbaugh Industries of Kansas City, Kansas, has signed an agreement to be acquired by Waste Management Inc. of Houston, Texas. The deal must still be approved by federal regulators so a date of the sale has not been set. Omaha's five year extension agreement with Deffenbaugh Industries, that was approved in 2013, will transfer to Waste Management. The contract continues until the end of 2020.



The terms of the solid waste collection contract provides consistency in the *what* and *how* waste is collected but Waste Management may choose to make operational changes that do not impact residents. Waste Management has not determined if they will re-brand local operations under the Waste Management name or continue to operate using the name Deffenbaugh Industries. Reports of missed collections or other service related issues should still be phoned into the City's Solid Waste Help Line at 402-444-5238.

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

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OMAHA, NE

What Really Happens To My Yardwaste?

THE MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY BENEFICIAL thing you can do with your yardwaste is to use grass clippings and leaves in your landscape and to compost at home. Mulched grass clippings and leaves contain many of the beneficial nutrients that your lawn and other plantings need to sustain healthy growth and don't create thatch. The City strongly encourages you to "leave it on the lawn" to reduce the amount of yardwaste set out for collection. But the reality is that there can be more yardwaste than most residents can use at certain times of the year. So, what actually does happen to collected yardwaste?

In December of 2012, the City began year-round collection of yardwaste, but what does that really mean? Generally, from the first full week of April through the full week

following Thanksgiving, your yardwaste goes to the City's **Oma-Gro** Compost Facility. During the rest of the year, all properly prepared yardwaste is co-collected along with garbage and is deposited in the Pheasant Point Landfill.

The starting and ending dates of separate yardwaste collection are flexible from year-to-year. This is because the **Oma-Gro** facility has a limited storage capacity and needs to keep a balance of green (nitrogen rich) material and brown (high carbon content) material. Brown material is very prevalent in the early spring and during the fall. When the Oma-Gro facility is full, or when the wrong type of material is most prevalent, the City will direct Deffenbaugh to haul yardwaste to the landfill instead of the **Oma-Gro** facility.

Yardwaste — continued on back

LEGAL NOTICE: Placement of solid waste (garbage, recyclable materials, and yardwaste) by a resident along a private 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.



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: Trash cans and recycling bins must be removed from the curb by 10AM the day after collection.

(Omaha Municipal Code, Chapter 18, Article X, Section 102) **!**

No!

- A mixture of garbage and yardwaste.
- Christmas trees. Follow yardwaste collection rules.
- Rocks, dirt, and concrete.
- Dead animals.
- Any liquids.
- Loose pet waste or loose 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

Set out before 6AM

There is no limit to the amount of properly prepared yardwaste that may be set out for collection. Place yardwaste within 5 feet of your collection location and leave 2 feet of space between yardwaste and garbage containers.

Yardwaste is now collected year-round when properly prepared.

Yes!‡



➤ Grass clippings and leaves.

➤ Garden waste such as fallen apples, rotted or excess vegetables and fruit.

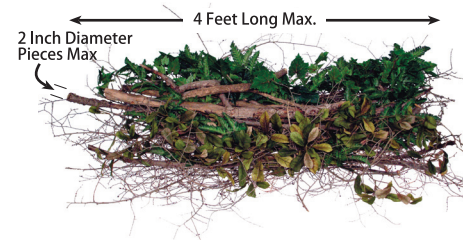
➤ Trash cans up to 32-gallons that weigh up to 45 pounds, marked with a **YW** on both sides.

➤ 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.

Yardwaste is now collected year-round when properly prepared.

Seasonally, yardwaste will be collected in conjunction with garbage.

‡ Omaha Municipal Code, Chapter 33, Article II, Division 2.

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.



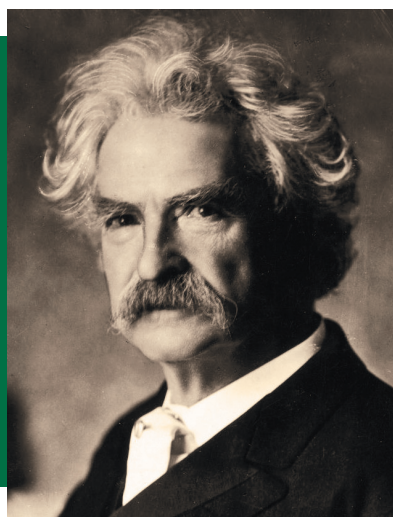
It takes several weeks to get the service set up.

To apply, call 402-444-5238 from 8AM to 8PM weekdays.

Quotes *Reguoted*

A human being has a natural desire to have more of a good thing than he needs.

Mark Twain, 1835-1910
American Novelist and Humorist



Worth Noting

The family debate will probably go on forever, but one scientific study concluded that real Christmas trees were better, causing less environmental impact than artificial trees. The study by Ellipsos conducted a full Life Cycle Assessment comparing the two holiday traditions.

The results of the study found that real trees had a significantly

smaller environmental impact and were four times better for the ecosystem with less of an impact on climate change and resource depletion than artificial trees. The most significant environmental impact of artificial trees is caused by their manufacturing and transportation. Buying real trees, cut down locally, is the greatest environmental winner.

Recycling Drop-off Sites

Recycling glass and the occasional extra bunch of recyclables is easy. Drop-off sites are located around the city and accept the same materials as your green bin, plus you can also recycle glass bottles.

Drop-off sites consist of two or more large containers. Glass bottles will go in one container and all of the other recyclables go in a separate container. Keeping glass separate from the other recyclables is all the sorting you will need to do.

Illegal dumping at the 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.]

Northeast: **Salvation Army**
2574 Douglas Street
Open: Daily, 7AM – 7PM

Northwest: **Parking Lot**
North 75TH and Corby Streets
Open: Daily, 7AM – 7PM

Southwest: **Firststar Fiber**
10330 “I” Street
Open: Daily, 7AM – 7PM

Use the East driveway to Firststar. Turn off “I” Street, then turn left into the fenced parking area before you reach the guard shack.

Southeast: **River City Recycling**
6404 South 60TH Street
(Between Harrison & “Q” Streets)
Open: Monday – Friday: 8AM – 4:30PM
Saturday: 8AM – NOON (Winter)
Monday – Saturday: 8AM – 4:30PM (Spring, Summer, Fall)





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:

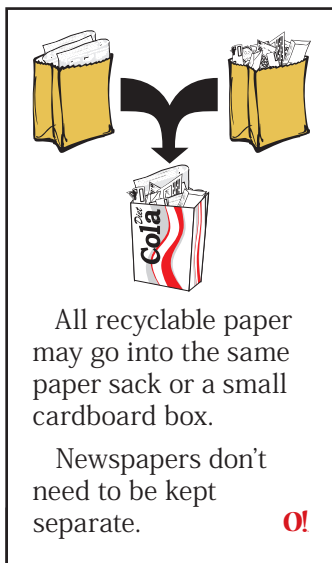
Magazines	Greeting Cards
Newspaper	School Paper
Detergent Boxes	Phonebooks
Junkmail	Paperback Books
Catalogues	Wrapping Paper
Cereal Boxes	Paper Egg Cartons

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:

Styrofoam	Hardbound Books
Tissue Paper	Rubber Bands
Plastic Bags	Paper Plates
Diapers	



All recyclable paper may go into the same paper sack or a small cardboard box.

Newspapers don't need to be kept separate.

NO!

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

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

Aluminum cans and Steel (tin) cans including—empty aerosol cans, empty and dry paint cans with lid removed. Tip: Place the top of food cans inside can and crimp closed.

Plastic containers and packaging marked PETE, HDPE, V, or PP.

Flattening bottles helps prevent litter.

Caps and lids are OK.

Includes:

- Bottles
- Cups
- Snap top container
- Clamshell deli containers
- Cookie trays
- DVD cases
- Clear plastic packaging
- Microwave meal trays

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

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

NO! Glass bottles or jars. (Glass may be taken to drop-off sites listed in this issue of **WASTELINE** or placed in the garbage)



Plastic Bottles, Cups, Caps, Lids, Food Containers and Packaging with numbers:



Collection Pointers

- Place all materials at your collection point before 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 poured in to each 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.



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

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

Paper bags only 40 pounds max.



Leave space between

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



Set out before 6AM

2013 Omaha Solid Waste

2013†	Garbage		Recycling		Yardwaste	
January	8,099.07	86%	1,366.23	14%	-	-
February	6,792.44	86%	1,115.34	14%	-	-
March	7,157.87	85%	1,288.35	15%	-	-
April	11,240.67	89%	1,422.27	11%	-	-
May	10,006.05	63%	1,592.56	10%	4,191.72	27%
June	8,562.45	60%	1,410.10	10%	4,318.69	30%
July	9,308.45	71%	1,428.89	11%	2,443.73	19%
August	8,728.58	70%	1,452.35	12%	2,252.09	18%
September	8,305.09	71%	1,297.11	11%	2,060.33	18%
October	8,857.96	68%	1,452.35	11%	2,749.20	21%
November	11,738.48	72%	1,389.80	9%	3,093.08	19%
December	9,769.08	86%	1,579.80	14%	-	-
Total 2013	108,566.19	74%	16,795.15	11%	21,108.85	14%
Total 2012	106,400	76%	16,129	11%	17,725	13%
Total 2011	127,102	84%	16,268	11%	7,433	5%
Total 2010	104,578	69%	16,268	11%	30,618	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)

Helpful Hints for the Holiday Season

AS THE HOLIDAY SEASON APPROACHES, you are probably already planning trips and parties. Beginning in November and continuing through Super Bowl Sunday, many people travel, visit relatives, eat big meals, prepare special foods, and give more than a few gifts. Because of this, the holiday season is often also waste season. It doesn't have to be. Here are some tips to help you have a less wasteful—and more relaxing—winter season.

- ▶ **Party Planning** – Know how many people are coming to each event you're hosting and plan the food accordingly. If you have more leftovers than your family can finish, send food home with your guests. Avoid disposable decorations, dishes, cups, and napkins. Instead, reuse old family decorations, your own dishes, glasses, and cups, and reusable cloth napkins. If you don't have cloth napkins, maybe this would be a good time to invest in some. They are inexpensive and can be reused year after year. If you take a gift to your hosts, make sure it is consumable, such as food and drinks, or reusable, like a serving tray.
- ▶ **Travel** – Road trips often include disposable food packaging and recyclable drink containers that end up in roadside trash cans. If you're traveling by car, pack snacks (and even lunch) in your own washable, reusable containers. You can put them into a cooler with drinks from home. When you get to your destination, wash your containers. They'll be ready to repack for the trip home. Look for roadside recycling containers, which are available at some rest stops. If you don't find them, put your aluminum, glass, and plastic beverage cans and bottles into a bag or box and recycle them when you get home. If you are flying, look for recycling bins for paper and drink containers in the airport.
- ▶ **Gift Giving** – Make a list of everyone to whom you'll give a gift this holiday season. After making the list, decide how much you want to spend on gifts. Now, decide what you would like

to give. One budget-conscious and waste-reducing way to give gifts is to shop for gently-used books and other items at secondhand and antique stores. Give reusable gifts, such as washable placemats and cloth napkins, or consumable gifts, such as gift cards to a restaurant or movie. Gift cards for downloadable music are also a great, waste-free idea. Another option is to give of yourself, such as offering to run errands, babysit, take a walk in the woods, or meet for a picnic in the park. You also might consider giving to a good cause in honor of someone on the list; you can make a card describing the group that has received money or goods in their name. Framed photos make a wonderful gift—you might even be able to make a frame or find a unique used frame. If you choose to buy new gifts, look for items such as jewelry or handmade stationery made from recyclables.

- ▶ **Gift Wrapping** – Reuse wrapping paper, gift bags, ribbon, and tags from past years. If you don't have any on hand, make your own wrapping paper by decorating the blank side of brown paper grocery bags; reusing colored sections of newspaper, old maps, or children's artwork; or using fabric, shelf paper, or wallpaper scraps. In other words, begin with items that you already have on hand! Or, "wrap" the gift in a basket or canvas bag that will be reusable later. If you buy wrapping paper, look for paper with recycled-content.
- ▶ **Holiday Greetings** – Think about the holiday greetings that your family most enjoys—they are probably the cards or letters that include a personal touch, whether that is newsy notes or fun photos. Consider creating your own letter with family updates and holiday greetings. Of

Holiday Collection Schedule

End of 2014 and through 2015

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

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

Yardwaste is now collected year-round. During the growing season a separate truck will collect yardwaste and during the rest of the year properly prepared yardwaste will still be collected, however it will go to the landfill. Live Christmas trees are considered yardwaste so they must be properly prepared as yardwaste for collection.

Solid Waste Holiday Collection Schedule

Holidays that delay collection by one day:

- ▶ Thanksgiving Day 2014: Thursday, November 27, 2014.
- ▶ Christmas Day 2014: Thursday, December 25, 2014.
- ▶ New Year's Day 2015: Thursday, January 1, 2015.
- ▶ **Citywide Change of Collection Day: Week of January 5–9, 2015.**
Visit <http://newday.wasteline.org> to see how this may affect you.
- ▶ Memorial Day: Monday, May 25, 2015.
- ▶ Independence Day: Is on Saturday and does not affect the collection.
- ▶ Labor Day: Monday, September 7, 2015.
- ▶ Thanksgiving Day 2015: Thursday, November 26, 2015.
- ▶ Christmas Day 2015: Friday, December 25, 2015.
- ▶ New Year's Day 2016: Friday, January 1, 2016.



Clip and Save



course, print it on recycled-content paper and mail it in recycled-content envelopes. Or, e-mail paperless greetings instead.

This is a great time of year to discuss what really matters most to you, your family members, and friends. During this season of giving, learn what your family and friends really need. You might find that they could use more of your time and attention. Time and attention don't cost money and create significantly less waste than giving them a lot of stuff.

Yardwaste

continued from front

Yardwaste taken to the Pheasant Point Landfill still provides an environmental benefit. This benefit comes from a 6.2-megawatt green energy generation facility owned by Omaha Public Power District that uses the methane gas collected at the landfill. Methane is produced by decomposing garbage; yardwaste hastens methane production.

To circle back to the beginning, the most beneficial choice for yardwaste is to deal with it within your landscape by mulching, composting, soil incorporation, making leaf mold or simply leaving it on the lawn. If you've got too much yardwaste to handle in your landscape, Omaha's yardwaste collection is year-round and provides its own environmental benefits.