

# Wasteline

## OMAHA SOLID WASTE PROGRAM

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



Jean Stothert,  
Mayor, City of Omaha



Robert G. Stubbe, P.E.,  
Director Environmental Quality Division



**COLLECTION SCHEDULE UPDATE:** Memorial Day, Monday, May 27 will delay collection by one day for that week.



Garbage



Recycling



Yardwaste



Special Waste

## It's Time to Wipe Away Winter: 2019 Omaha Spring Cleanup Begins!



The winter of 2018-19 was the wettest in the United States to date, and Omaha recorded 46.1 inches of snow from December to February — also a record setter.

Thanks to an annual city program, Omahans can begin thinking about sweeping the remnants of winter away and preparing their residences for the warm weather ahead. The 2019 Omaha Spring Cleanup (OSC) is set for five consecutive Saturdays starting April 27. Hosted by the City of Omaha and participating neighborhood associations, this free event provides Omaha residents with the opportunity to recycle or dispose of large/bulky items that aren't accepted through curbside trash and recycling services.

Multiple neighborhoods in a specific section of Omaha will accept items for disposal and recycling between **9:00am** and **2:00pm** on the following dates:

SATURDAY  
**APRIL 27**

SATURDAY  
**MAY 4**

SATURDAY  
**MAY 11**

SATURDAY  
**MAY 18**

SATURDAY  
**MAY 25**



(photo courtesy Keep Omaha Beautiful)

Got a bike you no longer want or need? Take it to your 2019 Omaha Spring Cleanup location.

A map of the 2019 Spring Cleanup sites is available at:



[dogis.org/springcleanup/](https://dogis.org/springcleanup/)

You do not have to be a member of a neighborhood association to participate.

*"Spring cleanup is an opportunity to jump-start spring and summer neighborhood festivities," said Julie Smith, program director at ONE Omaha. "Connect with neighbors, get active and do good for your hood by getting the junk off your porch."*



Examples of acceptable items are auto parts, bikes, drywall, furniture, lumber, mattresses, and swing sets. Appliances, tires, and lead acid batteries will be accepted as part of the 2019 OSC, but they are considered special regulated items and may have collection sites that differ from your neighborhood

location. For more information visit:



[cleanup.wasteline.org](https://cleanup.wasteline.org)

The following items will **NOT** be accepted:

- Rocks
- Concrete
- Any items that can be collected via your curbside trash/recycling service
- Propane tanks and other pressurized cylinders
- Toxic materials

Paint, oil, pesticides, and household chemicals can be taken to **UnderTheSink at 4001 S. 120th St.** On 2019 OSC Saturdays, you may visit UnderTheSink from 9:00am to 4:00pm without an appointment. For more information:



[underthesink.org](https://underthesink.org)

Also on 2019 OSC Saturdays, large tree limbs and brush can be dropped off at the City of Omaha Sewer

*Continued on page 3*

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.

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

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

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



# Recycle More or Start Recycling – It’s Habit Forming!



The figures are staggering. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the United States generated about 258 million tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) in 2014. More than 89 million tons of MSW were recycled and composted, which equates to a 34.6% recycling rate. That’s a lot of garbage going to the landfill!

Locally, the recycling rate in Omaha is about 11%. We can do better. That’s why *Wasteline* is issuing two challenges to all Omahans for 2019:

**#1**

If you currently recycle, consider taking it to the next level.

**#2**

If you don’t recycle, start this spring.

## Next Level

If you fill your city-issued green bin on a regular basis, thank you! Now consider recycling glass as well. Glass bottles and jars can be recycled at any of Omaha’s 9 drop-off locations. There are four glass only drop-off sites and five full service drop-off sites where you can recycle all the other items that are collected curbside.

At the glass only drop-off sites, you’ll find a single purple container where all colors of glass bottles and jars can be recycled. At the full service drop-off sites, you’ll find a container for glass bottles/jars and a separate container for all other recyclables. To find a site that’s close, visit:



[wasteline.org/recycling-information/](http://wasteline.org/recycling-information/)

Recycling glass is easier than you think. Just buy (or repurpose) another trash container, then keep it next to your recycling bin. Use this container to temporarily store all the glass bottles and jars your household uses, no matter their color. When the container is full, pop it in your car and empty it at one of the 9 available sites. Then place the container next to your green bin and re-start the process!

If you don’t have a car, think about partnering with someone in your family or neighborhood who does. If you have kids, think about turning over your household’s recycling chores to them – they might love it and may even have a suggestion or two for you!

## If You Don’t Recycle Start This Spring

Recycling bins are available to households within the City of Omaha that receive solid waste collection from Waste Management (formerly Deffenbaugh Industries), the City of Omaha’s current collection contractor. It’s as easy as picking up a green recycling bin from one of seven locations, all listed on page 3 with their hours of operation so you can find one near you at a convenient time.

Once you’ve got your bin, start using it! If you’re unsure of what can and can’t be recycled, check out the handy *Wasteline* guide at:



[omaharecycles.com](http://omaharecycles.com)

In 2018, the City of Omaha recycled 16,974.86 tons, which resulted in a landfill savings of \$434,080. Recycling makes economic sense!



## Recycling Drop-off Sites

Recycling glass and the occasional extra bunch of recyclables is easy. Five full service drop-off sites accept glass and all the same materials as your green bin.

Full service drop-off sites consist of two or more large containers. Glass bottles go in one container, and all the other recyclables go in a separate container. Keeping glass separate from the other recyclables is all the sorting you need to do. There are four glass only drop-off sites with just one container to collect glass bottles and jars.

Illegal dumping at drop-off sites is punishable by a fine of up to \$500, loss of driver’s license for 6 months and all clean up costs.

*[Omaha Municipal Code, Chapter 34, ARTICLE I, Section 4.]*



### Full Service Recycling Sites All Recyclables Accepted

#### West:

Western Douglas County  
Chamber of Commerce  
20801 Elkhorn Drive  
Open: Daily, 7am – 7pm

#### Northwest:

Parking Lot North 75th  
and Corby Streets  
Open: Daily, 7am – 7pm

#### Southwest:

Firstar Fiber 10330 “I”  
Street, east entrance  
Open: Daily, 7am – 7pm

#### Northeast:

Parking Lot  
2574 Douglas Street  
Open: Daily, 7am – 7pm

#### Southeast:

River City Recycling  
6404 South 60th Street  
(Between Harrison & “Q” Streets)

#### Spring, Summer and Fall Hours:

Monday – Saturday: 8am – 4:30pm

#### Winter Hours:

Monday – Friday:  
8am – 4:30pm  
Saturday: 8am – Noon



### Glass Only Recycling Sites

#### Far West Central:

HyVee  
1000 S 178th Street  
Open: Daily, 7am – 7pm

#### West Central:

Westwood Plaza  
12071 West Center Road  
Open: Daily, 7am – 7pm

#### Northwest:

Fresh Thyme  
14949 Evans Plaza  
Open: Daily, 7am – 7pm

#### Downtown:

800 Douglas Street  
Open: Daily, 7am – 7pm



## Wasteline’s Reuse Tip

Did you know we throw away an average of 70 pounds of shoes and clothing per person each year? According to [www.worldwearproject.com](http://www.worldwearproject.com), almost 100 percent of household textiles and clothing can be recycled, regardless of quality or condition.

So before you throw that old winter sweater in the trash, consider turning it into mittens before snow flies again. Here’s a video that shows you how:



[wasteline.org/sweater](http://wasteline.org/sweater)

*If you’re not into craft projects, donate your old sweaters to someone who is!*



## Special Assistance

Special collection for garbage, yardwaste, and recyclables is available. Households where all occupants of the home have a medical need 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.






Maintenance Facility at 6880 Q Street from 9:00am to 2:00pm. These items will not be accepted at any neighborhood cleanup site.

*“The City of Omaha’s Spring Cleanup Program presents a fantastic opportunity for Omaha residents to make an immediate impact in their area. This program not only encourages the cleaning up of our city by disposing of bulky items such as mattresses and couches that are normally not allowed via weekly curbside pickup, but also greening up our community through various recycling options that might include metal, household goods, bicycles, tires, and appliances. Each cleanup site showcases neighbors making a direct difference in their community, since neighborhood associations are directly responsible for the cleanup sites themselves.”*

Liz Moldenhauer  
Benson Neighborhood Association



If you need to recycle or dispose of bulky items at other times of the year, visit:

 [wasteline.org/bulky](http://wasteline.org/bulky)




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

**Residential Waste Only**  
**There is no charge!**

**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)**

# Recycling Bin Distribution

 **Recycling** Replacement and additional recycling bins are available. Households that receive City of Omaha solid waste collection service may get a bin from one the locations listed here.

These locations also have the bright orange card you need to recycle your recycling bin if it is damaged. Please note that holidays will affect the schedule of each location.

**Saddlebrook Branch Library** (14850 Laurel Avenue)  
Monday .....Closed  
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday .....8:00am – 8:00pm  
Friday .....8:00am – 5:00pm  
Saturday .....9:00am – 4:00pm  
Sunday .....Closed

**A. V. Sorensen Branch Library** (4808 Cass Street)  
Monday .....Closed  
Tuesday .....10:00am – 8:00pm  
Wednesday .....10:00am – 6:00pm  
Thursday .....10:00am – 8:00pm  
Friday and Saturday .....10:00am – 6:00pm  
Sunday .....Closed

**Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch Library** (2100 Reading Plaza)  
Monday through Thursday .....9:00am – 8:00pm  
Friday and Saturday .....9:00am – 6:00pm  
Sunday .....Closed

**South Omaha Branch Library** (2808 “Q” Street)  
Monday through Thursday .....7:30am – 9:00pm  
Friday and Saturday .....9:00am – 6:00pm  
Sunday .....Closed

**Charles B. Washington Branch Library** (2868 Ames Avenue)  
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday .....9:00am – 8:00pm  
Thursday, Friday and Saturday .....9:00am – 6:00pm  
Sunday .....Closed

**Milton R. Abrahams Branch Library** (5111 North 90th Street)  
Monday through Thursday .....9:00am – 9:00pm  
Friday and Saturday .....9:00am – 6:00pm  
Sunday .....1:00pm – 6:00pm

**UnderTheSink, Special Waste Facility**  
(4001 South 120th Street) Drive around building to parking lot and enter office.  
Wednesday .....9:00am – 4:45pm  
Thursday .....9:00am – 6:15pm  
Friday .....9:00am – 4:45pm  
Saturday .....9:00am – Noon








## Need to replace a damaged recycling bin?

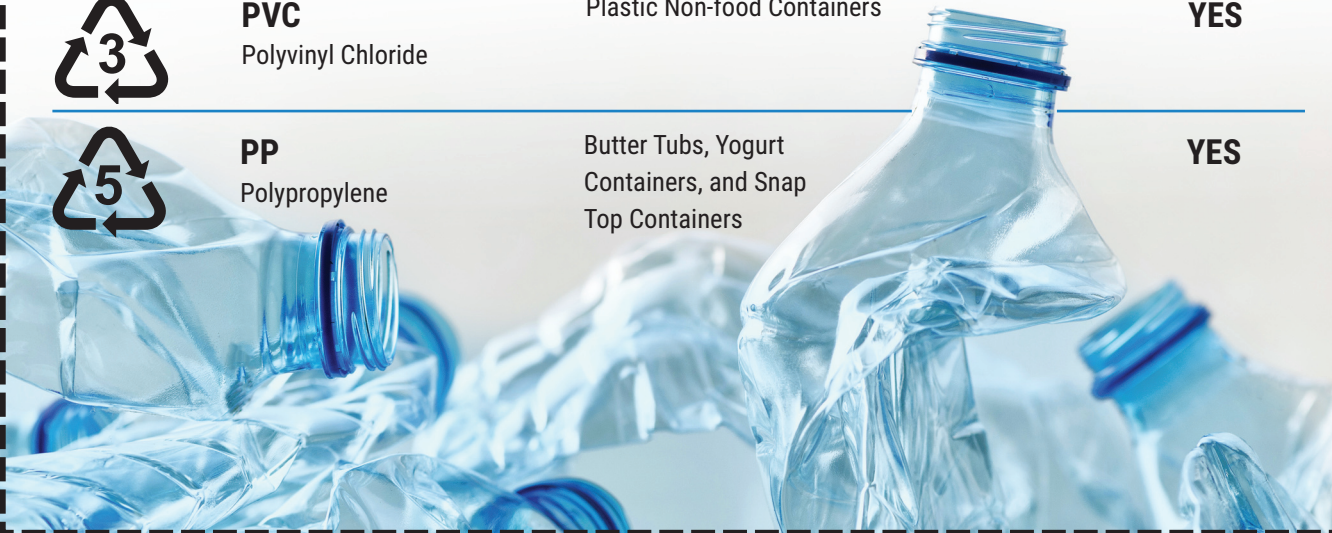
Get a bright orange card from one of the locations above, place it in your damaged bin and put in on the curb with your other recyclables.

 **Clip and Save!**


## When In Doubt, Throw It Out

 **Recycling** Wasteline loves encouraging people to recycle – it’s the right thing to do, and we should be doing more of it. But if you’re confused about whether or not a particular item is recyclable, throw it out. The reason? The wrong plastics are contaminants that must be pulled out or they cause lots of problems down stream. Just remember this handy phrase before you toss something in your green bin – when in doubt, throw it out. And remember **NO PLASTIC BAGS!**

Resin #	Name	Some Common Uses	Recycle Bin?
	<b>PETE</b> Polyethylene Terephthalate	Soda, Water, Spray, and Window Cleaner Bottles Food Packaging, and Some Deli Containers	<b>YES</b>
	<b>HDPE</b> High Density Polyethylene	Detergents, Bleach and Milk Bottles	<b>YES</b>
	<b>PVC</b> Polyvinyl Chloride	Plastic Non-food Containers	<b>YES</b>
	<b>PP</b> Polypropylene	Butter Tubs, Yogurt Containers, and Snap Top Containers	<b>YES</b>



# Garbage

 **Garbage** 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-gallon that weigh up to 45 pounds when full

## Clear Bags

that weigh up to 30 pounds when full

## UP TO 5 Containers

containers of garbage per week (for example 2 trash cans and 3 bags)

## UP TO 5 Feet from Curb


approved alley or other approved location

NO!

- Mix of garbage and yardwaste
- Items sticking out above the can
- Rocks, dirt, and concrete
- Dead animals
- Liquids of any type
- Loose pet waste or loose cat litter
- Tires, engines, or other large auto parts
- Bulky items (couches, chairs, stoves, etc.)
- Dark plastic bags you can't see through
- Motor oil and automotive batteries
- Cardboard boxes when not in a can or bag
- Items outside a can or clear bag

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

# Yardwaste

 **Yardwaste** Place yardwaste within 5 feet of your collection location. Leave 2 feet of space between yardwaste and garbage containers.


Yes! ‡

- Grass clippings and leaves
- Garden waste such as fallen apples, rotted or excess vegetables and fruit
- Trash cans up to 32-gallon 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
- Items sticking out above the can
- Sawdust, 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 or over 4 feet long
- Plastic twine, nylon twine, wire or rope of any kind
- Brush that is not bundled

# Recycling

 **Recycling** Must use a green recycling bin. Need one? Pick up a recycling bin from one of the locations listed on page 3.

## Got clean paper?

[Recycle it!](#)

This includes catalogues, cereal and detergent boxes, egg cartons, greeting cards, junk mail, magazines, newspapers, phonebooks and wrapping paper. To prevent litter, place all your clean paper in a paper bag or small cardboard box, then lay it inside or next to your green bin with the opening facing away from the wind.

## Got corrugated cardboard?

[Recycle it!](#)

Break it down and place it under your bin. If you have a lot of boxes, fold and stuff multiple boxes into one box and place it next to your bin. Easy!

## Got empty containers?

[Recycle it!](#)

You can place all gable top and aseptic cartons (juice boxes and cartons, milk cartons, and soup or broth boxes) loose in your bin. The same goes for aluminum and tin cans, including empty aerosol cans and empty and dry paint cans with the lids removed. Place the top of food cans inside the can and crimp them closed.

## Got plastic containers and packaging marked with a 1, 2, 3 or 5?

[Recycle it!](#)

This includes bottles, clamshell deli containers, cookie trays, cups, clear plastic packaging, DVD cases, microwave meal trays and snap-top containers. Squeeze out some of the air to prevent litter and fit more in your bin. Lids are okay!

Set out by 6am






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

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




# A Summary of 2018 Omaha Solid Waste Stats

## 2018 MONTH BY MONTH

2018	 Garbage		 Recycling		 Yardwaste	
January	9,426.80	86%	1,486.46	14%	-	0%
February	7,770.25	87%	1,138.41	13%	-	0%
March	9,656.72	88%	1,372.46	12%	-	0%
April	9,807.71	84%	1,316.47	11%	508.68	4%
May	13,670.64	79%	1,566.66	9%	2031.19	12%
June	13,072.51	86%	1,447.79	10%	704.65	5%*
July	13,470.30	90%	1,426.23	9%	153.83	1%*
August	13,582.20	89%	1,451.19	10%	160.66	1%*
September	11,580.29	86%	1,279.88	10%	565.79	4%*
October	13,721.26	85%	1,510.62	9%	902.16	6%
November	14,043.33	86%	1,483.39	9%	880.46	5%
December	9,668.75	87%	1,495.27	13%	-	0%
Total 2018	139,470.76	86%	16,974.86	10%	5,907.42	4%

\* Nationwide Driver Shortage

## HISTORICAL LOOK BY YEAR

	 Garbage		 Recycling		 Yardwaste	
Total 2017	132,890	82%	17,043	11%	12,285	8%
Total 2016	145,843	89%	17,330	11%	-	0%
Total 2015	134,957	86%	17,018	11%	5,661	4%
Total 2014	119,249	78%	16,493	11%	16,493	11%
Total 2013	108,566	74%	16,795	11%	21,109	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)