

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.
Public Works Director



COLLECTION SCHEDULE UPDATE: THANKSGIVING, Thursday, November 28
Collection will be delayed. Thursday collected on Friday, and Friday collected on Saturday.



Garbage



Recycling



Yardwaste



Special Waste

Omaha City Council Approves New Solid Waste Contract

Cans will be out, carts will be in.



Carts

The Omaha City Council voted 4-3 to award the city's next solid waste contract to FCC Environmental at its August 27 meeting. The contract will modernize Omaha's collection process by using wheeled carts with lids and trucks that automate collection, bringing the city in line with the industry standard for collection. The changeover will take effect on or before January 1, 2021.

"This will be something different. Change is hard, but once people get used to it, they will like it."

— Mayor Jean Stothert

FCC was one of four companies that bid on the collection contract. A working group met in May and provided their evaluation of the bids to Mayor Stothert.



Mayor Stothert answered questions from the media about the city's new solid waste management contract.



As part of the new contract, you will receive two 96-gallon carts with wheels and attached lids.

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worldwide. It's one of the top five companies worldwide providing environmental services.

As part of the contract, each household will receive two 96-gallon carts: one cart for combining garbage and yardwaste that will be picked up weekly, and the other cart for recycling that will be picked up every other week. Responding to public testimony at the City Council hearing, a separate contract to enhance yardwaste collection during the heavy seasons in the spring and fall was bid.

With this separate contract, two short unlimited yardwaste collection periods (6 weeks each) will help with the rapid grass growth in the spring and the falling leaves in the fall.

FCC has more than 100 years of experience in municipal contracts and serves more than 60 million people in more than 5,000 municipalities

If there are five or more persons in your household, you can apply for a third cart at the city's expense.

Over the months between now and when FCC starts collection, there will be several issues of *Wasteline* to bring you up to speed. But for now, it all starts with the biggest change — the cart! Take a look on page two, where we take a deep dive into the cart. Future issues will focus on other important topics.

"The main thing we want people to know is there's plenty of time to prepare everyone for the change and deal with issues that come up," said James Kee, Environmental Quality Control Manager for the City of Omaha.

During the next year, *Wasteline* and wasteline.org will provide you with detailed information about the switchover and what's going to happen so there are no surprises. You can also follow us on facebook.com/wasteline.

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.

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

The New Carts: Separating Fact from Fiction



There are a lot of questions about the City of Omaha's recently approved solid waste collection contract with FCC Environmental. So many questions, in fact, that it will take several issues of *Wasteline* to explain everything. For now, it's all about the cart, the central feature and most dramatic change for residents with the new contract.

The Basics

Using the cart will be the only way your waste and recycling will be collected. Carts have been the industry standard for many years. It's finally become time for the City to make the big investment in carts.

The standard issue for each household will be two 96-gallon carts — one cart for recycling and one cart for garbage and yardwaste combined. If you think this size is too big, an optional half size cart, 48-gallons, will be available after you try the standard issue cart for 90 days. This half size cart will be available from the beginning for elderly/handicapped households registered for Special Collection (see page 4).

	WIDTH	DEPTH	HEIGHT
96-gallon	29 3/4"	35 3/4"	43 1/4"
48-gallon	23 1/2"	28 3/4"	37 1/2"

96 gallons means you've got three times the volume compared to the 32-gallon trash can used now. The 96-gallon cart will hold 7, yes 7, kitchen size trash bags of waste (one for every day of the week).



Weight limits are (nearly) a thing of the past — the 96-gallon cart has a load capacity of more than 300 pounds. But let's not take that as a challenge; remember to reduce, reuse, and recycle!

Carts are rugged and will withstand harsh weather. Carts may be left outside but not at the curb. Find a convenient location near your home or in your garage. Maybe plant a bush, or build a small fence to hide the cart if it's required by your neighborhood association.

Carts are easy to roll because of their 10-inch wheels and have a hinged lid that won't get lost or destroyed. The lid will keep things dry, flies out, and deter many critters.

A side benefit of carts is how they will make neighborhoods more attractive on collection day. Streets will have a uniform look instead of a mix of trash cans, bags, and bins.

Carts will be delivered several weeks to several months before collection begins. Omaha is big — 300,000 carts big — so it takes time! The carts will be delivered with an information packet and a start date.

Big but sometimes not big enough...

If you're a family of five or more, you qualify to apply for an extra cart paid for by the City. If your family isn't large enough to receive the additional City-supplied cart, FCC will lease you an extra cart for \$91 per year. Extra carts are only available through FCC. Look-alike carts sold in stores won't have the right logo on the side and won't get collected.

Nitty gritty details

The carts will be owned by the City, and you will be responsible to care for the cart. Normal wear and tear is expected, but willful damage will mean you must take responsibility for repair or replacement.

Carts have a serial number and an electronic tag so it can be returned to the correct home if relocated. The electronic tag helps us understand how collection is going in real time.

The carts will be black, which means they can be made from a significant amount of recycled plastic. When the cart does wear out, it too is recyclable.

There's more to explain how collection under the new contract will change, so stay tuned!



Mulching and Blowing

Viable Options to Raking Fall Leaves

It won't be long before Omaha's tree canopy begins to change color, and we all know what comes next. For many a homeowner, raking your fall leaves is still the way to go. It's a great way to get some exercise while being outdoors and initiate conversations with neighbors out doing the same thing.

If you have access to a mulching mower, consider using it to shred your leaves without bagging. The decomposing leaves and grass cover the soil between the individual grass plants where weeds like to germinate. Mowing may take two passes, in perpendicular directions to get acceptable results.

Studies by Michigan State University Cooperative Extension have found that after several years of mulching leaves, it resulted in a reduction of dandelion and crabgrass weed germination. The benefits of mulching are many:

- It's easier on your back
- It's faster than raking.
- You end up spending less money on weed control products.
- Mulched leaves keep the soil warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer.
- The nutrients provided by mulching reduce the amount of fertilizer needed to achieve green-up in the spring (if you do that kind of thing).

If you've got a blower, you can blow your leaves into landscaped beds or use a lawn vacuum to suck them up. Leaf vacuums produce finely chopped leaves you can use to cover your flower or vegetable beds for winter.

No matter which method you choose, get those leaves off your lawn before winter hits. Layers of leaves covered by rain and early snows create soggy (not to mention heavy) mats that block air and sunlight from reaching the grass.

For more tips on alternatives to raking, visit:

Lawn.wasteline.org

Recycling

Recycling Want to recycle? You must use a green recycling bin. Need one? Pick up a recycling bin from one of the locations listed to the right.

Got clean paper? Recycle it!

This includes catalogues, cereal and detergent boxes, paper egg cartons, greeting cards, junk mail, magazines, newspapers, phonebooks and wrapping paper. To help 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 ♻️ ♻️ ♻️ or ♻️? 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. Keep lids/caps on bottles.



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 of the locations listed here. Please note that holidays will affect the schedule of each location.

Saddlebrook Branch Library (14850 Laurel Avenue)
MondayClosed
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday8:00am – 8:00pm
Friday8:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday9:00am – 4:00pm
SundayClosed

A. V. Sorensen Branch Library (4808 Cass Street)
MondayClosed
Tuesday10:00am – 8:00pm
Wednesday10:00am – 6:00pm
Thursday10:00am – 8:00pm
Friday and Saturday10:00am – 6:00pm
SundayClosed

Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch Library (2100 Reading Plaza)
Monday through Thursday9:00am – 8:00pm
Friday and Saturday9:00am – 6:00pm
SundayClosed

South Omaha Branch Library (2808 “Q” Street)
Monday through Thursday7:30am – 9:00pm
Friday and Saturday9:00am – 6:00pm
SundayClosed

Charles B. Washington Branch Library (2868 Ames Avenue)
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday9:00am – 8:00pm
Thursday, Friday and Saturday9:00am – 6:00pm
SundayClosed

Milton R. Abrahams Branch Library (5111 North 90th Street)
Monday through Thursday9:00am – 9:00pm
Friday and Saturday9:00am – 6:00pm
Sunday1:00pm – 6:00pm

UnderTheSink, Special Waste Facility
(4001 South 120th Street) Drive around building to parking lot and enter office.
Wednesday9:00am – 4:45pm
Thursday9:00am – 6:15pm
Friday9:00am – 4:45pm
Saturday9:00am – Noon



Need to dispose of 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.



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

Recycling

Don't just sit there, recycle!


If you're trying to up your recycling game, head to your bathroom! Here are some of the many things you can keep out of the landfill from this important part of your household:

- Shampoo, body wash, and mouthwash bottles
- Pill and medicine bottles
- Toothpaste tube carton, facial tissue box, and toilet paper tube
- Hairspray cans
- Cleaning supply bottles





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

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.

 **Garbage**

Special Collection

Is it difficult for you to get your trash cans and bin to the curb? Assistance is available for homes where all occupants are at least 70 years old or have a doctor verified medical need. It will take a few weeks to get signed up, but it's easy. Just call **402-444-5238** from 8am to 8pm weekdays.

 **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 five 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. If you observe someone illegally dumping at a drop-off site, please report it at report.wasteline.org.

[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

Northeast:

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

Northwest:

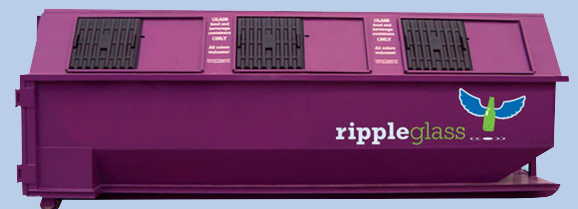
Parking Lot North 75th
and Corby Streets
Open: Daily, 7am – 7pm

Southwest:

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

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

Northwest:

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

West Central:

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

Downtown:

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

Millard:

Super Saver
5710 S 144th St
Open: Daily, 7am – 7pm