



WASTELINE

August 2012
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

**Read Carefully!
Many new recyclables
and changes to
collection rules
are included.**

Omaha Collection Changes

BACK IN JUNE the City Council approved changes to the City's contract with Deffenbaugh that provide benefits to residents, the City and to Deffenbaugh.

Non-stop Yardwaste

Gone is the rush to rake up all the leaves over the Thanksgiving weekend. Deffenbaugh will collect properly prepared yardwaste all year long. During the growing season, Deffenbaugh will collect yardwaste in a separate truck and deliver it to the Oma-Gro composting facility. During the rest of the year, yardwaste will be collected with garbage and taken to the landfill.

The key point is that yardwaste must be prepared correctly all year to be collected. That means keep yardwaste separate from garbage using special kraft paper yardwaste bags or cans marked for yardwaste, and bundle brush with string or twine. During the

winter, properly prepared yardwaste will not count against the five container limit for garbage collection.

Multi-family Recycling

The City's contract with Deffenbaugh includes collecting garbage from about 200 small apartment buildings. Garbage collection was the only service these buildings received in the past but now those buildings will also get recycling collection. The City will work with these building owners to make recycling bins available to each unit.

Reshuffle and Streamline

A benefit that Deffenbaugh asked for was to allow a reorganization

of collection days to gain efficiency. With the growth of the city, the number of households collected each day has become unbalanced. Worse yet, when areas were annexed the collection day assigned did not match the adjoining areas. This made little islands of different collection days and has caused service problems. Responding to missed collections in disjointed areas can consume a lot of time and fuel.

Together, the City and Deffenbaugh will work to reassign collection days. Please understand that this is being done for the greater good, making Deffenbaugh's routes more fuel efficient and streamlined. Routes

become more efficient by having one continuous area for collection. Trucks will be empty when they start and fill up with waste as they get closer to the landfill, recycling or compost facilities.

A schedule for reorganizing the collection days has not been set. Many months of planning and public notice will occur before the change.

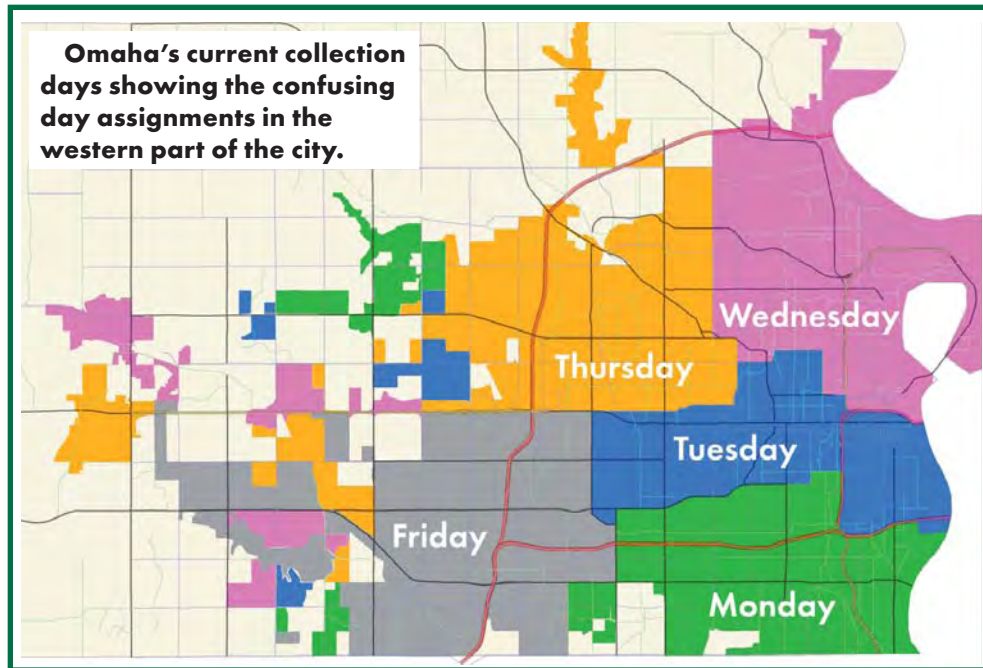
Work hours

Started this year and continuing each year during the April through November growing season, Deffenbaugh will begin collecting material at 6AM so that more work can be completed before the heat of the day sets in. Set material out for collection before 6AM year-round so it becomes a habit.



Contract extension

Together these changes improved the contract for the City, the residents and Deffenbaugh. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, the City and Deffenbaugh will approve a five-year extension to the current contract. According to an analysis of Omaha's solid waste contract conducted by HDR Consulting, if the City were to bid a new solid waste contract now, the cost would increase by \$4 to \$6 million annually with no changes in service. The current contract runs through December 2015. An extended contract would run through December 2020. **!**



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

Recycling Material Modifications

Several changes for recycling have happened recently.

PETE recyclable materials have been expanded to include light weight clamshell deli containers, cookie trays and disposable drinking glasses. These are thermoformed items that haven't been recyclable in the past but new developments have allowed them to be included.

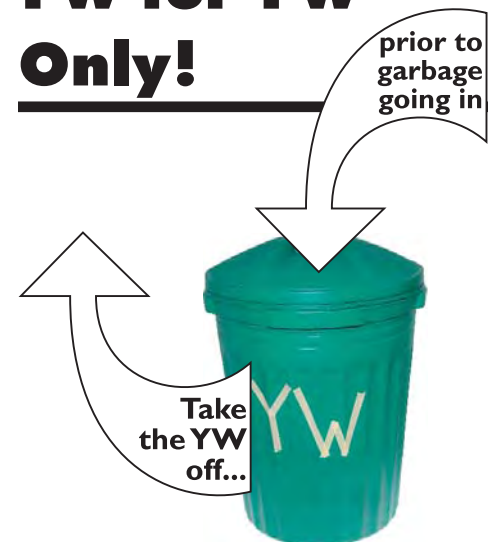
Plastic caps and lids are now accepted for recycling. We still ask that people squeeze the air out of bottles and then replace the cap. When you flatten a light weight water bottle or milk jug, you make it less likely to become litter tumbling around your neighborhood. You'll have more room in your bin too!

These changes streamline the plastics Omaha accepts for recycling. If it's a container or packaging for food, personal care, or a cleaning product with a number on it, it can be recycled.

Don't forget that we added a completely new material last year—gable top (milk cartons) and aseptic (juice boxes) cartons. **!**



YW for YW Only!



You must remove the **YW** label if you need to use the trash can for garbage.

Only a yardwaste collection truck will stop for cans marked with a **YW**, so if it holds garbage, it will be tagged as inappropriate material and not collected. **!**



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.

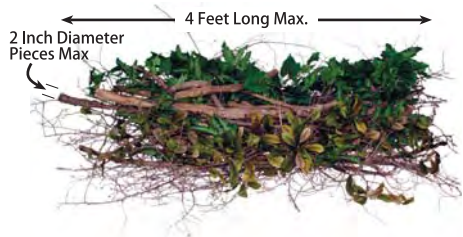
Yardwaste is now collected year-round when properly prepared.

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.



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. Properly prepared containers of yardwaste do not count against the 5 containers of garbage limit.

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.

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 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.

Worth Noting

In 2010, the value of packaging landfilled in the U.S. was worth \$11.4 billion, according to a report from As You Sow, a non-profit organization. At a whopping \$2.9 billion, plastic soda and water bottles held the unenviable position of the

most valuable material landfilled. HDEP plastic (milk and detergent bottles) came in a close second at \$2.8 billion. Aluminum's value was \$1.4 billion, and the value of paper products was \$1.3 billion. Other plastics made up the balance of the \$11.4 billion.

2011 Omaha Solid Waste Results

2011†	Garbage		Recycling		Yardwaste	
January	7,112.07	86%	1,195.44	14%	-	-
February	6,865.96	86%	1,099.26	14%	-	-
March	7,953.83	86%	1,299.73	14%	-	-
April	12,628.13	90%	1,447.10	10%	-	-
May	8,585.66	55%	1,417.51	9%	5,545.88	36%
June	12,433.93	79%	1,400.03	9%	1,887.10	12%
July	11,785.09	90%	1,321.79	10%	-	-
August	13,924.63	90%	1,503.72	10%	-	-
September	11,619.49	90%	1,343.38	10%	-	-
October	11,111.49	90%	1,269.29	10%	-	-
November	14,605.90	91%	1,425.23	9%	-	-
December	8,475.36	85%	1,545.47	15%	-	-
Total 2011	127,101.54	84%	16,267.95	11%	7,432.98	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)

Trash Cans

The big story for 2011 was the epic flood, a strange thing to talk about considering this year's drought. Omaha's Oma-Gro composting facility survived the flooding; however the access road to the facility was closed to heavy truck traffic for all but six weeks. With no other local composting facilities, yardwaste was taken to the landfill for the rest of the year.

The economy continued to affect the amount of recyclables available in 2011. Flooding caused one of Omaha's recycling drop-off sites to be closed and likely affected the amount of recyclables collected in that part of the city. Oddly enough Omaha recycled nearly an identical amount in 2011 as in 2010.

Recycling markets improved in 2011. Over \$1 million in revenue was brought in from recycling, an increase of \$366,000 compared to 2010. The tons of recyclables processed helped us avoid paying \$368,000 in landfill tipping fees. However as highlighted in "Worth Noting," above we can always do better!

Deffenbaugh's garbage collectors lift thousands of trash cans each day; an incredibly tough job made worse when trash cans are oversized or overweight.

Trash cans used for collecting garbage or yardwaste must not be larger than 32 gallons and must not weigh more than 45 pounds when full. Trash cans must be designed and sold as a trash container. Creatively reusing a plastic barrel for yardwaste or garbage is not allowed and is prohibited by city ordinance.

Trash cans should also have sturdy handles and a lid that fits securely. Lids that are permanently attached are a problem because they are frequently the source of injuries from hitting the worker or pinching fingers.

Your oversized trash can or reused barrel may have worked before but at any time, a crew may tag the oversized trash can or reused barrel and not collect the material from it.



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 | |

All recyclable paper may go into the same paper sack or a small cardboard box.
Newspapers don't need to be kept separate. **O!**

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. **New!**
- Includes:
- Bottles
 - Cups **New!**
 - Snap top container
 - Clamshell deli containers **New!**
 - Cookie trays **New!**
 - DVD cases
 - Clear plastic packaging
 - Microwave meal trays



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



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 or placed in garbage)



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 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.



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.



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



Set out before 6AM

New Locations to Pick up a Recycling Bin

With the outstanding support and assistance of the Omaha Public Library, recycling bins are now available from six locations with better hours and better distribution around the city.

Replacement and additional recycling bins are available to addresses with City of Omaha solid waste collection service, from these locations.

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



Omaha Public Library

Open Your World

Charles B. Washington Branch Library
2868 Ames Avenue
Available
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
10:00AM – 8:00PM
Thursday, Friday and Saturday
10:00AM – 6:00PM
Sunday
CLOSED

Milton R. Abrahams Branch Library
5111 North 90th Street
Available
Monday and Tuesday
10:00AM – 8:00PM
Wednesday
10:00AM – 6:00PM
Thursday
10:00AM – 8:00PM
Friday and Saturday
10:00AM – 6:00PM
Sunday
1:00PM – 6:00PM

Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch Library
2100 Reading Plaza
Available
Monday and Tuesday
10:00AM – 8:00PM
Wednesday
10:00AM – 6:00PM
Thursday
10:00AM – 8:00PM
Friday and Saturday
10:00AM – 6:00PM
Sunday
CLOSED

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

Available
Wednesday 9:00AM – 4:45PM
Thursday 9:00AM – 6:15PM
Friday 9:00AM – 4:45PM
Saturday 9:00AM – NOON

Omaha Sewer Maintenance Facility
6880 "Q" Street
Enter the office on the south side.
Do not drive into the facility's maintenance yard.
Available
Monday through Friday
8:00AM – 3:00PM

Omaha Traffic Maintenance Facility
4303 South 50th Street
Enter the office on the west side.
Do not drive into the facility's maintenance yard.
Available
Monday through Friday
8:00AM – 3:00PM



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.

New Northeast location:

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)



Quotes Requoted

Source Reduction is to garbage what preventive medicine is to health.

William Rathje, 1945 – 2012
American Archaeologist and Anthropologist



Keep in Touch

Don't let the **WASTELINE** publication be your only connection to keep you up-to-date with Omaha's solid waste program.

We invite you to sign up for our e-mail notification service. This will remind you of upcoming collection delays due to a holiday or weather conditions. We will even send an e-mail when there won't be a holiday delay but City office are closed. When you sign up, be sure to check the box for the recycling advocate e-mail list. Recycling advocates get interesting and motivational e-mails related to recycling. To sign up go to



<http://join.wasteline.org>

Complete the form and remember to confirm your registration through the e-mail that is sent out.

Moving beyond e-mail, the solid waste program has several Facebook pages that can be used as a resource for information

Solid waste collection:

www.Facebook.com/Wasteline

Omaha Recycling:

www.Facebook.com/OmahaRecycles

UnderTheSink:

www.Facebook.com/OmahaHHW

Oma-Gro Compost:

www.Facebook.com/OmahaCompost



Lastly, don't forget the old school websites, www.wasteline.org, www.underthesink.org and www.omagro.com. **O!**



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. Register now, before the weather turns bad!

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

Yardwaste Where it's Suppose to be

It's amazing but the City receives reports of citizens feeding grass clippings into the storm sewer by their house. Unwittingly these citizens are damaging the environment and potentially causing property damage for their neighbors and themselves. Even the simple act of blowing grass clippings and leaves into the street means grass and leaves will wash into a storm sewer and get washed into creeks and rivers by rain water.

The environmental damage is caused when the grass and leaves are in the creeks and rivers. The grass and leaves decompose consuming oxygen and stress the fish population. There may also be lawn chemicals in the grass clippings that kill fish, aquatic birds, and their insect food supply.

In your neighborhood, the grass clippings and leaves may cause the storm sewer to back up when it rains. This could cause dangerous driving conditions. If this back up occurs

where the storm sewer and sanitary sewer are combined, raw sewage can back up into neighboring homes and businesses.

So do the right thing and prepare your yardwaste correctly for collection using the special paper yardwaste bags or 32 gallon trash cans marked with a large **YW** on two sides. Better yet, adopt a grass mulching lawn maintenance plan. Leave your grass clippings on the lawn. It makes mowing go faster, provides nutrients to your lawn and is not a cause of thatch. To learn about mulching grass clippings, get the brochure entitled *Bag No More* available at www.wasteline.org, click on Yardwaste Info, then Publications.

Go the extra mile and sweep up any grass clippings and leaves from the street and sidewalk when you're done mowing. The fish and your neighbors will appreciate it. **O!**