

WASTELINE



Recycling and solid waste information for the citizens of Omaha, Nebraska

City of Omaha

Hal Daub, Mayor

December, 2000

Public Works Department

Don Elliott, Director

Environmental Quality Division

Oh Christmas Tree... Oh Christmas Tree. Here's Where to Recycle Thee.

DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON, it becomes very apparent that our society consumes a great deal. With that consumption comes waste—some of it necessary and some unnecessary. With a little planning you can make your holiday season a little less wasteful. Be sure to make note of the holiday collection schedule for Christmas and New Year.

For many years the City of Omaha has operated Christmas tree collection sites where natural Christmas trees have been collected and later chipped.

As usual, you must remove all decorations, plastic bag and the stand from the tree before leaving it at the site. Flocked trees will be accepted. If you don't want to take your tree to one of the collection sites, you may keep it in your back yard until yardwaste collection resumes the week of April 2, 2001.

The sites will be staffed with volunteers from the Omaha

Holiday Collection Schedule

Six holidays are observed by the City's solid waste collection contractor. *Following a holiday, collection will be delayed by one day for the remainder of that week.* Friday's collection will be on Saturday.

The 2000-2001 holiday's are:

- Christmas Day: Monday, December 25, 2000
- New Year's Day: Monday, January 1, 2001
- Memorial Day: Monday, May 28, 2001
- Independence Day: Wednesday, July 4, 2001
- Labor Day: Monday, September 3, 2001
- Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 22, 2001
- Christmas Day: Tuesday, December 25, 2001
- New Year's Day: Tuesday, January 1, 2002

Take your Christmas tree to one of these sites:

- ♻️ City Maintenance Facility, 11TH & Locust†
- ♻️ Tranquility Park, 120TH & West Maple Road
- ♻️ Ak-Sar-Ben, Mercy Road entrance, Parking lot #6
- ♻️ Orchard Park, 66TH Street & Hartman Avenue
- ♻️ "F" Street Football Field, 156TH & "F" Street
- ♻️ Brown Park, "U" Street between 15TH & 18TH Streets
- ♻️ Wehrspann Lake Wildlife Management Area, Northwest of I-80 on Highway 370

† This site is only open during staffed hours, December 30, 2000 January 6 & 7, 2001, 10AM—4PM

Rotary Clubs, Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners, and Boy Scouts on December 30, 2000, January 6 & 7, 2001, from 10AM until 4PM each day.

To receive a complete brochure by fax about the Christmas tree sites, call 444-3610 and select option 3.

Beyond the tree...

Wrapping paper, gift catalogues and greeting cards are all recyclable. Simply place them in your mixed paper sack (sack number two as described inside this flier) and set it out for collection with your other recyclables in your recycling bin. Cards with flocking and foil wrapping papers should be disposed of in the garbage.

All the glass bottles, metal cans and the plastic bottles marked with ♻️ & ♻️ from holiday entertaining are recyclable as well. If you have more recyclables than your bin will hold, here are several suggestions 1) hold some of the recyclables back until the next week or 2) take the extra recyclables to one of the two drop-off sites (call 444-4500 for information). If you regularly have extra recyclables, you may want to purchase an extra bin. It's easy, just call 444-5238.

Recyclables

Set out by 6:00am

Paper sack #1—Newspaper

- Includes: Coupons, advertisements, Parade section and all paper that came with the newspaper.
- Lay sack on top of bin.
- *Do not include:* phonebooks or other paper, rubber bands, plastic bags.

Yes



Paper sack #2—Mixed Paper

- Includes: Magazines, catalogues, cereal boxes, junk-mail (including mailing labels and plastic windows), detergent boxes, greeting cards, wrapping paper, paperback books, office and school paper.
- Lay sack on top of bin.
- *Do not include:* pizza boxes, juice boxes, milk cartons, phonebooks, hardbound books, tissue paper, paper plates, or frozen food boxes.

Yes

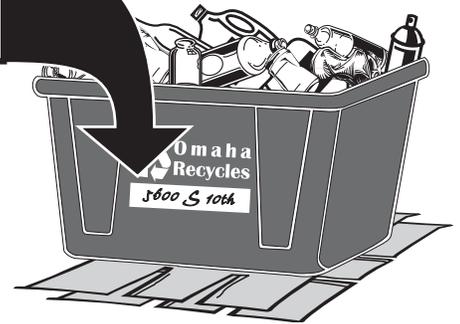


Loose in the bin (Not in plastic bags)—Containers

- Remove lids and throw in garbage.
- Plastic bottles marked PETE ♻️, including: Bottles that held pop, cooking oil, mouthwash, shampoo or cleaners.
- PETE ♻️ *not included:* plastic cups, toys or cookie trays.
- Plastic bottles and tubs marked HDPE ♻️, including—bottles and tubs that held milk, juice, cleaners, margarine, whipped topping, or yogurt.
- HDPE ♻️ *not included:* motor oil or auto product bottles, lawn chemical bottles, toys or cookie trays. No 5 gallon buckets.
- Glass bottles & jars.
- Aluminum cans & Steel (tin) cans, including—empty aerosol cans, empty and dry paint cans. Tip: Place end (lid) of food cans inside can and crimp closed.
- Corrugated cardboard. Flatten. Cut to 2 feet by 2 feet. Place in bin or on ground under bin.
- Write your address on the bin, where indicated with a permanent marker.

Yes

Write your address here.



Recycling Collection Tips

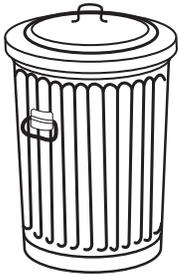
- Write your address on the bin using a permanent marker.
- Remove snap top lids and screw on caps from all containers and place in garbage.
- *Do not include:* plastic bags, Styrofoam®, motor oil bottles, plate glass, syringes, light bulbs, drinking glasses or pizza boxes.
- Flatten all boxes. Cut to 2 feet by 2 feet.
- Remove bin from curb as soon as possible after collection.
- All recyclables set out for collection must be in a green bin. (Except pieces of cardboard that should be placed under the bin)

Garbage

Set out by 6:00am

Because of state and federal mandates, there are limits to the types of waste that 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 and weighing up to 45 pounds when full.

👍 See-through bags (clear bags preferred) and weighing up to 30 pounds when full.

👍 Up to five containers of trash per week (example 2 trash cans and 3 bags).

👍 Place within 5 feet of curb, approved alley or other approved location.



No!

- ⊗ A mixture of garbage and yardwaste.
- ⊗ Rocks, dirt and concrete.
- ⊗ Dead animals.
- ⊗ All liquids.
- ⊗ 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).
- ⊗ Natural Christmas trees.
- ⊗ Any material not in a can or see-through bag.



Households where all residents in the home have a medical disability or are age 70 or older may apply to use a more convenient location for garbage, yardwaste and recyclables collection.

To apply, call 444-5238 from 8AM until 6PM weekdays.

If your recycling bin is missing, damaged or you need a second bin, call 444-5238.

- Place all materials at your collection point by 6AM. 
- If your collection was missed, call 444-5238 *after* 7PM on your collection day.
- Recycling and solid waste information for Omaha is available from *FRED* an automated fax and voice system. With a touch tone phone, dial 444-3610. For a fax index select document 90. For voice information select from these categories:

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WASTELINE

City of Omaha
Environmental Quality Division
5600 S. 10TH St.
Omaha, NE 68107-3501

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 1512
OMAHA, NE

**Christmas tree disposal
information inside.**

Frequently asked questions (part 2)

Continuing from the last **WASTELINE**...

What can I do with items that are too large for my garbage can, things like furniture, broken appliances, or carpet?

First determine if the item is still useable. If so, you may be able to give it away or donate it to a thrift store. But remember, thrift stores do not want broken junk. They must be able to sell what you give them. So be kind, if you are unsure if they want your item ask first.

If it must be disposed of, you may use River City Recycling (6404 S 60 St, 731-0414). The City has a contract with River City to receive at a reduced fee, the bulky materials that Omaha residents deliver to them. River City Recycling reclaims and recycles some materials, like the metal from appliances and landfills the remainder. Annually, each household is limited to a maximum of four (4) loads at the City subsidized price.

The Douglas County landfill (478-5196) and the scrap metal yards listed in the yellow pages under the heading "Scrap Metal" may also accept some bulky items. Call first to verify what is accepted and what the fee(s) may be.

Some carpet and carpet pads are accepted by Carpet Pad Recovery and will be recycled. Call them for more specific

information at 331-1630.

I have a lot of recyclables and need an extra recycling bin. Why do I have to pay \$5.00 for the second bin, isn't the City making money on my recyclables?

Each house has been issued one recycling bin and for the vast majority of households that is sufficient. That makes the level of service uniform for all households. But because the bins are paid for with tax dollars, if you need more than the majority of the residents, we need you to pay the minor charge for the bin that we deliver to you. The City, or more appropriately you the taxpayer, benefits both from the sale of recyclable material and by not paying the landfill for burying these recyclable natural resources.

I used a cardboard box to put my garbage in and it wasn't collected and I received a tag. Why can't I use a cardboard box, it is all going to the same place.

The Omaha Municipal Code requires that trash be "Properly Prepared" which means you must use rigid metal or plastic garbage cans or see-through plastic bags (for garbage) or paper yardwaste bags (for yardwaste). Cardboard boxes can and do, rip, tear or otherwise come apart when lifted. Especially when the box has got-

ten wet. It is very difficult to determine if a box will hold together long enough to lift it from the curb and into the collection truck without spilling materials and making a mess. So cardboard boxes are not an acceptable container for very practical reasons.

I had more material to put out for recycling collection than will fit in my bin so I placed them in plastic bags. They were not collected and I received a tag. What can't I use plastic bags for my recyclables?

All recyclables are sorted at the curb and placed in separate compartment on the recycling truck. There isn't a convenient way to tear open plastic bags, sort the material, and then dispose of the bag. We don't collect plastic bags for recycling so a loose bag, left in the bin would likely blow out and litter your neighborhood. Each recycling truck must collect and sort the recyclables from more than 1,000 homes each day, so while it may seem like an easy thing to open a bag, that extra time adds up fast! If while opening the bag, just one glass bottle dropped and broke the time would multiply quickly. ●

Yardwaste Collection Resumes April 2, 2001