

# WASTELINE



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

City of Omaha  
Public Works Department

Hal Daub, Mayor  
Don Elliott, Director

December, 1997  
Environmental Quality Division

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

**D**uring 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.

For many years the City of Omaha has operated Christmas tree collection sites where natural Christmas trees have been collected and later chipped. Because of the October storm, the normal collection sites will not be opened this year. Instead the City will use the sites established for storm clean-up. The city will not be collecting Christmas trees at the curb.

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 on March 29, 1998.

Wrapping paper, gift catalogues and greeting cards are recyclable in paper sack number two. Cards with flocking and foil wrapping papers should be disposed of in the trash.

All the glass bottles and the plastic bottles marked with ♻️ & ™ from holiday entertaining are recyclable as well. If you have more recyclables than your bin will hold there are several suggestions 1) hold some of the recyclables back

until the next week or 2) take the extra recyclables to one of the four 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. ●

### Take your Christmas tree to one of these storm clean-up sites:

- ♻️ 11TH & Locust
- ♻️ Benson Park, 69TH & Ames
- ♻️ 124TH & Fort
- ♻️ 60TH & Harrison
- ♻️ 126TH & Harrison

## Where Do You Want To Put Your Money?

**P**roviding solid waste collection (garbage, yardwaste and recyclables) to Omaha residents costs over eleven million dollars every year. This money is paid out of the City's general fund. The same fund that pays for city parks, libraries, police and fire protection.

Material you recycle generates revenue and avoids the tipping fee (\$19.23 per ton) collected by the Douglas County

Landfill. Together the total amount saved is about \$40 per ton. Omaha could save over \$1.5 million per year if all citizens participated in the current green bin recycling program to the fullest extent.

Recycling is voluntary and your choice. Recycling is also easy. All you have to do is follow the instructions on the following pages. Recycling can save you money directly by reducing the number of garbage cans or see-through

bags you have to buy. You must use your bin when you set out recyclables. The green bin signals the recycling truck to stop at your home.

Call 444-5238 if your green recycling bin has been lost, damaged or if you would like to purchase an additional bin.

Where do you want to put your money—in the landfill or in other city services? ●

# Recyclables

## 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, junkmail (including mailing labels and plastic windows), detergent boxes, greeting cards, wrapping paper, paper back 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

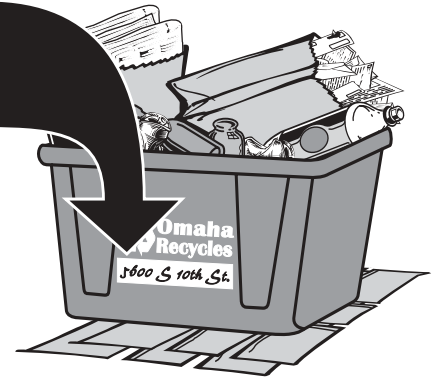


## Loose in the bin—Containers (*Not in plastic bags*)

- Remove lids and throw in garbage.
- Plastic bottles marked , including: Bottles that held pop, cooking oil, mouth wash, shampoo, and cleaners.
-  not included: plastic cups, toys or cookie trays.
- Plastic bottles and tubs marked , including—bottles and tubs that held milk, juice, cleaners, margarine, whipped topping, and yogurt.
-  not included: motor oil or auto product bottles, lawn chemical bottles, toys or cookie trays.
- 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.



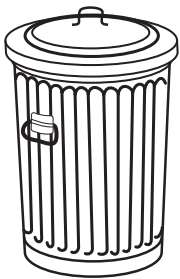
## Recycling Collection Tips

- 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<sup>®</sup>, 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

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.

- Place all materials at your collection point by 6AM. 🕒
- If your collection was missed, call 444-5238 after 7PM on your collection day.
- To prevent litter, be very careful about placing your recycling container out for collection on windy days. If possible, hold your recyclables for the following week's collection. Use lids on garbage cans.
- Leave a couple feet of space between your yard-waste, recyclables and garbage containers.
- Plastic bags are not collected for recycling and should not be used to hold materials in your bin. Take plastic bags to grocery stores that provide recycling opportunities for these items.



### Holiday Collection Schedule

Six holidays are observed by the City's garbage, yard-waste and recyclables 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 1998 holiday's are:

- New Year's Day: Thursday, January 1, 1998
- Memorial Day: Monday, May 25<sup>TH</sup>
- Independence Day: Not observed. This is a Saturday.
- Labor Day: Monday, September 7<sup>TH</sup>
- Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 26<sup>TH</sup>
- Christmas Day: Friday, December 25<sup>TH</sup>

# Yardwaste

No yardwaste collection from  
December 6, 1997 through March 29, 1998.

Leaves, brush and other yardwaste is collected from April through November. Yardwaste must be prepared properly for collection. There is no limit to the number of properly prepared yardwaste containers or bundles that will be collected.

## Yes!



- 👍 Grass clippings and leaves.
- 👍 Garden waste.
- 👍 Fallen apples or garden waste.
- 👍 Trash cans up to 32 gallons and weighing up to 45 pounds, marked with a **YW** on both sides.



- 👍 Special yardwaste paper bags weighing up to 40 pounds.
- 👍 Bundles of branches and brush. Tied with string or twine and weighing up to 30 pounds.



- 👍 Bundled branches may be up to 2 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length.

## No!

- ⊘ Litter, trash or garbage.
- ⊘ Street sweeping sand.
- ⊘ Pet manure.
- ⊘ Branches over 2 inches in diameter and longer than 4 feet.
- ⊘ Mixtures of yardwaste and garbage.
- ⊘ Plastic bags full of yardwaste.
- ⊘ Cardboard boxes of yardwaste.
- ⊘ Plastic or nylon rope or twine on brush.
- ⊘ Unbundled brush.

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**Important information about your  
recyclables, garbage and  
yardwaste collection.**