

# WASTELINE



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

City of Omaha

Mike Fahey, Mayor

June, 2002

Public Works Department

Norm Jackman, Acting Director

Environmental Quality Division

## 2001 Down Not Out

Several months ago, there were reports that recycling just isn't what it used to be. It is true that the weight of recyclable materials has not increased at the same rate as Omaha's growth. In 2001, Omaha saw a reduction in the amount recycled, when measured as pounds (2,806,000) or as a percentage (1.5%) of total waste. Those recyclables and the natural resources they represent are lost forever.

But Omaha is not alone; many communities have seen reductions in recycling. While it is possible that outside influences such as the redesign of the Omaha World-Herald to a smaller format may help explain the reduction, every reduction must be taken seriously.

Paper, whether it is packaging, magazines, or newspaper, is the largest

fraction of tonnage collected in Omaha's green bins making up 84% of our recyclables.

It's easy to recycle so if your household does not recycle, please start now. Find a paper grocery sack. Place your newspaper in the sack each day, including the coupons and advertisements that came with the paper. When the sack is full, place it in your bin and set it out for collection alongside your garbage can. After your household has become accustomed to recycling newspaper, add a second paper sack for clean mixed paper.

There are over 120,000 households in Omaha. To recover "lost" tons of recyclables, each household need

only recycle an additional half-pound of recyclables each week. If your family is already recycling all it can, you can help us reach the goal by encouraging a neighbor, coworker or friend to start recycling.

Need help or a recycling bin? Call the recycling hotline at 444-4500 from 8AM until 8PM, Monday through Friday. ●

First in a series—

### Recycling the Real Truth:

*Doesn't recycling cost and shouldn't it pay for itself?*

- ▶ Recycling generates revenues that help pay for itself while landfills don't produce any revenue.
- ▶ The more people recycle, the cheaper it gets. Landfilling doesn't get cheaper with more tons, instead the cost increases proportionally.
- ▶ Recycling supports more than one million U.S. jobs in the recycled product manufacturing industry.
- ▶ Recycling saves the U.S. enough energy to provide electricity for 9-million homes per year.

	Garbage		Recyclables		Yardwaste	
<b>January</b>	7,811	83%	1,583	17%	-	-
<b>February</b>	6,540	83%	1,356	17%	-	-
<b>March</b>	7,739	48%	1,656	10%	6,589	41%
<b>April</b>	8,059	54%	1,570	11%	5,314	36%
<b>May</b>	9,166	62%	1,756	12%	3,784	26%
<b>June</b>	8,555	65%	1,690	13%	2,995	23%
<b>July</b>	8,652	67%	1,439	11%	2,827	22%
<b>August</b>	8,879	67%	1,616	12%	2,790	21%
<b>September</b>	7,621	58%	1,386	11%	4,121	31%
<b>October</b>	8,575	52%	1,578	10%	6,266	38%
<b>November</b>	8,599	83%	1,729	17%	-	-
<b>December</b>	7,776	84%	1,492	16%	-	-
<b>Total 2001</b>	<b>97,973</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>18,851</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>34,686</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Total 2000</b>	<b>94,717</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>20,253</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>32,185</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Total 1999</b>	<b>92,512</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>19,582</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>31,761</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Total 1998</b>	<b>87,734</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>19,543</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>35,247</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>Total 1997</b>	<b>86,022</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>18,958</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>30,411</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Total 1996</b>	<b>81,718</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>20,258</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>35,139</b>	<b>26%</b>

**No solid waste collection on Independence Day, Thursday, July 4, 2002**

Thursday's collection will be on Friday, July 5, 2002 and Friday's collection will be on Saturday, July 6, 2002.

# Recyclables

Set out by 6am

## Paper sack #1—Newspaper (*Do not use plastic bags*)

- ▶ Includes: Coupons, advertisements, Parade section and all paper that came with the newspaper.
- ▶ Lay sack on top of bin.
- ▶ *Do not include:* phonebooks (see sack #2) or other paper, rubber bands, plastic bags.

Yes



## Paper sack #2—Mixed Paper (*Do not use plastic bags*)

- ▶ Includes: Telephone books, magazines, catalogues, cereal boxes, junkmail (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, hard bound books, tissue paper, paper plates, or frozen food boxes.

Yes

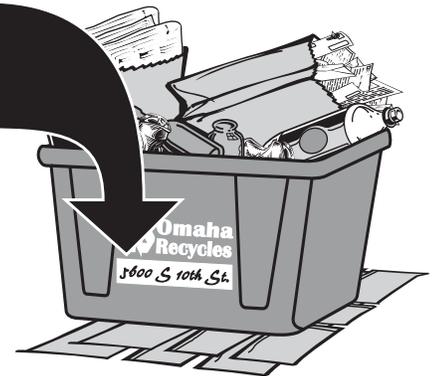


Write your address here.

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

- ▶ Remove and throw lids in garbage.
- ▶ Plastic bottles marked , including: Bottles that held pop, cooking oil, mouth wash, shampoo, and cleaners.
- ▶  *not included:* frozen food trays, plastic cups, toys, cookie trays, deli or produce containers.
- ▶ 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.

Yes



### Phonebook Recycling

Old phonebooks can be recycled in the mixed paper sack and included in your recycling bin.

**Please participate in Omaha's recycling program.**

• **It's easy**

• **Saves Tax Dollars**

• **Produces jobs and revenue**

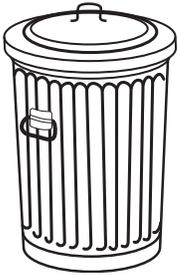
**Call 444-5238 if you do not have a recycling bin and wish to recycle.**

# Garbage

**Collection Missed? Call 444-5238 after 7PM on your collection day.**

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 garbage per week (example 2 trash cans and 3 bags).
- 👍 Place cans and bags within 5 feet of curb, approved alley or other approved location.

## No!

- 👎 A mixture of garbage and yardwaste.
- 👎 Items outside a can or clear bag.
- 👎 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) when not in a can or bag.
- 👎 Natural Christmas trees.

### Bulky Stuff

Items too big for normal collection can be taken to River City Recycling and the City will subsidize the cost of disposal. For more information, call one of the following:

- ▶ *FRED* message & faxback line: 444-3610, voice message 686, faxback Document 108
- ▶ Solid Waste Information & Complaint line: 444-5238

### Collection Pointers

- ▶ Place all materials at your collection point by 6AM. 🕒
- ▶ If your collection was missed, call 444-5238 *after* 7PM on your collection day.
- ▶ Leave a couple feet of space between your yardwaste, recyclables and garbage containers.
- ▶ 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. Here is a short list of some of the fax and voice messages:

	Voice	Fax
Recycling, Curbside	680	109
Recycling, Special Topics	683	113
Recycling, Drop-off Sites	685	107
Garbage Collection	682	127
Yardwaste Collection	681	127
Collection Problems	684	127
Bulky Item Disposal	686	108





### WASTELINE

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

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 1958  
OMAHA, NE

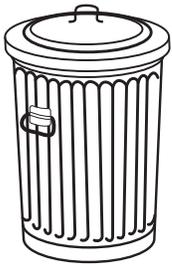
**Please help us control  
litter in Omaha. More  
information inside.**

# Yardwaste

**Leave 2 feet of space between  
Yardwaste & Garbage containers**

Leaves, brush and other 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 such as fallen apples, rotted or excess vegetables & fruits.
- 👍 Trash cans up to 32 gallons and weighing up to 45 pounds, marked with a **YW** on both sides.



- 👍 Unlimited number of properly prepared marked cans, paper bags or brush bundles.
- 👍 Special yardwaste paper bags weighing up to 40 pounds.



- 👍 Branches may be up to 2 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length.
- 👍 Branches and brush may be bundled with string or twine for collection. Bundles may weigh up to 30 pounds.

## No!

- 👎 Litter, trash or garbage.
- 👎 Street sweeping sand and litter.
- 👎 Pet manure.
- 👎 Kitty litter.
- 👎 Branches over 2 inches in diameter.
- 👎 Branches over 4 feet long.
- 👎 Mixtures of yardwaste and garbage.
- 👎 Plastic bags of yardwaste.
- 👎 Cardboard boxes of yardwaste.
- 👎 Plastic twine, nylon twine or wire used on brush bundles.
- 👎 Rope of any kind.
- 👎 Unbundled brush.
- 👎 Stones or rocks.

# PLASTIC CONFUSION

BEING ABLE TO RECYCLE PLASTIC CONTAINERS IS WONDERFUL, THOUGH IT CAN BE A BIT CONFUSING AND THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY ADDS TO THE CONFUSION BY CONTINUALLY DEVELOPING NEW PRODUCTS OR CHANGING PACKAGING.

## THE BASICS

DURING THE 1980'S THE SOCIETY OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY DEVELOPED A CODE SYSTEM TO IDENTIFY THE GENERAL CATEGORY OF PLASTICS, WHICH ARE NUMBERED FROM 1 THROUGH 7. THIS CODE DOES NOT MEAN THAT ALL PLASTICS ARE RECYCLABLE NOR THAT EVERY ITEM MARKED WITH THE SAME NUMBER IS RECYCLABLE TOGETHER. THE OMAHA PROGRAM COLLECTS THE TWO MOST COMMONLY USED CONTAINER PLASTICS.

## IN OMAHA WE CAN RECYCLE:

**A BOTTLES ONLY!** WE DON'T ACCEPT OTHER ITEMS MARKED WITH **A** SUCH AS DELI OR PRODUCE CONTAINERS, FROZEN FOOD CONTAINERS, COOKIE TRAYS OR CUPS. THESE NON-BOTTLE **A** ITEMS ARE MANUFACTURED DIFFERENTLY, WHICH AFFECTS THEIR RECYCLABILITY. SO, IF THE CONTAINER DOESN'T HAVE A SCREW TOP LID OR IF YOU WOULDN'T DESCRIBE IT AS A BOTTLE, JAR OR JUG, DON'T RECYCLE IT! PUT IT IN YOUR GARBAGE INSTEAD.

## **B BOTTLES OR SNAP TOP CONTAINERS**

**ONLY!** THIS MEANS THAT BOTTLES, JARS, JUGS AS WELL AS BUTTER TUBS AND YOGURT CONTAINERS ARE RECYCLABLE. WE DON'T ACCEPT OTHER ITEMS MARKED WITH **B** SUCH AS TOYS. ALSO, WE DON'T ACCEPT MOTOR OIL BOTTLES OR LAWN CHEMICAL BOTTLES BECAUSE THEY ARE CONTAMINATED.



REMEMBER TO FLATTEN PLASTIC BOTTLES, SO THEY ARE LESS LIKELY TO TUMBLE OR BLOW OUT OF YOUR RECYCLING BIN AND WILL GIVE YOU MORE SPACE FOR OTHER RECYCLABLES.

## WHY ONLY **A** AND **B** ?

CONTAINERS MARKED **A** OR **B** IN THE CATEGORIES ABOVE ENCOMPASS THE VAST MAJORITY OF ITEMS DISPOSED OF FROM YOUR HOME DURING THE COURSE OF THE YEAR. ALL OTHER PLASTICS AMOUNT TO ONLY A FRACTION OF THE PLASTICS PRODUCED AND OFTEN MARKETS DON'T EXIST FOR THESE LOW VOLUME ITEMS. ALSO, SOME LOOK-ALIKE PLASTICS, LIKE **C**, CAN RUIN AN ENTIRE BATCH OF **A** BOTTLES, SO BE CAREFUL TO ONLY INCLUDE THE CORRECT **A** AND **B** CONTAINERS.

RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN AN INDUSTRY TREND MOVING AWAY FROM **B** YOGURT CONTAINERS. THIS SEEMS TO BE SOMEWHAT CYCLICAL AND MANUFACTURERS WILL LIKELY CHANGE BACK TO **B** AT SOME TIME. YOU CAN HELP INFLUENCE THIS CHANGE BY CALLING MANUFACTURERS AND REQUESTING THAT THEY CHANGE TO A **B** CONTAINER, WHICH IS RECYCLABLE IN OMAHA.

## ALL **B** ARE NOT EQUAL

A NEW PRODUCT ON THE MARKET BY FRITO-LAY IS PACKAGED IN A CONTAINER THAT IS MARKED **G - B** COMPATIBLE. THIS CONTAINER MAY BE COMPATIBLE IN SOME PARTS OF THE COUNTRY, BUT NOT IN OMAHA. PLEASE DON'T INCLUDE THIS, OR ANY OTHER CONTAINER MARKED AS **B** COMPATIBLE. ONLY TRUE **B** CONTAINERS ARE RECYCLABLE IN OMAHA.

# **A Little Less Litter, Please**

April showers bring May flowers, and wind, year-round, brings litter.

Please help us avoid litter resulting from solid waste collection.

## **“Litter-Known” Facts**

Motorists and pedestrians are often blamed for litter. There are actually five primary sources of litter:

- ▶ Mishandled household garbage or its placement for collection.
- ▶ Dumpsters and loading docks used by businesses.
- ▶ Construction and demolition sites.
- ▶ Trucks with uncovered loads.
- ▶ Pedestrians and motorists dumping on streets.

## **What’s so bad about litter? Everything!**

When a place is littered, we lose our sense of enjoyment. Community pride is lost and our quality of life and property values are diminished. Your tax dollars must be used to clean up the litter.

## **Whose problem is it? Everyone’s!**

Believing that “someone else” will clean up the litter is just as much a problem as littering in the first place. You can be part of the solution, not the problem. If you see litter, pick it up!

How you package and set out your garbage and recyclables can help reduce the chances of litter.

## **Here is how to set out your garbage and not create litter:**

- ▶ Use garbage cans with tight fitting lids.
- ▶ Set garbage cans such that they won’t tip over easily.
- ▶ When purchasing garbage cans choose one that is less likely to tip over. But remember, garbage cans, can’t be larger than 32 gallons nor weigh more than 45 pounds when full.
- ▶ Keep your garbage cans near your garage or house until the evening before your collection. Even better is to keep your garbage cans in your garage or otherwise sheltered from the wind and weather.
- ▶ Use smaller bags such as the grocery carry out bags to contain loose garbage inside your garbage cans. Tie each bag shut. Always bag very light items such as styrofoam®, other plastic bags, or unrecyclable plastic items.
- ▶ Use durable, clear plastic bags for garbage not in garbage cans. The bags should be at least 1.0 mil. thick. Securely close the bags.
- ▶ Call animal control (444-7800) to report stray dogs that often tear open plastic bags.
- ▶ Deter animals from examining your garbage by pouring one cap full of ammonia in each container prior to closing.

## **Recyclables can also be set out in such a way to avoid litter:**

- ▶ Flatten all plastics. They are less likely to tumble or blow when flat.
- ▶ Shredded paper is recyclable, but you must put it in the bottom of your mixed paper sack, and cover with other heavy papers such as magazines.
- ▶ Pack papers tightly into their paper sack. A full bag is less likely to cause litter. In addition, it is ok to use one (1) piece of masking tape across the top to hold paper in the bag.
- ▶ Place heavier items on top of lighter items.
- ▶ Request a second bin if you consistently have more recyclables than will fit in your bin.

If you want to help clean up a littered area of your neighborhood, contact Keep Omaha Beautiful Inc., 444-7774.

