

# WASTELINE

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

City of Omaha

Hal Daub, Mayor

March, 2000

Public Works Department

Don Elliott, Director

Environmental Quality Division

## Help Wanted Good News

Recently **WASTELINE** and the Omaha media announced that Omaha's recycling was declining. Now with 1999 data compiled, a second look is in order.

### Good news

In November and December the declining trend reversed and the tonnage of materials recycled through the curbside program corrected the previous decline. The increase in November over October was over 200 tons which represents an increase of 16%. The 1999 year-end total was almost the same as 1998's.

### Bad news

The bad news is that in September of 1999, over 3,700 households were annexed so the number of people eligible to participate increased by over 3%. The net impact is the per capita recycling

tonnage is *down* about 3% compared to 1998. Additionally, the tons of material take to the landfill increased by over 5% in December (2% more than the increase due to annexation).

### Answers

TV advertising may explain the November increase. Expect more promotion this year. February's low recycling number was because of a snow storm that delayed collection into March.

### Help

For those that are recycling, thank you. For those who are not recycling, please start. Recycling allows the city to avoid expenses and generate revenue that come back to the City as more services and less taxes, how can you argue with that? ●

	Garbage	Recyclables	Yardwaste		
January	6,779 79%	1,766 21%			0%
February	5,933 83%	1,210 17%			0%
March	7,653 78%	1,760 18%	420		4%
April	7,927 61%	1,731 13%	3,404		26%
May	7,376 51%	1,594 11%	5,520		38%
June	8,785 59%	1,707 12%	4,318		29%
July	7,912 63%	1,542 12%	3,104		25%
August	8,606 63%	1,637 12%	3,503		25%
September	8,055 64%	1,659 13%	2,829		23%
October	7,248 59%	1,603 13%	3,408		28%
November	8,042 54%	1,865 12%	5,020		34%
December	8,196 82%	1,508 15%	235		2%
<b>Total 1999</b>	<b>92,512 64%</b>	<b>19,582 14%</b>	<b>31,761</b>	<b>22%</b>	
<b>Total 1998</b>	<b>87,734 62%</b>	<b>19,543 14%</b>	<b>35,247</b>	<b>25%</b>	
<b>Total 1997</b>	<b>86,022 64%</b>	<b>18,958 14%</b>	<b>30,411</b>	<b>22%</b>	
<b>Total 1996</b>	<b>81,718 60%</b>	<b>20,258 15%</b>	<b>35,139</b>	<b>26%</b>	

## Glass: See Your Way Clearly

A recent *Omaha World-Herald* article revealed that some stores in Iowa are landfilling glass that customers brought in for recycling. The stores' problem stems from the cost of processing the glass, the low cost of raw materials and the stringent standards needed for the glass industry. The combination of these three can at times make it more cost-effective to landfill the glass instead of recycling.

Omaha has not and will not landfill glass processed for recycling. In fact, Weyerhaeuser and the City of Omaha have, when necessary, paid the glass manufacturers to recycle some of the glass. These costs have been such that recycling is still more cost-effective than landfilling.

Glass recycling's quality standards are more strict than other

materials such as paper. The fact that paper fibers are broken apart then cleaned to remove anything other than the fiber allows for some non-paper material to be included, such as packing tape on boxes. Glass bottles on the other hand are the product of sand, limestone, soda ash and colorants that are inseparably bonded together to create molten glass. Other glass products such as windows include other materials specific for their use. No one has devised the system to remove contaminants, these other materials nor the coloring in recycled glass. Thus, glass must meet tighter standards and be sorted for color.

Page 3 includes an update on recyclable glass. ●

**Yardwaste Collection Resumes April 3, 2000**

# Recyclables

## 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 notice below) or other paper, rubber bands, plastic bags.

Yes



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

- 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, hard bound books, tissue paper, paper plates, or frozen food boxes.

Yes

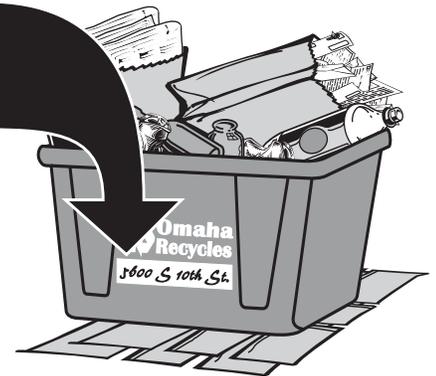


## Loose in the bin—Containers (*Not in bags*)

- 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. (see page 3 for details)
- 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.



## Phonebook Recycling

New phonebooks are being distributed by **USWest-Dex** and **McLeodUSA Publishing Co.** Together, they have worked out a recycling program for you.

Telephone directories are *not collected in Omaha's green bin program*, because the phonebooks are a closed loop recycling program where old phonebooks are turned into new ones.

Telephone books will be collected at all Omaha area Baker's Supermarket parking lots from mid April through July 1, 2000.

*Do not put phonebooks in your recycling bin.*

# Glass Recycling

## Yes!

- Glass food and beverage bottles and jars that are Clear, Green, Brown or Blue glass.

- **Newly added:** Blue bottles and jars. Example: Clearly Canadian® and Zima® bottles.



## No!

- White colored glass (used by one wine maker-This is a form of ceramic and not glass)
- Drinking glasses.
- Light bulbs.
- Perfume bottles.
- Window glass.
- Mugs, china, crystal.
- Pyrex® glass cookware.

## Collection Tips

- Place all materials at your collection point by 6AM. Place within 5 feet of curb, approved alley or other approved location.
- Garbage is limited to a maximum five containers per week (example 2 trash cans and 3 bags).
- Garbage should be placed in trash cans up to 32 gallons that weigh up to 45 pounds when full, or in see-through bags (clear bags preferred) that weigh up to 30 pounds when full. Garbage cans must have lids.
- Leave a couple feet of space between your yardwaste, recyclables and garbage containers so the collectors can identify the materials.
- All recyclables set out for collection must be in the city's green bin. (Except pieces of cardboard that should be placed under the bin)
- Prevent litter by always using lids on garbage cans, and on windy days hold recyclables for the next pick up day (Your bin could blow away when empty too!).
- Spoiled vegetables and vegetable trimmings from your kitchen should go in the household garbage or down the drain using your garbage disposal. Garden waste should be put in with your yardwaste.
- Paint is safe to landfill *once it is dry*. The City

has specific instructions available if you call 444-4500.

- Lost or stolen recycling bins can be replaced by calling 444-5238. If you have more material than will fit in one bin consider purchasing a second bin which costs \$5.
- Household chemicals can be hazardous if not handled properly. The best way to dispose of these items is to completely use the material in the manner prescribed, so sharing extra material with friends or neighbors is the best disposal method.

### Holiday Collection Schedule 2000

Six holidays are observed by the City's garbage, yardwaste and recyclables collection contractor. Following these six holidays, collection will be delayed by one day for the remainder of that week. Friday's collection will be on Saturday.

The remaining holidays for 2000 are:

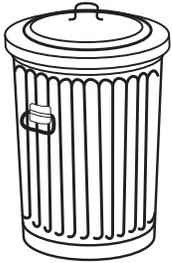
- Memorial Day: Monday, May 29
- Independence Day: Tuesday, July 4
- Labor Day: Monday, September 4
- Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 23
- Christmas Day: Monday, December 25
- New Years Day 2001: Monday, January 1, 2001

# Yardwaste

In 2000, the yardwaste collection season resumes April 3 and ends the week of November 27.

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.*

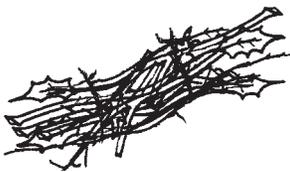
## Yes!



- ✔ 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 or nylon rope/twine or wire used on brush.
- ⊘ Unbundled brush.

Collection missed? Call 444-5238 after 7pm on your collection day.

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

**WASTELINE**  
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