



City of Omaha ● Mike Fahey, Mayor ● March, 2003

# WASTELINE



Recycling, Garbage and Yardwaste Information for the Citizens of Omaha, Nebraska  
Public Works Department Norm Jackman, Acting Director Environmental Quality Division

## Oma What?

**G**ood Question. **OmaGro** is the compost made from the yardwaste collected from Omaha households. But what is compost? Compost is decomposed organic matter in the form of a rich, black, sweet-smelling, crumbly, soil-like substance. Compost is full of nutrients that replenish and enhance depleted or poor quality soil. **OmaGro** is made exclusively from the yardwaste collected in Omaha. Nothing extra is added. The decomposition occurs naturally and is aided by regular turning and grinding.

Rich, healthy soil is very important to a lawn or garden's health, and compost is a critical component in creating healthy soil. Healthy soil smells sweet, is loose, well drained but holds moisture well, and is rich in organic matter.

Compost can help create healthy soil out of every kind of soil, whether it be silt, clay or sandy loam. The two things poor soils lack are microorganisms and organic matter. According to the Texas

Natural Resource Commission, "A 5% increase in organic matter quadruples a soil's ability to store water."

Compost improves soil so it retains the proper amount of water for healthy soil. Adding compost to heavy clay soil improves drainage by improving soil structure. Compost also absorbs water and improves the water-holding capacity of sandy soils.

The nutrients in compost are readily available to vegetation, which produces healthier plants that invite the beneficial micro and macro-organisms to your lawn and garden. The most beneficial organism is the earthworm, but there are many others. Earthworms are a good barometer of a soil's health. Earthworms migrate to and inhabit healthy soil, and they help to maintain that healthy soil.

So apply **OmaGro** as directed and improve your soil for a healthier, more vibrant lawn and garden. To learn more about **OmaGro** and compost uses go to [www.omagro.com](http://www.omagro.com).



## Herbicides & Compost

**T**he broadleaf herbicide Clopyralid® (Pronounced: Clo-PEER-uh-lid and manufactured by Dow AgroSciences LLC) has been found to be extremely persistent. Clopyralid is an active ingredient in more than a dozen herbicides. Some of the retail names for these products are Confront®, Millennium®, Stinger®, Reclaim®, Lontrel® and Transline®. Most products with Clopyralid are limited to the professional lawn care industry or agricultural uses.

This herbicide is so persistent that many compost operations are unable to break it down adequately. Caution is advised when applying compost from unknown sources to sensitive broadleaf plants (includes many garden vegetables and annual flowers). **OmaGro** is tested for the presence of Clopyralid and to date it has not been identified as a problem. **OmaGro's** long composting times (in excess of 15 months) and feedstock limited to residential lawns have limited **OmaGro's** exposure to Clopyralid. It is always the best advice to read, understand and follow label directions. Doing so with **OmaGro** will further protect your lawn and garden.

Many commercial-only herbicide blends contain high concentrations of Clopyralid. Grass clippings from lawns treated with these brands are the major source of Clopyralid contamination for yardwaste composting operations.

You can help by ensuring that your lawn service provider uses an herbicide that is Clopyralid-free. There are affective alternatives to Clopyralid that do not have the same residual affects. If found in an existing consumer product, at a minimum follow the label directions exactly and do not over apply. Additionally in the near future Douglas and Sarpy County residents will be able to dispose of Clopyralid containing products at the UnderTheSink facility ([www.underthesink.org](http://www.underthesink.org)). According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clopyralid is not harmful to humans or animals at the levels detected in compost.

For further information, contact your Cooperative Extension Agent or contact Gordon at 444-3915 ext. 230.

**Yardwaste Collection resumes April 7, 2003**

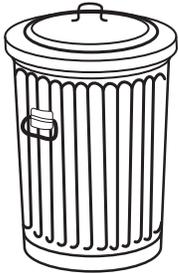


# Garbage

**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.
- 👍 Clear plastic bags 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) when not in a can or bag.
- 👎 Stuff outside a can or bag.

### Take Note!

- **Upcoming collection holiday**—Memorial Day, Monday, May 26. Collection will be delayed by one day for that entire week. Friday's collection will be on Saturday.
- For bulky items that are larger than allowed for normal collection, there is a disposal option. Through a local solid waste transfer station, Omaha has a low cost, co-pay system for disposal. Call 444-5238 for information.
- Sign up for e-mail notifications of changes in collection service. Go to [www.wasteline.org/join](http://www.wasteline.org/join).



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.



This brand of Omaha-Approved clear bags are available at many Omaha Retailers.

For more information go to: [www.wasteline.org](http://www.wasteline.org)



# Recycling

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 with opening away from wind.
- 👎 **NO!** 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: Magazines, catalogues, phonebooks, 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 with opening away from wind.
- 👎 **NO!** Do not include: pizza boxes, juice boxes, milk cartons, hardbound books, tissue paper, paper plates, or frozen food boxes.

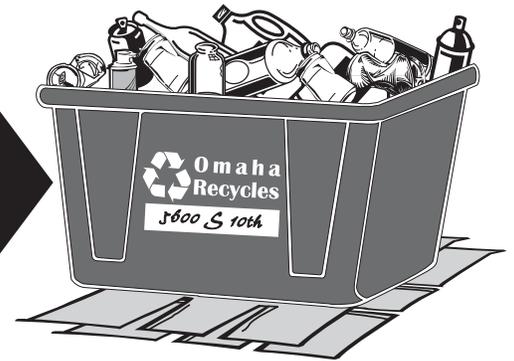
Yes



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

- 👎 **NO!** Lids of any kind. Remove and throw in garbage.
- 👍 Plastic bottles marked PETE ♻️, including: Bottles that held pop, cooking oil, mouthwash, shampoo or cleaners.
- 👎 **NO!** PETE ♻️ *not included:* deli/produce containers, frozen food trays, 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.
- 👎 **NO!** 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 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



**Remember to Recycle all your old Telephone Directories in your mixed paper sack.**



**WASTELINE**

Omaha Public Works—Environmental Quality Division  
5600 S. 10TH St.  
Omaha, NE 68107-3501  
www.wasteline.org

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

**Yardwaste Collection  
Resumes April 7, 2003**



**Keep America Going, Recycle!**

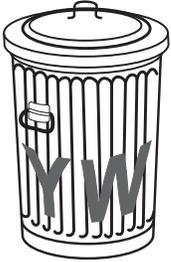


**Yardwaste**

**Yardwaste collection  
resumes April 7, 2003**

Yardwaste is collected from all households from the week of April 7, through the week of December 1, 2003. During the winter months, yardwaste is not collected—separately or with garbage. There is no limit to the amount of properly prepared yardwaste that will be collected. Leave 2 feet of space between Yardwaste and Garbage containers.

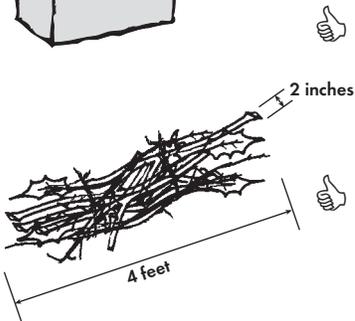
**Yes!**



- Grass clippings and leaves.
- Garden waste such as fallen apples, rotted or excess vegetables and fruit.
- 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.
- 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!**

- Mixtures of yardwaste and garbage.
- No saw dust, lumber or treated lumber/wood.
- Litter, trash or garbage.
- Whole cans of dirt or sod.
- Street sweeping sand, litter or rocks.
- Plastic bags of yardwaste.
- Cardboard boxes of yardwaste.
- Pet manure 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.
- Unbundled brush.

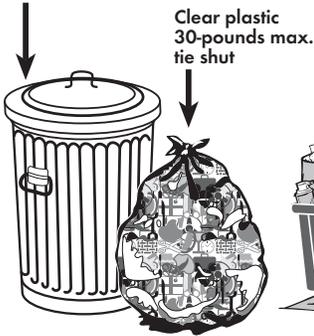


# Collection Pointers

Within 5 feet of curb or alley

**Garbage:**  
5 containers max.

32-gal. 45-pound max.



**Recycling:**

No plastic bags  
Cut cardboard to 2 feet by 2 feet  
Separate paper bags for newspaper & other paper



**Yardwaste:**  
No container limit

32-gal. 45-pound max.  
Marked YW

Paper bags only  
40-pounds max.

Growing Season Only



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



- Place all materials out for collection *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



## Recycling Tips

- 👉 **NO!** Lids. Remove snap top and screw on lids from all containers and place in garbage.
- 👉 **NO!** plastic bags, Styrofoam®, motor oil bottles, plate glass, syringes, light bulbs, drinking glasses or pizza boxes.
- 👉 Only glass that you describe as a **bottle** or **jar**.
- 👉 All ♻️ containers must be bottles with screw top lids. *No snap top containers.*
- 👉 Containers marked ♻️ may be bottles or snap top containers.
- 👉 Write your address on the bin using a permanent marker.
- 👉 Flatten all boxes. Cut to 2 feet by 2 feet.
- 👉 All recyclables set out for collection must be in a green bin. (Except pieces of cardboard that may be placed under the bin)
- 👉 Remove bin from curb as soon as possible after collection.



If your recycling bin is missing or damaged, call 444-5238.

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

- **It's easy**
- **Saves Tax Dollars**
- **Produces jobs and revenue**