

WASTELINE



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

City of Omaha
Public Works Department

Hal Daub, Mayor
Don Elliott, Director

March, 1998
Environmental Quality Division

Recycling Shows Continued Strength

The past two years of Omaha's green bin recycling program have shown continued strength. The amount of material recycled in 1996 and 1997 was five times the amount of material recycled in 1995, the last year of the blue bag recycling program. As a percentage, 18% of Omaha's household waste was recycled in 1996 and 1997.

Omaha's recycling program did experience a slight decrease in the total tons of material recycled during 1997. The decrease was due to the short term closing of Omaha's recycling drop-off sites in October 1996. By August of 1997 four drop-off sites were reestablished. The recycling drop-off sites are located at:

- HyVee, 96TH & Q Sts[†]
- HyVee, 108TH & Fort Sts[†]
- Arrow Recycling, 8515 Blondo St[†]
- Weyerhaeuser Recycling, 7202 N 16TH St

[†]These sites are staffed, call 444-5238 for hours.

1997	Tons (2,000 pounds)	Percentage of Recycled Material
Newspapers	11,028	58%
HDPE Bottles & Containers	774	4%
PETE Bottles	381	2%
Glass Bottles	2,198	12%
Metal Cans	1,114	6%
Mixed Paper	3,454	18%
Total Recycled	18,952	

A very encouraging factor is that both PETE and HDPE plastic recycling increased in 1997—an increase of more than a quarter million pounds. This is very significant because plastics are a light material and to realize an increase of this magnitude, means that a significant portion of the population are now recycling their PETE and HDPE plastic bottles.

Recycling is a basic city service. Its cost is shared by all and its benefits are realized both now and in the future. For every ton of material recycled, the City realizes an immediate cost avoidance of \$19.23, the Douglas County Landfill's tipping fee. In addition, the City shares in the revenue of the materials as they are sold on the open market. In the long term Omaha will benefit by the conservation of natural resources and reduced pollution. Recycling produces jobs, both locally and nationally. *Keep Recycling Omaha!*

Yardwaste Begins...

Omaha's yardwaste collection season begins on March 30 and will continue through December 4, 1998.

There have been no changes in the collection procedures. As a reminder, the rules regarding yardwaste collection are included in this issue of **WASTELINE**.

Paper yardwaste bags that have been left at the curb or alley and exposed to the weather all winter long will likely break when collection is attempted. We recommend rebagging that yardwaste or placing the old bags in a marked yardwaste can. Yardwaste bags that have been



sheltered during the winter should be ok, however you should test them before placing the old bags out for collection. If your bags break during collection, Deffenbaugh is not responsible for cleaning up the spilled material.

Remember to tie brush for collection in 30 pound bundles with string or twine. If brush is set out in a loose pile, Deffenbaugh is not required to collect it.

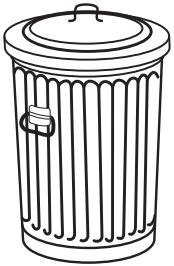
The City is selling the compost made from the yardwaste collected last season. On page 2 there is a list of outlets.

Yardwaste

In 1998, yardwaste season is from March 30 through December 4.

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.
- ✔ Fallen apples or garden waste.
- ✔ 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.

- ✔ 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. Weighing 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.

Oma•Gro Retail Outlets

Yardwaste collected in Omaha is composted at the City's facility near LaPlatte, Nebraska. After fully composting and curing, the compost is screened then made available for sale at the composting facility or through these retailers. The compost, called Oma•Gro, is available in bags or in bulk. Oma•Gro is an excellent soil amendment that revitalizes the soil with the nutrients needed for vigorous plant growth.

- Omaha Composting Facility 15705 Harlan Lewis Rd, Bellevue, 444-6665 available bagged and bulk
- Mullhall's Home & Garden Showplace, 3615 North 120TH Street, Omaha, 496-0700, available bagged and bulk
- Sunrise Lawn & Garden, 8529 Fredrick, Omaha, 399-0288, available bagged only
- Lanoha Nursery, 19111 West Center Road, Omaha, 289-4103, available bagged and bulk
- Sherbondy's Home & Garden Showplace, 319 Sixteenth Ave., Council Bluffs, 323-7985, available bagged and bulk
- The Gas Station, 501 B Street, Cedar Creek, Nebraska, 234-2159, available bagged only

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. †See below right.

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. †See below right.

Yes

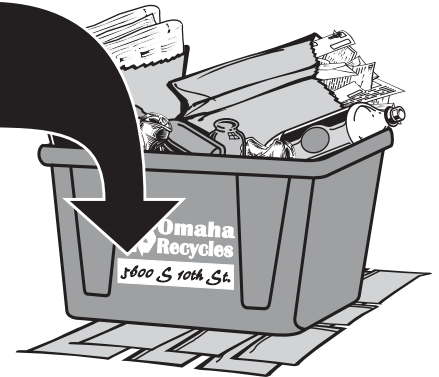


Loose in the bin (Not in plastic bags)—Containers

- 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.
- 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.



Phonebook Recycling

New phonebooks will be distributed this spring, and USWestDex and McLeodUSA Publishing Co. have worked out a recycling program for you.

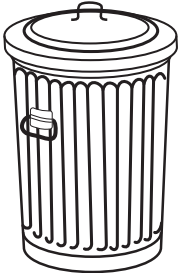
Telephone directories are not collected in Omaha's green bin program because the phonebooks are a closed loop recycling program where old phonebooks are turned into new ones.

Telephone books will be collected at all Omaha area Baker's Supermarket parking lots beginning April 20 and continuing through July 1, 1998. Do not put phonebooks in your recycling 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.

Remember Earthday April 22

Omaha's celebration of Earthday will be Sunday April 26, from Noon 'til 7PM at Heartland of America

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

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City of Omaha
Environmental Quality Division
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Omaha, NE 68107-3501

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

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STANDARD
US POSTAGE
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