

# W WASTE LINE

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

City of Omaha

Mike Fahey, Mayor

November, 2001

Public Works Department

Norm Jackman, Acting Director

Environmental Quality Division

## Plan Early!

**T**AKE NOTE: *Christmas trees will not be collected as part of the garbage collection service.*



Christmas tree collection by Deffenbaugh is a two-fold expense for the city. There is an extra expense for collecting the trees and the expense of landfilling the trees. These expenses are in addition and much more expensive than operating the Christmas tree mulching sites.

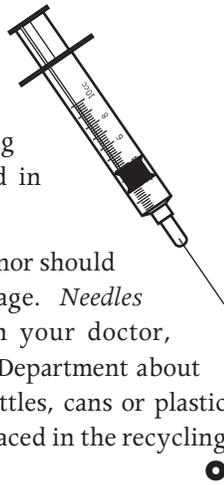
So make your plans now on how you will dispose of your Christmas tree. There are three easy options:

- ▲ place your tree securely in your yard and wait for yardwaste collection to resume on April 1;
- ▲ take your tree to one of the collection sites using the same means you got it home;
- ▲ consider an artificial tree which can be used for many years before replacing.

## Needles a No No!

Recently there have been some tense moments at the Weyerhaeuser recycling facility when insulin needles were found in containers destined for recycling.

Hypodermic needles are *not* recyclable, nor should they be disposed of carelessly in the garbage. *Needles must be disposed of properly.* Talk with your doctor, pharmacist or the Douglas County Health Department about the correct way to dispose of needles. Bottles, cans or plastic containers that hold needles must not be placed in the recycling bin or taken to a recycling drop-off site.



## Frequent Questions

**Q.** *I have some items that are too big for regular garbage collection, how do I discard these items?*

**A.** The City of Omaha will help pay for the disposal of up to 4 loads per year if you deliver your bulky items to River City Recycling and mention the Bulky Item Disposal Program. For more information call 444-5238 during business hours or 444-3610 24-hours and select message 686 or fax number 108.

**Q.** *Why can't I put my leaves and other yardwaste out in plastic bags? My leaves are in a big orange pumpkin bag. Why won't you pick it up?*

**A.** Yardwaste that is collected in Omaha is sent to a composting facility where the material decomposes and makes a product the City sells under the trade name **OmaGro**<sup>®</sup>. Plastic bags do not decompose, and would contaminate the **OmaGro**<sup>®</sup> product making it an unmarketable product.

**Q.** *Why is the limit on the size of tree limbs 2 inches in diameter and 4 foot long? That doesn't seem very big.*

**A.** The yardwaste collection program is intended to collect the material generated through the routine minor maintenance of your yard. It is not intended to handle the material from an extraordinary event, like a wind, ice storm or cutting down a tree. The compactor trucks used for yardwaste collection are not an appropriate vehicle for collecting big branches that can jam and break the compactor truck.

**Q.** *I have a lot of recyclables and want to get rid of them now. Does the city have any drop off sites for recyclables?*

**A.** Yes, we have three drop-off sites for recyclables. A new one is located at River City Recycling, 6404 S 60TH St (open daily), plus we have two other sites 7200 N 16TH St (open 24-hour) and 96TH & Q Sts (open daily). Call the recycling hotline at 444-4500 during business hours for more information or call 444-3610 24-hours and select voice message 685 or fax number 107.

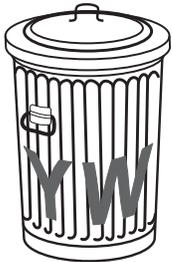
**Yardwaste Collection Ends the Week of Nov. 26 - 30, 2001**

# Yardwaste

**Yardwaste collection ends November 30, 2001**

Yardwaste is collected from all households from the beginning of April, through the end of November. A complete week of collection is provided at both the beginning and end of the season. 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.

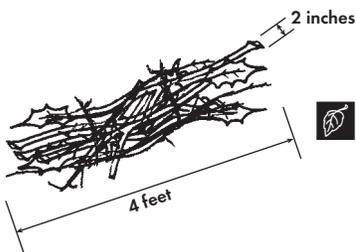
## Yes!



-  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.



-  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. 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 lumber or treated lumber.
-  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 on brush.
-  Rope of any kind.
-  Unbundled brush.

**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



# Recyclables

Set out by 6:00am

## 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: 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.
- *Do not include:* pizza boxes, juice boxes, milk cartons, hardbound books, tissue paper, paper plates, or frozen food boxes.

Yes

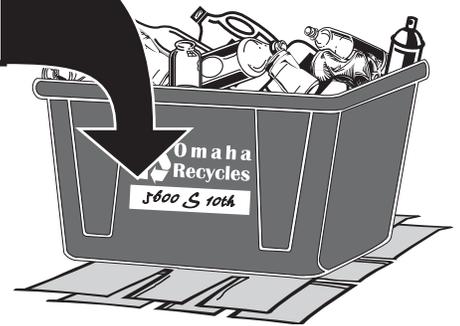


Write your address here.

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

- Remove lids and throw in garbage.
- Plastic bottles marked PETE ♻️, including: Bottles that held pop, cooking oil, mouthwash, shampoo or cleaners.
- PETE ♻️ *not included:* 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.
- 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 (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



## 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®, 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)



**WASTELINE**

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

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 1512  
OMAHA, NE

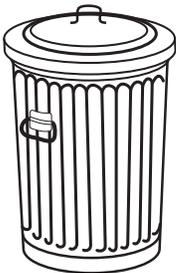
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# Garbage

**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 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.
- Any material not in a can or see-through bag.

**Take Note!**

- Celebrate America Recycles Day, November 15. Complete your entry to *win a regional or state prize*. Entry form inside.
- Upcoming collection holiday—Thanksgiving Day, November 22, Thursday and Friday collections are delayed by one day.

If your recycling bin is missing, damaged or you need a second bin, call 444-5238.



# Why "Buy Recycled?"

Most Omahans help the recycling effort by putting materials in their recycling bin. But many people don't realize that another important step of recycling is to "Buy Recycled" or "Close the Loop."

Purchasing recycled content products helps maintain market demand for recyclables and ensures the continuation and expansion of recycling programs everywhere. If consumers purchase more products with recycled content the manufacturers will continue to use recyclable materials in their products and expand their usage to even more products.

Fold here



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Place  
Stamp  
Here

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY ENTRY  
C/O ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIV.  
5600 S 10TH ST  
OMAHA, NE 68107-3501

Fold here

Cut here, then mail



**Celebrate  
America  
Recycles  
Day  
November  
15**

**Win State and Regional Prizes  
Support**

# **America Recycles Day November 15**

## **By Entering the America Recycles Day Sweepstakes**

Thanks to you, recycling is working! The proof is that the paper, plastic, steel, aluminum, and glass that you've been recycling is now made into all sorts of everyday products and packages, which are available on the market right now. There's just one thing left to do: Buy Them!

That's the "cycle" in recycling: You recycle items, that are collected and bought by manufactures to make into new products.

Why is "Buy Recycled" so important? It's simple. In order for the materials that have been collected in Omaha to have value and get used in the manufacturing of products, those products need to be in demand. You create that demand by purchasing products made from, or packaged in recycled paper, steel, aluminum, glass, or plastic.

Fill out your pledge below and mail by November 15, 2001, and you could win one of many great state and regional prizes. Those 18 and younger will be in their own youth oriented drawing. **But you can't win if you don't make a pledge, and recycling will lose if you don't.**

**The fine print:** Entries must be postmarked by November 20, 2001. National prizes will be drawn on December 15, 2001. Nebraska prizes will be drawn on November 26, 2001. **One entry per person.** No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. **Your name and address will not be used for direct marketing purposes, in-fact if you don't win, your entry will be recycled without being looked at.** For a complete set of rules or contest winners, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: America Recycles Day Contest Rules & Winners, 1727 King St., Ste 105, Alexandria, VA 22314-2720.

**For America Recycles Day, I will (check one or more):**

- Buy more recycled-content products
- Increase my recycling efforts at home and work
- Other recycling-related effort: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please check here if you are age 18 or younger.

*Make copies for other household members, or make your pledge via the Internet at [www.americarecyclesday.org](http://www.americarecyclesday.org).*

Cut here, then mail