



# WASTELINE



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

## 2006 Solid Waste Contract Update

**O**N SEPTEMBER 22, the City opened solid waste bid proposals for 2006–2015 this includes contracts for residential garbage, recyclables and yardwaste collection, and recyclable material processing. At print time, the Public Works Department was reviewing the proposals and planning to forward a recommendation to Mayor Fahey in October. Mayor Fahey will make a recommendation to the City Council who will likely take action and award the contracts in November. Awarding the new contracts this year will provide the successful bidders a full year to prepare

for an orderly transition in 2006.

The new contracts address those service areas identified by Omaha residents as needing improvement in addition to controlling costs. Under the new specifications the City hopes to:

- ▶ Reduce litter associated with recycling collection
- ▶ Improve handling and placement of trash cans
- ▶ Reduce property damage in alleys
- ▶ Simplify resident requirements for recyclables preparation
- ▶ Improve reliability for special

collection customers

- ▶ Provide more timely response to collection problems

The progress of the bid evaluation and contract award will be reported through the local media and our website, [wasteline.org](http://wasteline.org). **o!**

### Plan Early!

Christmas trees are *not* collected as part of the garbage collection service. **NO!**



## UnderTheSink is Coming!

**C**ITIZENS MUST CONTINUE to safely store unwanted household chemicals a few more months because of construction delays at the regional special waste facility, **UnderTheSink**. The facility is now scheduled to open late this year or early next year.

chemical wastes for recycling or proper disposal Wednesday through Saturday. There will also be a “swap shop” where residents can obtain free, useable paint and household products.

The most frequent material cited for disposal is paint. When dry, paint may be disposed with your garbage. More information and simple instructions for drying latex paint are inside this issue.

Construction of the facility has been funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, the City, Douglas and Sarpy Counties.

Citizens interested in more frequent updates may visit the facility’s website, [www.underthesink.org](http://www.underthesink.org). **o!**

The City of Omaha is the lead agency and the owner/operator of the Douglas-Sarpy County facility. The City is working closely with the contractor to resolve the problems and is optimistic. Problems include a leaky roof and a floor coating issue. The project delays create no additional cost to the program and should result in no long term problems.

Once open, **UnderTheSink** will serve residents of Douglas and Sarpy Counties who bring their unwanted household

Omaha will be operating the Christmas tree collection sites as in past years. *However the former AkSarBen property will not be a collection point this year.* Watch for the next issue of **WASTELINE** which will include more about the Christmas tree drop-off sites.

Make your plans now on how you will dispose of your Christmas tree. Here are three easy options:

- ▲ take your tree to one of the collection sites the same way you got the tree home;
- ▲ place your tree securely in your yard and wait for yardwaste collection to resume the week of April 4, 2005;
- ▲ consider an artificial tree which can be used for many years. **o!**

**Yardwaste Collection ends Nov. 29-Dec. 3**

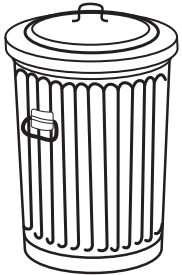


# Garbage

**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.



**Conserve Tax Dollars**  
**Waste Less and**  
**Recycle More!**

## 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.
- Items outside a can or bag.



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.

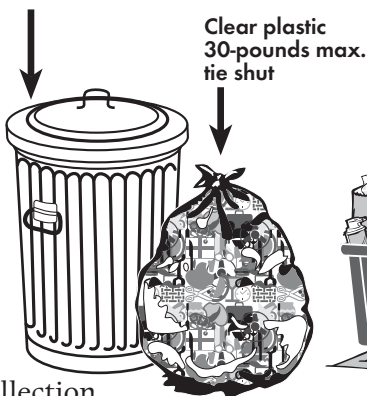
### Collection Pointers

- Place all materials out for collection by 6AM.
- If your collection was missed, call 444-5238 after 7PM on your collection day.

### Within 5 feet of curb or alley

#### Garbage: 5 containers max.

32-gal. 45-pound max.



Clear plastic  
30-pounds max.  
tie shut



Set out  
by 6AM

#### Yardwaste: No container limit

32-gal. 45-pound max.  
Marked YW

Paper bags only  
40-pounds max.

Growing Season Only



#### Recycling:

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

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



# 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.

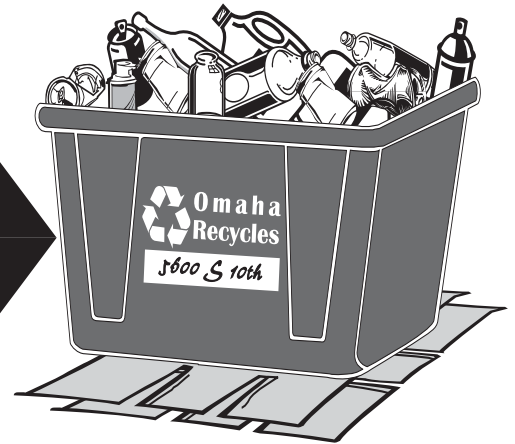
Yes



## 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



**Stomp 'em flat!**

**Remove Lids!**



Discard lids in garbage.



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



**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. 1116  
OMAHA, NE

**Last week of  
Yardwaste Collection  
Nov. 29-Dec. 3, 2004**



**Keep America Going, Recycle!**

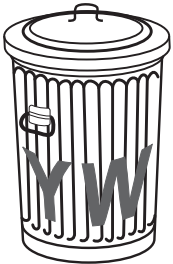


# Yardwaste

**Last week of Yardwaste  
Collection  
Nov. 29-Dec. 3, 2004**

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. Yardwaste collection season will end the week of November 29 - December 3, 2004. During the winter months, yardwaste is not collected—separately or with garbage.

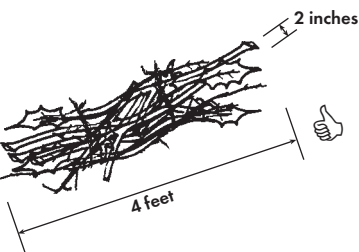
## Yes!



- ✔ 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!

- ✘ Plastic bags used in yardwaste collection.
- ✘ 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.
- ✘ 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.



# Proper Paint Disposal



**T**HERE IS NO REASON TO WAIT for **UnderTheSink** to open if all you need to dispose of is latex paint. Generally, latex paint is not hazardous and won't include any warnings on its label nor any special handling requirements (if it does, please follow those warnings and instructions!).

Unwanted latex paint can be safely disposed in the garbage once the paint is dry. Latex paint that has frozen is ruined and must be dried out and disposed of as garbage.

To quickly dry paint, it requires a few more steps than simply removing the lid. By following the instructions here, unwanted latex paint will be ready for your garbage in just a day or two.

## Items that you need:

- ▶ A low, flat box, approximately the size of a shirt box. A soda flat works well, but most any box will do.
- ▶ Absorbent material, such as kitty litter, sand or dirt. The amount you will need will depend on how much paint you have to dry out.
- ▶ A stick to stir the paint.
- ▶ Newspaper to line the box.
- ▶ A clear plastic bag for final disposal.

## Take it step-by-step

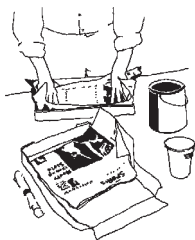
Please read all instructions before starting.

1. Collect all needed materials (listed above): Make sure you have enough of each item to complete the job.

2. Line the box: Open one section of newspaper (so that you are able to read the middle two pages of the section). Line each of the boxes with the open newspaper.

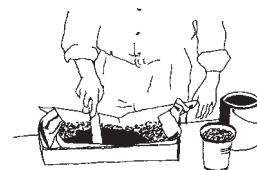
3. Add absorbent material: Pour a 1 inch layer of absorbent material into the newspaper-lined box. Spread the material to make an even layer.

4. Pour the liquid: Pour the unusable paint on the absorbent material. The amount of paint will vary depending on the type of absorbent material you are using. It is best to start with a small amount of paint, and add more paint if the absorbent material can handle it.





5. Mix the materials: Stir the paint and absorbent material. All of the pieces of absorbent material should be well covered with paint. If not, continue to stir or add more paint if you have more to dry out.

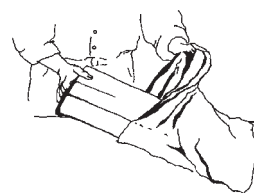


6. Time to dry: Allow the paint adequate time to dry in a well-ventilated area. The amount of time needed for the paint to dry depends on the amount of paint absorbed, the amount of ventilation, the surrounding temperature and the humidity.

7. Repeat if necessary: Repeat steps 2 through 6 until all of your paint is mixed with absorbent material and in boxes.

8. Empty the can: Be sure to scrape out as much paint as possible from the paint can.

9. Box and Bag it up: After all of the paint is dry or nearly dry, fold down the newspaper and sides of the box. Place the box of dried paint, stir stick and any other paint covered items in a clear plastic bag. Close the bag, and place with your household garbage.



10. Recycle/Dispose: Dry and empty metal paint cans, may be recycled in Omaha's curbside recycling bin. Plastic paint cans must go in the garbage. Dispose of all paint can lids in your garbage.

## Tips About Paint

- ▶ Measure the surface to be painted carefully and buy only the amount of paint that you will need to complete the job. Ask the store clerk to help you estimate the amount of paint needed. The clerk will ask you for the dimensions of the room or building to determine the amount of paint needed.
- ▶ Trade extra usable paint with neighbors. Some theatres and civic organizations can use paint.
- ▶ Buy low toxicity paint. In today's tightly constructed homes, the smells given off by paint can make people ill. Low toxicity paints have been developed that alleviate this problem. By federal law, all lead has been removed from household consumer paints.

## Paint Storage Recommendations

According to the National Paint & Coatings Association, paint can be stored for years if put away properly. The key to keeping paint fresh is a tight seal on the container. NP&CA recommends that before you cover the can you first clean the rim of any paint so the can will seal properly. Second, cover the paint can opening with a piece of plastic wrap. Third, place the lid back onto the container and over the plastic wrap, making sure to seal the lid tightly. Store the container upside down in a room that will not allow the paint to freeze. The paint should be kept away from heat, as well as children and pets.