

# WASTELINE

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

City of Omaha

Hal Daub, Mayor

November, 1999

Public Works Department

Don Elliott, Director

Environmental Quality Division

## The Carrot: more services! less taxes!

An article entitled "The Challenge" in the last issue of **WASTELINE** outlined one reason (*the stick*) for our recycling program—that is, the goals established by the State Legislature to reduce the amount of solid waste disposed in the landfill. The other reason (*the carrot*) is the revenue the City of Omaha receives from the sales of the recyclable materials collected and the landfill tip fees avoided. Each ton of recyclable materials that is not buried in the landfill reduces our expenses at the landfill by approximately \$20. In 1998 this revenue plus the amount saved amounted to \$594,812. A similar amount is expected in 1999.

So what happens to this money? It goes into the General Fund for the City services, just like your property and sales taxes. This fund pays for solid waste collection, public safety, parks, libraries, street cleaning and snow plowing, just to name a few items. So the more money recovered from recycling means more services and just possibly less taxes.

For example, one year's recycling "savings" is equal to:

- Six new snow plows
- Ten rehabilitated playgrounds
- Two miles (yes *miles*) of bike trail

It adds up really fast and we're just getting started. The City estimates that we are only recovering 50% of the recyclables that are available. That means some citizens are not recycling all they can and others are not recycling at all!

Please follow the set out rules for recyclables, garbage and yardwaste. Weyerhaeuser Recycling has had some problems with the quality of the recyclable materials brought in by Deffenbaugh, which can impact the amount of revenue received from sales of the recyclables. Quality starts with each citizen so please do your part.

What you can do to help—Together we can raise the City's revenue!

- Use your recycle bin to recycle everything listed on the recycling page. We estimate that less than 50% of all containers and mixed paper are recycled city-wide.
- Encourage your friends and neighbors to recycle if they don't. We estimate that participation in some neighborhoods is as low as 40%, while other areas are as high as 80%. The goal is 100% participation in every neighborhood.
- If you have questions or need a recycling bin, call 444-5238 for help.
- Keep a lid on your garbage can. Rain water collected in your garbage can costs more than \$20 a ton to dispose in the landfill—the same as the garbage. Besides water is a "bad thing" in the landfill.

Help make Omaha a better community, **one recycling bin at a time.**

### Take Note!

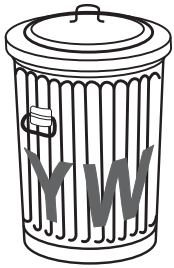
- Yardwaste collection ends the week of **November 29–December 3** on your regular day.
- **Celebrate America Recycles Day, November 15.** Complete your entry to *win the American Green Dream Home or other great prizes.* Entry form inside.
- **Upcoming collection holiday—Thanksgiving,** Thursday & Friday collections are delayed by one day.

# Yardwaste

**Yardwaste collection will end on December 3**

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.

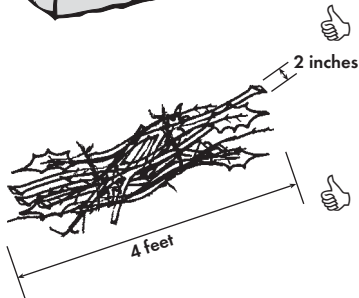
## Yes!



- ✔ 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. They 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 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.
- Plastic bags are not collected for recycling and should not be used to hold materials in your bin.
- Recycling and solid waste information for Omaha is available from InTouch. With a touch tone phone, dial 492-9955, then select from these categories:

Recycling, Curbside	6820
Recycling, Special Topics	6823
Garbage Collection	6822
Yardwaste Collection	6821
Collection Problems	6824



# 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.

Yes



## Paper sack #2—Mixed Paper

- Includes: Magazines, catalogues, cereal boxes, junk-mail (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.

Yes

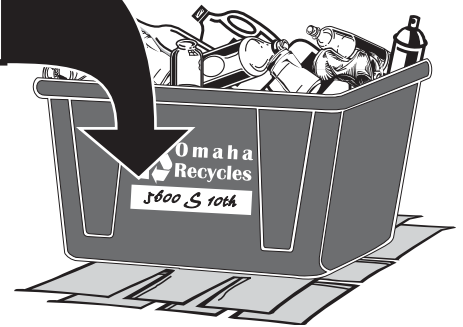


## Loose in the bin (*Not in plastic bags*)—Containers

- 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. 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.
- Write your address on the bin, where indicated with a permanent marker.

Yes

Write your address here.



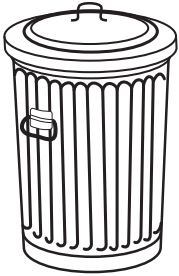
## Recycling Collection Tips

- 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)

# 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.



Special garbage, yardwaste and recyclables collection assistance is available to households where all residents in the home have a medical disability, or are age 70 or older.

To apply, call 444-5238 from 8AM until 8PM weekdays.

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

Printed and distributed with the cooperation and financial assistance of Deffenbaugh Industries and Weyerhaeuser Recycling.



Printed on a 50% recycled content paper that includes 20% Post-consumer fibers and 30% Pre-consumer fibers.



### 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

**Important information about  
your recyclables, garbage and  
yardwaste collection.  
Yardwaste collection ends the  
week of November 29.**

# 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 to keep recycling working is to "Buy Recycled" or "Close the Loop" by purchasing products made from recycled content materials. 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 DIVISION  
5600 S 10TH ST  
OMAHA, NE 68107-3501

Fold here

Cut here, then mail



**Celebrate  
America  
Recycles  
Day  
November  
15**



# Win The "American Green Dream House"

## Support America Recycles Day November 15

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 sort out your recyclables, they're collected then manufacturers buy the materials to make into products again.

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, 1999, and you could win one of many great prizes, even the "American Green Dream House," a brand new \$200,000 three bedroom, 2-1/2 bath home built primarily with recycled materials plus \$35,000 allotted for land purchase. Those under 18 can win a trip for their family to Walt Disney World. Numerous Nebraska prizes are also available. But you can't win if you don't make a pledge, and recycling will lose if you don't.

**The fine print:** Please enter me in the random drawing to be held December 15, 1999 for the youth and Nebraska prizes, and December 15, 2000 for the American Green Dream House. Deadline for entries November 20, 1998. **One entry per person for 1999.** No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. Entries must be received by November 20, 1999. 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, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Contest Rules, c/o George Rutherford, 1727 King St., Ste 105, Alexandria, VA 22314-2720.

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

### **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 under the age of 18.

Cut here, then mail