

# WASTELINE

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

City of Omaha

Hal Daub, Mayor

September, 2000

Public Works Department

Don Elliott, Director

Environmental Quality Division

## Help Wanted Revisited

Last issue's article titled "Help Wanted" identified that the tons of materials being recycled this year is not keeping pace with the increase expected due to annexation. Unfortunately that trend has not reversed yet, and it will take everyone's participation to reach the waste reduction goals established by the Legislature in 1992 for all Nebraska communities.

### So what can you do to help?

First, start using your recycling bin if you aren't. Second, increase the amount of materials that you recycle, and third, reduce what has to be dis-

posed of in the landfill.

### The Paper Chase

By far the largest percentage (by weight) of material that is recycled is paper, both newspaper and mixed paper and the greatest amount of revenue the recycling program receives comes from paper. But the amount of paper collected (and the revenue too!) is still below what we expect to recover.

### We Can Help

If you want to recycle, but have questions, problems or need a recycling bin, call us at 444-5238. Please do not let minor problems deter you

from recycling. The details of paper recycling are included in this issue of **WASTELINE**, and general instructions about recycling can be mailed to you if you call 444-5238.

### Your Choice

Remember, it's your money, and your decision how tax dollars are spent. Recycling avoids expenses and brings in revenues; landfilling costs money, and wastes natural resources.

Let's make Omaha a better community, *One Recycling Bin At A Time.* ●

**UnderTheSink.Org**

Special Waste Facility



Continuing in the spirit of cooperation and consolidation of service delivery, Douglas and Sarpy Counties together with the City of Omaha are working to develop a program for collecting household hazardous waste (HHW). Hazardous can be a scary term, but what it really means are the common cleaners and chemicals used in your home and garden. These products just need some special attention when disposing so the plants, animals, people, soil, water and air are protected.

This project is being coordinated by the Metro Area Planning Agency (MAPA), and every effort is being made to ensure the public's participation in the design and location of the facility and program. Meetings are being held with interested groups and the general public to gather their needs and desires for the facility's operation and location.

Please participate and make your concerns and desires known before the planning is completed. Watch for notices in the newspaper, the **WASTELINE**, and the web site, [www.underthesink.org](http://www.underthesink.org). MAPA can also be contacted for information at 444-6866. ●

### Service Reminders

- Place all materials at your collection point by 6AM. Place within 5 feet of curb, approved alley or other approved location.
- Garbage is limited to a maximum of five containers per week (example 2 trash cans and 3 bags).
- Garbage should be placed in trash cans up to 32 gallons that weigh up to 45 pounds when full, or in see-through bags (clear bags preferred) that weigh up to 30 pounds when full. Garbage cans must have lids and handles.
- Leave a couple feet of space between your yardwaste, recyclables and garbage containers so the collectors can identify the materials.
- If your collection was missed, call 444-5238 *after 7pm* on your collection day.

# Sack # 1 – Newspaper



Newspaper and mixed paper must be placed in separate paper sacks for collection. We must all work to be sure that only the correct types of paper are collected for recycling, in the correct category. If other types of paper are included, it will cause problems in the recycling process, so please be careful what you place in your recycling bin and keep this mailing as a reference.

## Yes!



- ✔ Newspapers
- ✔ Newspaper inserts
- ✔ Advertisements delivered with the newspaper
- ✔ Newspaper coupons



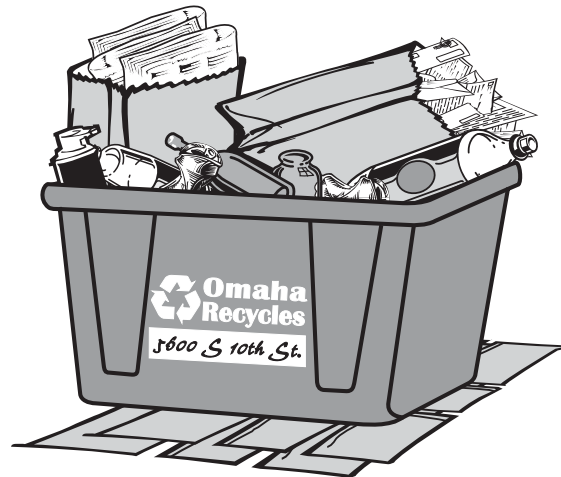
Place paper in *paper bags only!* It is ok for paper to get wet from rain on collection day.

Lay sacks of paper on top of bin to prevent litter. Face opening away from direction of wind to prevent

## No!



- ⊘ Plastic Bags
- ⊘ Rubber bands
- ⊘ Soiled paper
- ⊘ Paper that should be in the mixed paper sack.



Cut corrugated cardboard boxes down to **two feet by two feet** and place under your recycling bin for collection.

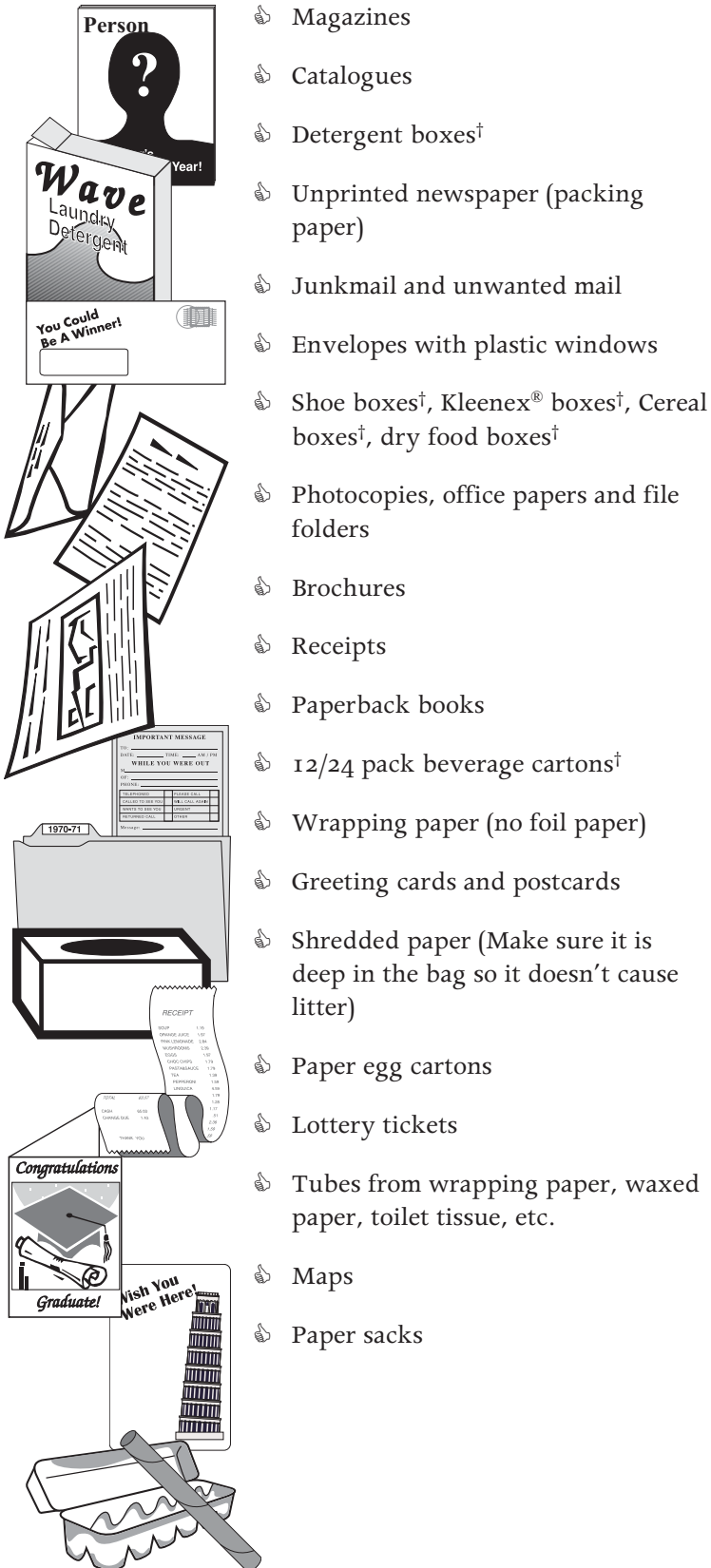
### Recycling Collection Tips

- 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)

# Sack #2 — Mixed Paper

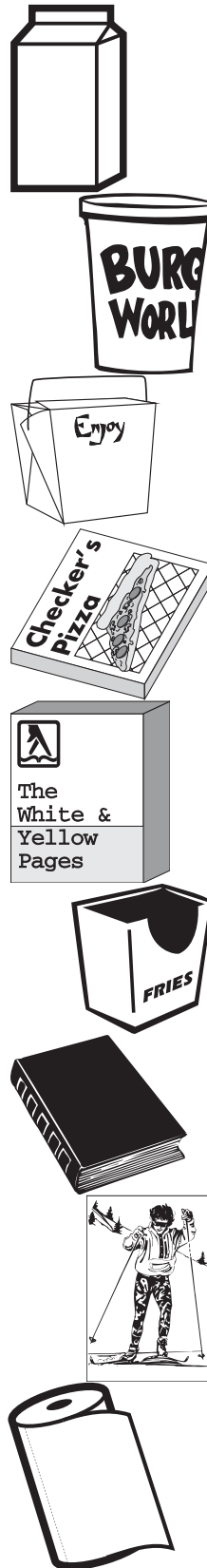
## Yes!

† Flatten boxes before recycling.



- 👉 Magazines
- 👉 Catalogues
- 👉 Detergent boxes†
- 👉 Unprinted newspaper (packing paper)
- 👉 Junkmail and unwanted mail
- 👉 Envelopes with plastic windows
- 👉 Shoe boxes†, Kleenex® boxes†, Cereal boxes†, dry food boxes†
- 👉 Photocopies, office papers and file folders
- 👉 Brochures
- 👉 Receipts
- 👉 Paperback books
- 👉 12/24 pack beverage cartons†
- 👉 Wrapping paper (no foil paper)
- 👉 Greeting cards and postcards
- 👉 Shredded paper (Make sure it is deep in the bag so it doesn't cause litter)
- 👉 Paper egg cartons
- 👉 Lottery tickets
- 👉 Tubes from wrapping paper, waxed paper, toilet tissue, etc.
- 👉 Maps
- 👉 Paper sacks

## No!



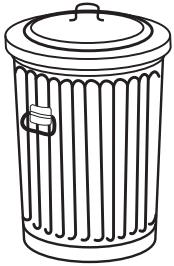
- ⊗ Pizza boxes
- ⊗ Frozen food boxes
- ⊗ Telephone books
- ⊗ Milk cartons
- ⊗ Paper cups
- ⊗ Juice Boxes
- ⊗ Soiled paper
- ⊗ Chinese takeout boxes
- ⊗ Tissue paper
- ⊗ Napkins
- ⊗ Ice cream cartons
- ⊗ Wax paper, Saran® wrap
- ⊗ Foil wrapping paper
- ⊗ Foil printed or flocked greeting cards
- ⊗ Hardbound books
- ⊗ Styro® foam egg cartons
- ⊗ Photographs
- ⊗ Wallpaper
- ⊗ Facial tissue (Kleenex®), toilet paper
- ⊗ Newspaper that should be in sack #1

# Yardwaste

Yardwaste collection ends on December 1.

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 such as fallen apples, rotted or excess vegetables & fruits.
- ✔ 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. The bundle itself must be of a manageable size.

## No!

- ⊗ Mixtures of yardwaste and garbage.
- ⊗ Litter, trash or garbage.
- ⊗ Plastic bags of yardwaste.
- ⊗ Cardboard boxes of yardwaste.
- ⊗ Street sweeping sand and litter.
- ⊗ Whole cans of dirt or sod.
- ⊗ Pet manure.
- ⊗ Kitty litter.
- ⊗ Branches over 2 inches in diameter.
- ⊗ Branches over 4 feet long.
- ⊗ Plastic or nylon rope/twine or wire used on brush.
- ⊗ Unbundled brush.

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

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

**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