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Winter 2019

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Manitowoc County Recycling Center



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RECYCLE RIGHT 10 POINTS

Help us to clean up the recycling stream in Manitowoc County! Contamination has become an increasing concern throughout the worldwide recycling community. Many international markets for post consumer recyclables have ceased, or significantly reduced, and they are citing high contamination levels as the main reason. As a result, many recycling programs are encouraging their users to review the recycling guidelines and clean up their recycling habits. It is more important than ever to keep the recycling stream clean and only put items in that can actually be made into new products. The cleaner our recycling stream, the better value it has and the less it costs to recycle. This includes your curbside pickup and the containers at your local recycling depot. After sorting through tons of recyclables and talking to many recyclers in our area we have put together this list of 10 points to help people understand the reasoning behind our guidelines and some of the challenges we face.



- The recycling bin is not the garbage for all your plastic junk. That means you should only recycle #1 and #2 bottles and jars. Don't place #3-#7 plastics, clamshells, buckets, yogurt containers, hangers, tupperware, toothbrushes, plastic bags, diapers, car seats, chip bags, styrofoam or anything else in with your plastic recycling.
- Even if it has a recycling symbol with a number that does not mean it is recyclable. Yes, that is kind of confusing. These are resin identification codes and while they help us identify types of plastic that may be recyclable, they do not mean that it is universally recyclable.
- Just because 'they' recycle it in another area does not mean it is recyclable here. Different programs are set up differently. Some states have access to more buyers for different types of materials, other areas accept low value recyclables or more residual garbage because they pay for their programs with higher processing fees or a higher level of tax funding. We accept the materials that we do because they have a history of being marketable commodities that fetch a price that justifies sorting, baling, storing and shipping them to a potential buyer. We accept all the recyclables that are banned from landfill disposal in Wisconsin.
- Just because you think it should be recycled does not mean it will be recycled. We would love to recycle everything too! It does not work like that though, if it is not on our list of acceptable items, we have to pick it out and dispose of it. All you are doing is making more work for us.
- Landfills are there for a reason and should be used for your trash. If you don't want to fill up the landfill then you should buy less disposable goods. Or reuse stuff more. Or buy items in packages that you know are recyclable in your community. Or, start home composting (garbage is usually 30-35% food waste). Anyways, if you put trash in your recycling it still ends up in the landfill, it just wastes more resources getting there.
- Plastic bags should go to the return centers located at most grocery stores. Or in your garbage if they are soiled and gross. Never in your recycling. That

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Mission Statement

To provide materials recycling and recovery services to the citizens of Manitowoc County and to keep the public informed about recycling issues.



Manitowoc County Recycling Center & Compost Sites
 3000 Basswood Road, Manitowoc WI
 920-683-4333
Manitowocounty.com/recyclingcenter



includes the bags holding your recyclables; they are convenient for you but not for the people who have to sort them from your recycling or cut them out of the conveyors and screens at the recycling center. If you put a 'bag of bags' in your recycling bin and it gets picked out at the Recycling Center, it will go in the trash. Yes, that happens a lot so please use the return centers at the local grocery stores. *Continued from page 1*

7. Pesticide and oil bottles are not recyclable. Even cooking oil bottles. Even if they are a #2 bottle. Residual oil can cause problems for plastic shredders at the companies that purchase baled plastic bottles. Residual pesticides can contaminate a batch of plastic and limit its usefulness. It does not matter if you rinse them out. No one can tell if you rinsed them dozens of times or not at all. They have to get picked out and are often hard to see with the other non-pesticide bottles.
8. Tiny pieces of plastic belong in the trash. Those little plastic snivels fall through the spaces in sorting equipment and trucks and collect with the other residue that needs to get cleaned up. We don't recycle them after we scrape them out of our equipment. Yes, that means loose bottle caps too.
9. Soiled paper and cardboard is not recyclable. That includes greasy pizza boxes, cake pans, donut boxes, microwave dinner boxes, used paper toweling, and Kleenex. Yes, people try to recycle used Kleenex, it is gross.
10. Needles, electronics, and chemicals have no place in your recycling (or your garbage). This should be obvious! We want workers to be safe and not have our equipment start on fire. Needles are a huge safety risk for everyone handling your trash and recycling, they can spread bloodborne pathogens like HIV and Hepatitis. A needle stick guarantees a couple expensive visits to the hospital for a worker just to check for pathogen exposure. Batteries are notorious for starting fires when they get damaged, especially the powerful lithium batteries in many modern electronics. Chemicals can have many different properties. They can easily be ignitable, caustic, or toxic and the recycling workers seldom know what has leaked all over.

Our recycling guidelines are on page 6 of this newsletter. We hope these 10 pointers help enlighten recyclers in our community. For more information about local recycling and composting programs visit our website at Manitowocounty.com/recyclingcenter or you can call the Recycling Center at 920-683-4333.

BURNING GARBAGE IS A PROBLEM FOR COMMUNITIES

Household garbage has changed in the last few decades. Today's trash now contains more plastics, dyes and other chemicals that release hazardous substances when burned. Many of these materials were not used a few decades ago. When you burn garbage, we all breathe the smoke and ash that disperses through the air. Pollution that settles out of the air can accumulate in the soil and water. It can contaminate vegetation and be eaten by animals and humans. The ash from burning garbage can contain high concentrations of pollutants that can contaminate soil in yards or gardens if handled improperly.



The pollutants from burning today's garbage can cause many health problems and exacerbate health problems for people with pre-existing medical conditions or for infants or elderly. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lists a number of pollutants produced from backyard burning including: dioxins, particulate matter, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds, formaldehyde, hexachlorobenzene, hydrochloric acid, benzopyrene and heavy metals like cadmium, arsenic, mercury and chromium. These substances are known to contribute to, or cause, certain types of cancers, immune system problems, respiratory illness, nervous system damage, liver and kidney damage, skin and eye irritation. Many of these pollutants can also bioaccumulate in the environment and cause problems for fish and wildlife.

Burn barrels and open pit burning are different than the municipal solid waste incinerators that are used in some communities. Solid waste incinerators are highly regulated and fitted with pollution controls. They are monitored and permitted through regulatory agencies. The ash they generate is handled properly. Backyard burning happens without pollution controls or regulation. The temperatures reached in burn barrels and fire pits are relatively low so they produce more smoke and higher levels of pollution.

Your "garbage" should be landfilled, recycled or composted depending on what it is. Everyone has access to affordable and accessible trash and recycling service whether it be curbside pickup, your local drop off centers, or the landfill. Both Manitowoc County and your local government takes steps to make sure there are disposal and recycling options for you. It is illegal to burn materials like furniture, treated wood, plastic, shingles, tires, siding, wire or solid waste in Wisconsin. Stricter ordinances may apply in your area for burning materials like leaves and brush. For more information on what to do with your garbage, recyclables or yard materials contact the Manitowoc County Recycling Center or your local hauler. For more information on burn barrels visit websites at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources or the Environmental Protection Agency.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is accepting unwanted Christmas lights for FREE. Strings of lights are highly recyclable, even with the bulbs in them. Bring them to the Recycling Center Main Office at 3000 Basswood Road Monday-Friday between 7am and 4pm.

Replacing old lights with new energy efficient LED lights can help you save on your electric bill.

All string lights will be accepted as well as extension cords. Garland, wreaths, trees and other lighted decorations will not be accepted. Normal light bulbs, including spot lights, compact fluorescents, fluorescent tubes, and incandescent bulbs can be recycled but normal fees apply.

Visit the Recycling Center at Manitowoccounty.com/recyclingcenter or call 920-683-4333 to learn more about Christmas Light Recycling and similar programs offered in Manitowoc County.

**RECYCLE YOUR HOLIDAY TREE**

Manitowoc County residents and businesses may drop off their natural holiday trees at the Basswood Compost Site. Remove all ornaments, tinsel, lights, stands and storage bags from trees before dropping off. If your tree is more than 6 feet long, please cut it in half. The Basswood compost site is located at 3000 Basswood Rd., near the intersection of CTY P and R. Please call 920-683-4333 or visit Manitowoccounty.com/recyclingcenter for information.

According to the National Christmas Tree Association around 29 million natural trees are sold over the holidays. Many of these trees are recycled once their holiday usefulness is over. Used natural trees can be chipped and turned into wood mulch. Mulch is used for groundcover and erosion control in landscaping projects and trails. Another popular use is for constructing wildlife habitat. If properly placed in a backyard these holiday conifers provide shelter and protection for songbirds during the winter. Placed in loose piles at the edge of a woodland, these trees help many wildlife including birds, small mammals and even the animals that depend on them for food. Many sportsmen will construct these brush piles to attract small game or to create hunting blinds. Carefully placed piles on the ice in lakes can be used to create fish habitat once the ice melts and the trees sink to the bottom. Be sure to check for restrictions before building fish or wildlife structures.

Holiday trees may be taken for free from the Manitowoc County Basswood Compost Site during normal business hours. Whole trees will be set aside in a

**TREE FOR A TREE**

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is assisting the City of Manitowoc Parks and Forestry Department to distribute vouchers for their Tree for a Tree Program. Throughout January 2019, City of Manitowoc residents will be able to receive a voucher for a free deciduous tree when they bring their natural Christmas tree to the Basswood Compost Site. Trees must be free of ornaments, stands, lights, bags, etc. Participants must come to the Recycling Center Main Office, open Monday through Friday between 7am and 4pm, before dropping off their tree. There are a limited number of vouchers available on a first come, first served basis with a limit of one per household to City of Manitowoc residents. Vouchers are redeemable at the Silver Creek Nursery from April 15 to May 15 for deciduous seedlings known as "whips", which are about 3-4 feet tall, 2-4 years old, and ready for planting.

This program is part of an urban forestry grant through the WDNR to help regain some of the urban tree canopy which will be lost due to the Emerald Ash Borer.

DRUG DISPOSAL PROGRAM RESULTS

2018 was another good year for the drug collection program. Throughout the year a total of 3 collection events were held and drop boxes were available at Manitowoc City Police Department, Two Rivers Police Department and the Sheriff's Office. A total of 1,675.3 pounds of medications were turned in. This included over the counter medications, dietary supplements, prescription medications and pet medications. It did not include pill bottles or packaging. The Drug Collection Program started in 2006 and has since collected 15,965.7 pounds of medications.

Unused medications present public health and safety concerns within the community. Pharmaceutical chemicals can also show up in the water supply, partly due to the practice of flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash. Medications may lay around the house for weeks or even years. This is often when medications are stolen from relatives and acquaintances. Stolen medications wind up on the illegal drug market where they are abused and have resulted in unintended poisonings as well as overdoses and addictions in our community.

All the collected medications were sent to the Wisconsin Department of Justice's Drug Take Back Program. They reported collecting a total of 131,557 pounds of medications in Wisconsin this year including a record amount this fall. From the moment medications are turned in they are handled, stored, and transported by law officers until they are destroyed at a Hazardous Waste incinerator that is regulated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. This type of regulated incineration uses high temperatures and pollution controls to safely incinerate these substances.

Permanent Dropbox Locations:

- Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office: 1025 South 9th St, Manitowoc, 8am—4:30pm M-F
- Manitowoc City Police Dept: 910 Jay Street, Manitowoc, 7:30am—4:30pm M-F
- Two Rivers Police Dept: 1717 East Park Street, Two Rivers, 8am—4:30pm M-F

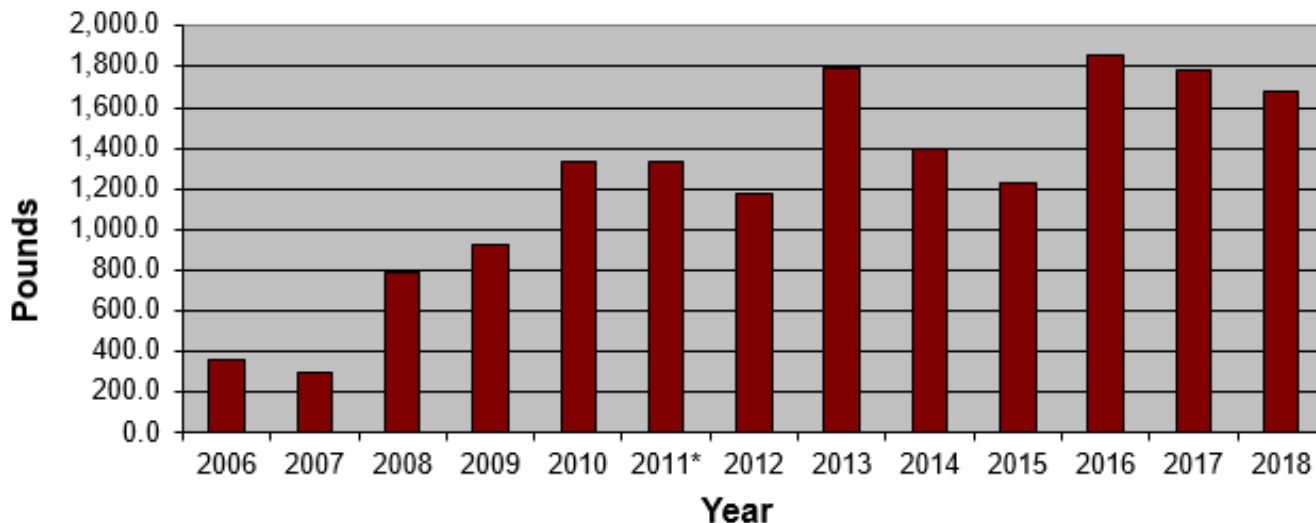
Directions:

Remove pills from original container and put them in a sealed "ziplock" style bag that is quart size or smaller before placing in the drug drop box. Empty pill containers may be placed in your home recycling or trash. Liquid, powder, and cream medications should remain in the original bottles with caps tightened. Accepted medications include over the counter, prescriptions, supplements, and pet medications. Never dump thermometers, sharps, or chemicals in a drop box.

Complete information on the Drug Disposal Program is available at Manitowoccounty.com/recyclingcenter or you can call the Recycling Center at 920-683-4333.

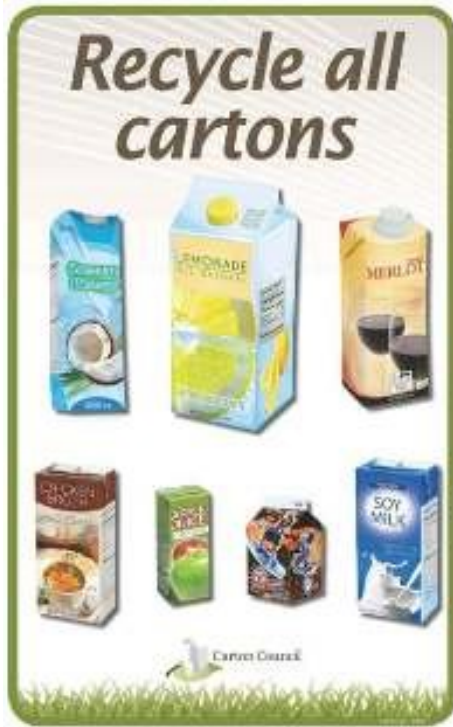


Drug Disposal Program: Pounds of Medications Collected per Year



CARTON RECYCLING

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center accepts food and beverage cartons for recycling. These familiar cartons are used to contain a variety of products commonly found on your grocery lists. Some examples are containers for wine, milk, soy milk, juice, cream, soup, broth, and egg substitutes. Cartons are made from paper fibers, plastic, and aluminum so they are highly recyclable. When bringing your cartons to the Manitowoc County Recycling Center they can be placed with the plastic bottles. Cartons should be emptied and flattened but there is no need to rinse them. If you have curbside pickup in the City of Manitowoc or City of Two Rivers you should place your cartons with the plastic containers. Otherwise, check with your local hauler or drop off center for availability and guidelines.



REUSE AT RUMMAGE A RAMA

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle... and Rummage A Rama! Reuse occurs whenever we use an item again, for its intended or unintended purpose, rather than just throwing it away. Organizations like Goodwill and the Salvation Army help to redistribute items from those who no longer need them to those who can use those items again. Rummage and estate sales also accomplish reuse. This helps to lessen the amount of municipal solid waste going into landfills, conserves the materials and energy used to manufacture and transport new items and redistributes items to those who need them.

The Manitowoc County Expo will hold Rummage Sales on February 9 and March 9 in the Merchants building from 8:30am - 2:30pm. There is a \$.50 admission fee. Over 130 tables will have a variety clothing, antiques and collectibles.

If you have items to sell visit the Expo website at Manitowoccounty.com/expo and navigate to Rummage Sales.



WASTE TIRE COLLECTION RESULTS

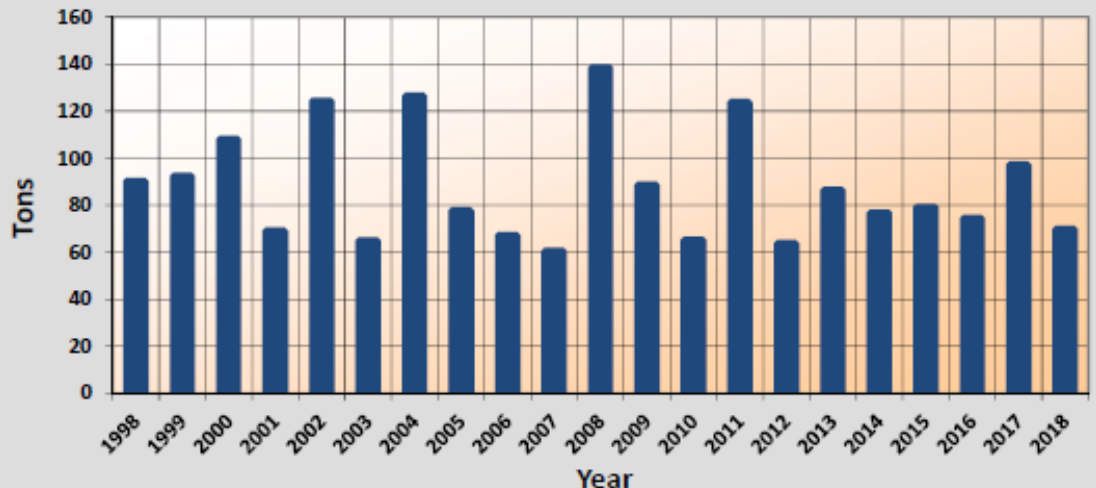
Manitowoc County residents and businesses brought in a total of 69.7 tons of waste tires. The majority of this was car and truck tires, though there were many other types, such as; bicycle, ATV, lawnmower, tractor, semi, and race car tires. We are especially happy that this was the first successful seasonal tire collection for Manitowoc County. Previous collections happened during 2 weeks in September. For 2018 the service was expanded to run from April through October.

The Waste Tire Collection started in 1998 and has collected 1844 tons of tires since it began. This collection typically has between 60 and 140 tons of unwanted tires annually. All the tires are shipped out to a reputable tire recycler that specializes in recycling tires.

Waste tires can be reused in a number of beneficial ways. They can be shred into rubber chips and used as artificial turf or as a groundcover in playgrounds. Tire rubber can be incorporated into asphalt roads, athletic tracks and used in other rubber products. Depending on what other materials are in the tire they may also be used as a fuel source. When burned in specially designed incinerators the release of noxious smoke can be controlled. Nylon and steel that is commonly found in tires is also recycled.

The tire collection will resume in April 2019 and run through October. Watch for the 2019 guidelines and rates online or in the next newsletter.

Tons of Tires Collected per Year








RECYCLING DEPOT

The Manitowoc Recycling Center maintains a residential drop off area at the Recycling Center Main office located at 3000 Basswood Road. It is open Monday-Friday from 7am to 4pm, and Saturday from 8am to Noon. This site is intended for use by all county residents. There is no trash or garbage drop off at this location. Contact a local hauler or the Ridgeview Landfill for disposal of trash. Different municipal drop off sites may be more accessible to you depending on the city, township or village you are from.

General Drop Site Guidelines

- Place your recyclables in the bunker or receptacle labeled for that material.
- Remove any plastic bags or strings and take them home with you to place in your trash.
- Do not place unacceptable items in the bunkers or receptacles.
- Do not place materials outside receptacles on the ground.
- Large loads of cardboard, paper or plastic can be placed on appropriate pile on the tipping floor.
- Use caution driving through the drop site and on the tipping floor.

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| <p><u>Paper</u> Includes newspapers, junk mail, magazines, computer paper, books with metal or plastic binding removed etc.. Paper should be clean and dry. No paper contaminated with food or oil. No paper coated with foil, plastic or heavy glue. No plastic/foil wrapping paper.</p> |  | <p><u>Plastic</u> Check for a neck. We only accept #1 and #2 bottles and jars. Remove the caps, rinse and flatten. No tub shaped containers or bottles that contained oil or pesticide (even if rinsed). No plastic wraps, films, bags, trays, pails, packaging peanuts, Styrofoam, or any other non bottle shaped item. Please do not tie milk jugs together or tie in plastic bags.</p> |  |
| <p><u>Glass Bottles</u> Any color glass bottle or jar can be recycled. Put into designated bunker. Remove lids or caps and rinse. No window glass, mirrors, light bulbs, clay, ceramics, drinking glasses or ovenware.</p> |  | <p><u>Cartons</u> Cartons include shelf stable and refrigerated containers for wine, milk, juice, cream, soy milk, soup, and egg substitutes. Drop off cartons with the plastic bottles. They should be emptied and flattened.</p> |  |
| <p><u>Cardboard</u> Should be clean and flattened. No soiled cardboard or cardboard coated with wax, tin, or plastic.</p> |  | <p><u>Cans</u> Tin, steel, and aluminum cans. Coated cans, foil, and pie tins are ok. Empty and rinse out food residue.</p> |  |

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER REQUEST

Are you interested in receiving current updates recycling programs in Manitowoc County? Join our electronic mailing list to receive our quarterly newsletter. Either call us at 920-683-4333 or email jonreisenbuechler@co.manitowoc.wi.us and request to be added to our email distribution list. The recycling center will not give away or sell your information. You will receive our quarterly newsletter detailing news and information about the recycling center and related events.

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is operated by Ascend Services Inc. Formerly Holiday House of Manitowoc Inc.



The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is a business unit of the Manitowoc County Department of Public Works and is operated in partnership with the Manitowoc County Expo Center.

