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## Spring Cleaning

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The birds are chirping and the sun is shining, the perfect time to do a little spring cleaning! When cleaning your home remember that many items may be donated for reuse. Good options in Dunn County include Goodwill, the United Way C-3 Center, USAgain donation boxes located around the county and local churches like Grace Church Thrift Store.

These entities may not accept all items so it's recommended to check with them before donating certain goods. Items not accepted would typically include broken or unusable electronics, appliances, furniture and child carseats. Also, when donating things such as furniture, appliances or home improvement items please make sure items are in good working order.

#### Clothes and Linens

It's a little known fact that worn or battered clothing and linens may still be donated to either Goodwill or USAgain. Ratty jeans,

moth eaten t-shirts, ripped bedding and stained tablecloths aren't necessarily collected to be sold and reworn. Instead, these unwearable items are sold and made into industrial rags or insulation. Please note that all items still need to be washed before donating.

Other items that we might think are unwearable due to outdated fashion or their amount of wear are actually quite usable in other counties. Many third world countries have made an industry around buying, selling and altering clothes from countries like the United States. The same is true of shoes. We may think our running shoes no longer have support but to a person living in Africa who has no shoes, they are a dream come true. When donating shoes try to keep pairs together by tying laces or using string to secure pairs.

#### Unusable Items

As you're cleaning you may come across some

unusable items such as a broken radio or rocking chair. Items such as these may be brought to an Area Collection Station or the Transfer and Recycling Station for proper disposal. Electronics (excluding TVs or computer monitors), motor oil, car batteries, rechargeable batteries, oil filters, eye glasses, hearing aids, CFL bulbs and scrap metal are free to dispose of by any member of the public.

Other goods such as chairs, couches, tires, TVs, computer monitors, toilets, construction and demolition material, non CFL light bulbs, mattresses and box springs all have fees associated with them. Also as a reminder, residents from non-participating municipalities, such as the City of Menomonie, must also pay to dispose of any other household generated trash.



### Stump the Grump

How many tons of textiles were recycled at the Dunn County Collection Stations and Transfer and Recycling Center in 2014?



Answer: 4.95 tons or 9,900 pounds!

Dunn County Solid Waste Division \* Editor: Recycling Specialist, Amanda Haffele

[www.facebook.com/dunncountyrecycling](http://www.facebook.com/dunncountyrecycling) \* 715-232-4017

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# Paint

Even though latex paint is water based and not a toxic material, it cannot be thrown into the trash. Very few places will accept it for donations either. Dry latex paint, however, may be thrown in the trash. Dry the paint out at home and save yourself some money during the next household hazardous waste event!

Improperly dried paint can cause one heck of a headache to haulers, roadway crews and incur a possible fine to clean up the mess. Here are some effective ways to dry paint out at

home. The easiest method is to pop the lid and let the paint harden. Remember to always keep drying paint in a well-ventilated, sheltered location away from children and pets. If a paint can is too full or you don't feel like waiting for it to dry, stir in some sawdust, kitty litter or a commercial hardener. Another option is to paint a piece of cardboard until the cans used up.

Non-latex paints and stains all need to be saved for a household hazard waste event. During these collec-

tions these types of materials are free to dispose of. If you just can't wait until September, Dunn County has partnered with Northwest Regional Planning Commission up in Spooner. Residents may bring hazardous materials up there for proper disposal as well. It is recommended to call ahead of time to verify hours; 715-635-2197.

Good luck cleaning and Happy Earth Day!



# Don't Forget the Garage

When cleaning this spring, don't forget to properly dispose of items in the garage. Many of these items including antifreeze, oil, gasoline, pool chemicals and more are hazardous if accidentally ingested or spilled.

Below is a quick list of items that should never be dumped or tossed and what to do with them.

## Antifreeze

Unmixed antifreeze can be brought to an Area Collection Station or the Transfer and Recycling Center for free disposal. If the material was mixed with gas or another substance then save it for a hazardous waste event. It will be free to dispose of at this time as well.

## Used Oil and Oil Filters

These materials can be brought to any of our sites for proper recycling. There is no disposal fee.

## Propane Tanks

Empty propane tanks with a visible hole may be handed to a site attendant for proper disposal. Tanks that can be reused should be taken to

one of Cedar Country Cooperative's Auto Repair locations in either Menomonie or Colfax.

Below is a list of materials that we don't have a year round collection for. Instead save these materials for a Hazardous Waste Event.

- Glue
- Gun Cleaning Fluids
- Lacquer
- Lead-Based Paints
- Oil Based Paints
- Stripper
- Swimming Pool Chemicals
- Stripper
- Thinner
- Turpentine
- Varnish
- Brake Fluid
- Carburetor Cleaner
- Engine Cleaner
- Fuels, Old or Mixed
- Transmission Fluid



- 2, 4-D
- 2, 4 5 - T & TP
- Arsenic
- Chlordane
- DDT
- Fertilizer
- Fungicide
- Insect Repellent
- Insecticide
- Kepone
- Penta
- Pesticide
- Poison
- Rodent Bait
- Silvex
- Snail & Slug Bait



All these items are free to dispose of during a Hazardous Waste Event.

The 2015 events will take place on Wednesday September 9 at the Colfax Fairgrounds (4 pm—6 pm) and Thursday September 10 at the Transfer Station (4 pm—7 pm).

## Yard Waste

Dunn County operates four yard waste sites at the following locations:

Dunn County Yard Waste Drop-off Site (377th Street in the Town of Menomonie), Boyceville Area Collection Station, Colfax Area Collection Station and the Elk Mound Area Collection Station.

Residents are able to use these sites during normal operating hours.

Brush and compost are accepted at all Dunn County’s yard waste sites.

### Brush

This pile is for items such as tree limbs, shrubs and Christmas trees. Limbs should be less than 6 inches in diameter and 6 feet in length.

### Compost

Grass clippings and dried leaves may be added to this compost pile. Once the pile has appropriately broken down, the finished compost is free.

**NO painted, stained or treated lumber, tree stumps or tree roots are accepted.** These items may be disposed of for a fee. They are charged

the same fee that construction and demolition material is charged.

Invasive species should be bagged and put in the trash. Visit the WI Department of Natural Resource’s website for a list of invasive species.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/>



## Medical Waste

When cleaning out the bathroom or an old drawer you may come across some medical waste such as outdated prescriptions, vitamins or over the counter pills.

Never flush or dispose of medication in the trash. Improper medication disposal or storage can lead to:

**Contamination of water resources** – Drugs that are flushed can end up in rivers, lakes and drinking water.

**Accidental poisonings** – Children can mistake pills as candy and eat them.

**Substance abuse** – Medications in the trash or in the home can be stolen and abused.

### Dunn County Program

- No cost to participate
- No questions or personal information needed
- For residents only. No clinic, hospital or business disposal.
- Pertains to prescription and over the counter medications for people or animals. This includes: pills, vitamins, ointments, creams, sprays, inhalers, liquids and patches.



- No biohazards (sharps or needles), personal hygiene products or hazardous waste accepted.

### Where

Dunn County Sherriff’s Office  
 Dunn County Judicial Center  
 615 Stokke Parkway  
 Menomonie, WI 54751  
 Monday - Friday, 8 am to 4:30 pm  
 (715) 232-1564

To find the Sheriff’s Office, park in the lower level lot. Once inside the building turn left, following signs to the Sheriff’s Office. Medication handed over at the service counter will be placed in a locked box.

## Oops

I made a gross calculation error in last month’s column. Here is the correction: In 2014, Dunn County residents’ recycling of steel cans saved

enough energy to watch television for 70,636 hours and to power a 60 watt light bulb for 87,616 hours!

