

Can You Spot What is Recyclable?

There are four items that are recyclable and four that should go into the trash. Can you correctly identify them? Find out if you nailed it by checking your answers on the inside!



Dunn County Environmental Services
Solid Waste and Recycling Division
800 Wilson Avenue, Room 235
Menomonie, WI 54751
Phone (715) 232-4017

The Dunn County Recycler



The Dunn County Recycler



The Dunn County Environmental Services Recycling Newsletter Vol. 16 • May 2016

Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling Collection Stations

The following Area Collection Stations and the Dunn County Transfer Station and Recycling Center accept:

Recyclables	Used Oil Filters	Rechargeable Batteries	Carpets*
Household Garbage	Appliances	Used Oil	Pressurized Tanks
Scrap Metal	Tires*	Sharps (needles)	
Furniture*	Bulbs*	Construction Materials*	
Electronics*	Automotive Batteries	Demolition Materials*	
Anti-Freeze			

*a fee may be charged to recycle or dispose of the material

Yard Waste Is Accepted At:

Boyceville Area Collection Station
Colfax Area Collection Station
Elk Mound Area Collection Station
Dunn County Yard Waste Drop-Off Site
(Apr 1 through Nov 15 – weather permitting)

Facilities and Hours of Operation

Dunn County Transfer Station and Recycling Center

E3900 Highway 29, in the Town of Menomonie, Menomonie, WI 54751

Mondays	6:30 A.M.–4:30 P.M.
Wednesdays	2 P.M.–6 P.M.
Saturdays	7 A.M.–Noon

Dunn County Yard Waste Drop-Off Site:

N5515 377th Street, in the Town of Menomonie, Menomonie, WI 54751

April 1 through November 15 (weather permitting)

Mondays	6:30 A.M.–4:30 P.M.
Wednesdays	2 P.M.–6 P.M.
Saturdays	7 A.M.–Noon

Accepts brush, leaves and grass clippings only

Boyceville Area Collection Station (yard waste site also)

E2698 County Road N, Boyceville, WI 54725

Wednesdays	Noon–7 P.M. (Apr. 1 st –Oct. 31 st)
Wednesdays	Noon–5 P.M. (Nov. 1 st –Mar. 31 st)
Saturdays	8 A.M.–4 P.M.

Colfax Area Collection Station (yard waste site also)

N9417 810th Street, Colfax, WI 54730

Wednesdays	10 A.M.–7 P.M. (Apr. 1 st –Oct. 31 st)
Wednesdays	10 A.M.–5 P.M. (Nov. 1 st –Mar. 31 st)
Saturdays	8 A.M.–4 P.M.

Connorsville Area Collection Station

Behind old Connorsville Co-op Creamery
E1285 1256th Avenue, Boyceville, WI 54725

Wednesdays	8:00 A.M.–Noon
Saturdays	8:00 A.M.–Noon

Downsville Area Collection Station

N2723 440th Street, Downsville, WI 54735

Wednesdays	9 A.M.–3 P.M.
Saturdays	9 A.M.–3 P.M.

Elk Mound Area Collection Station (yard waste site also)

401 570th Avenue, Elk Mound, WI 54734

Wednesdays	9 A.M.–7 P.M. (Apr. 1 st –Oct. 31 st)
Wednesdays	9 A.M.–5 P.M. (Nov. 1 st –March 31 st)
Saturdays	8 A.M.–4 P.M.

Ridgeland Area Collection Station

N12184 Highway 25, Ridgeland, WI 54763

Wednesdays	1 P.M.–7 P.M. (Apr. 1 st –Oct. 31 st)
Wednesdays	1 P.M.–5 P.M. (Nov. 1 st –March 31 st)
Saturdays	8 A.M.–Noon

Rock Creek Area Collection Station

N1825 980th Street, Rock Falls, WI 54764

Wednesdays	1 P.M.–5 P.M.
Saturdays	8 A.M.–Noon

Sand Creek Area Drop-off Site (recyclables only)

(behind the Sand Creek Fire Department)

Saturdays	8 A.M.–4 P.M.
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Municipalities with their own Solid Waste and/or Recycling programs:

Town of Eau Galle

Service through Pepin County (715) 672-5709 or by purchasing a solid waste permit from Dunn County Solid Waste and Recycling (715) 232-4017.

Town of Hay River

Accepts recyclables and household waste. Contact Russel Hitz at (715) 632-2143.

Town of Sand Creek

Recyclables only at the Sand Creek Area Drop-Off Site. Hours of operation are Saturdays from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. For more information about disposing of household garbage, contact a local hauler or Dunn County Solid Waste and Recycling (715) 232-4017.

Town of Stanton

Accepts recyclables and household waste. The town sponsors an Annual Clean-Up Day. Contact Valerie Windsor at (715) 665-2568.

Village of Knapp

Weekly curbside collection of recyclables and household waste. The village sponsors an Annual Clean-Up Day. Contact the Village Hall at (715) 665-2495.

City of Menomonie

Bagged household garbage, yard waste and scrap metal is accepted at the City of Menomonie Drop-Off Site: 1601 Gilbert Creek Road or call (715) 232-2302.
Hours: Tuesdays 7 A.M.–3:30 PM
Thursdays 7 A.M.–3:30 PM
Fridays 7 A.M.–11:30 A.M. (June 1–Oct 31)
Saturdays 7 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.

New Textile Recycling Through Easter Seals

The average American discards an estimated 65 pounds of clothing each year! Help keep unnecessary items out of landfills by considering the three "R's": Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Recycling unwanted clothing and other textiles diverts about 14.3 million tons of waste from landfills each year as well as reducing the amount of resources and energy needed to produce new clothing. Recycling textiles also lessens waste produced by the manufacturing process – clothing scraps end up in landfills too.

Recently, Dunn County Solid Waste switched textile recycling companies to improve the textile recycling service provided to residents. A new partnership was formed with Easter Seals Wisconsin. Distinctive and well-marked red bins were placed at all Dunn County Area Collection Stations and the Transfer Station and Recycling Center. Donating your items in bags makes it easier for the items to be picked up. Collected items are then taken to Savers Thrift Store in Eau Claire, where clothes and shoes are sold. Proceeds from sales benefit Easter Seals. Clothing not sold at Savers Thrift Store is resold and exported to countries where there is a greater need for such items.

Each year, Easter Seals Wisconsin, a non-profit organization, provides programs and services for approximately 10,000 children, youth and adults with physical and developmental disabilities. Easter Seals serve people with disabilities in five areas: vocational services, respite care, camping and recreation, resource and support services and education programs for the public. Their programs serve clients ranging in age from infants to senior citizens presenting a full spectrum of disabilities - both physical and cognitive. Services range from assessments and assistive technology for farmers, extending their ability to farm, to respite and recreational programs for individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities.



Recycling & Support Specialist, Mee Yang donating bagged clothes and shoes. Proceeds benefit Easter Seals of Wisconsin.

Life at a Solid Waste Landfill



Dunn County's trash goes to a landfill instead of a dump. Typically, a dump is not regulated nor is there any protective measures taken to minimize environmental degradation. A landfill, however, is a well-designed, regulated and maintained structure, serving multiple purposes.

Landfills are divided into sections, called cells, where garbage is buried. Cells contain multiple layers of clay and sediment which is topped with a plastic liner keeping potentially toxic material from leaching into the ground water or nearby surface water. A landfill is designed so that each cell slopes to catch rain and leachate, a liquid generated when water and/or other liquids seep down through the trash. Collected leachate is either re-circulated over the top of the landfill to increase decomposition of buried material, or taken to a waste water facility for treatment. Wells surrounding the landfill monitor ground water quality to ensure leachate is not escaping.

Gas extraction systems are used to capture methane gas which is converted into energy or burned off so as to limit the amount being released into the atmosphere. Tall fences and sometimes natural barriers, such as pine trees, surround landfills to catch bags and other light materials from blowing away.

At the end of each working day, landfill trash must be compacted and covered with at least 6 inches of topsoil known as a "daily cover." Shingles, shredded car fluff or foundry sand may also be used as daily cover which aid in reducing landfill odor, preventing litter and deterring wildlife.

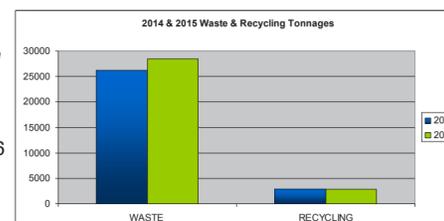
A cell must be completely filled before a new cell can be opened and utilized. Full cells must be closed and capped, adhering to strict guidelines. Closed cells must meet slope requirements, contain a plastic barrier, be covered with top soil and planted with native grasses to limit erosion. Once a landfill is completely closed, it can be turned into a recreation area. Many closed landfills have become parks with soccer fields and dog play areas. Menomonie's dog run is a local example of a closed landfill transformed.



A Look at Dunn County's Recycling Record

The amount of solid waste sent to the landfill from participating municipalities increased from 26, 247 tons in 2014 to 28,418 tons in 2015.

The overall recycling rate increased slightly from 2,871 tons in 2014 to 2,876 tons in 2015.



Event Recycling

The Environmental Services Department's Solid Waste and Recycling Division has event recycling bins and a trailer available for use at special events. Event recycling bins are great for graduations, family gatherings, corporate parties, sports tournaments, and festivals. Bins are collapsible and come with clear plastic bags for recycling of common items such as aluminum, glass, and plastic bottles. While the trailer and bins may be used for free, a refundable security deposit is required. Users are responsible for transporting and setting up the bins as well as recycling the collected materials after the event. To reserve the bins and/or the trailer please call (715) 232-4017.



A permit is required to dispose of household waste at the Dunn County Transfer Station and Recycling Center or any Area Collection Station.

Inclusion of a company name, logo or brand in this newsletter is not meant as an endorsement.

2016 Hazardous Waste Collection Set for Fall

The 2016 Hazardous Waste Collection will be held at the Colfax Fairgrounds on Wednesday, September 14th and at the Dunn County Transfer Station and Recycling Center in Menomonie on Thursday, September 15th. The event is free for Dunn County households and farms. Businesses classified as very small quantity generators are charged a fee because the state grant to Dunn County covers only households and farms. Latex paint may be turned in at the event, but a small fee will be charged. Please hold on to any poisonous, toxic, flammable or hazardous items and dispose of them properly at this event.

Secure Your Load

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, unsecured loads are responsible for about 51,000 accidents each year in North America, resulting in nearly 10,000 injuries and 440 fatalities. To protect people, property and the environment, it is crucial that you secure your load.

Regardless of the size of your load or the distance traveled to the disposal facility, ensure all items are contained within the walls of the vehicle or trailer and properly covered or secured. For larger items, securing with ropes and cords work well while smaller items may require a cover. Properly place lighter items on the bottom to prevent flyaway, cover items with a tarp then secure the load with bungee cords, ropes, straps, or netting.

These safety measures are not only recommended, they prevent littering and hazards along the roadway, which inevitably saves lives.



Answers to Can You Spot What is Recyclable?

So how well did you do?

Recyclables

- Milk jugs and laundry detergent bottles are #2 HDPE plastic bottles and so they are recyclable. Recycled plastic #2 content can be found in plastic lumber, buckets and crates, bottles for non-food items like shampoo, detergent, motor oil and even curbside recycling bins themselves.
- Cereal boxes and empty toilet paper rolls fall under cardboard and can be recycled as such. Usually corrugated cardboard is often what comes to mind first but pasta boxes, egg cartons and tissue boxes are considered cardboard as well.

Non Recyclables

- Plastic berry containers (such as raspberry and strawberry containers) and plastic jugs similar to that of the one gallon Lipton Iced Tea container are not accepted for recycling with plastic bottles. Wide mouth containers and plastic bottle containers that contain more than one type of plastic/mixed plastic are not recyclable.
- Pop cartons and frozen food boxes are not recyclable with cardboard. Any kind of cardboard that has a wax coating or treated to be water resistant should be thrown in the trash. When cardboard is recycled, it is broken down with water. If the cardboard is water resistant, it will not break down properly and contaminate the batch.



Sand Creek Area Drop-Off Site

Dunn County has seven area collection stations that accept trash and recycling and one site that accepts only recyclables. The Town of Sand Creek is one of several municipalities that have their own program for disposing of household garbage and has opted to partner with the county for the area's recycling needs. The Sand Creek Area Drop-Off Site is nestled in the heart of Sand Creek with the beautiful Red Cedar River as a backdrop.



Sand Creek attendant, George Keltner on hand and ready to help every Saturday with recycling.

Attendant, George Keltner, has been the site attendant for many years and is always on hand to help residents, offering assistance with sorting recyclables as well as answering any questions residents may have. Aside from being a local go-to person for recycling, George stays involved with the community by being a volunteer fire fighter – 49 years and counting! When asked what he likes about working at the area drop-off site he replied, "Meeting the residents and catching up with old and new faces each week when they bring their recyclables in."

Hours of operation are Saturdays from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. year round, located behind the Sand Creek Fire Department.

Fireworks

With summer just around the corner, fireworks will start to be used more often to celebrate weddings, festivals as well as the 4th of July. What do you do with all those leftover fireworks? First, remove all fuses and then completely submerge the fireworks in water for at least 24 hours. Once completely saturated, place the fireworks in a tightly-secured bag and dispose of them in the normal trash. An added bonus is that the nitrogen-laden water can be used on the lawn.



Residents with large amounts or commercial grade fireworks should contact their local fire department for assistance.

Sorting and Separating Recyclables

General Guidelines to help sort and separate your recyclables:

- Labels do not have to be removed
- Empty contents
- Rinse clean
- Flatten or crush bottles, jugs or cans
- Plastic bottles may be recycled with caps on
- Separate recyclables by category

Aluminum

- Pop cans and many cat food cans
- Clean foil and pie tins may go in the scrap metal bin at the Area Collection Stations

Glass Bottles and Jars

- Food and canning jars, beer, soda, wine and liquor bottles
- NO window glass, ceramics, china, Pyrex, or light bulbs
- NO broken glass

Steel (Tin) & Empty Aerosol Cans

- Rinse out cans
- Ensure aerosol cans are empty, nozzle removed and plastic lid tossed in trash

Plastic #1 Bottles

- #1 (examples: water bottles, soda, coffee containers, peanut butter containers)

Plastic #2 Bottles

- #2 bottles with small neck openings (examples: milk, juice, laundry detergent)
- NO motor oil, transmission fluid, herbicide or pesticide bottles
- NO wide mouth plastic containers (berry, cottage cheese, ice cream, margarine or yogurt)
- NO styrofoam, plastic bags, plastic wrap, egg cartons

Mixed Paper

- Newspaper must be dry and clean. If it comes with the newspaper, it can be recycled with the newspaper
- White/pastel office paper, envelopes, window envelopes, Post-it Notes, scratch paper, computer paper
- Magazines or catalogs with shiny appearance
- Mail
- Telephone directories
- Paperback books
- Comic books
- Crossword puzzle books

Cardboard

- Clean, corrugated cardboard flattened and cut down to no larger than three foot square
- Cereal, cake and other baking boxes flattened with liners removed
- Paper grocery bags
- Manila envelopes and file folders
- NO pizza boxes, pop or beer cartons, detergent boxes, wax milk or juice cartons, produce boxes, toothpaste boxes, soap boxes, green house boxes, hard cover books or frozen food boxes

Tips for Sorting Recyclables

To make recycling at home easy and efficient, each type of recyclable should have a designated spot in the recycling bin or have its own container. In Dunn County, recyclables are source separated. Source separated means that all recyclables coming into the facility must be separated in order to be compatible with current material handling and processing capabilities.

If you use a hauling service, here are a few simple solutions to help sort recyclables:

- Recyclables with the greatest accumulation go on the bottom of the bin.
- Separate remaining recyclables into individual bags*/containers and place in or alongside the bin.
- Broken down cardboard too large for the bin can be placed under or next to the bin.
- Other containers such as totes, 5-gallon buckets, kitchen trash cans, or an extra recycling bin can be used to help with sorting. Place all containers next to one another on the curb for pick-up.
- Remember: Crushed bottles, jugs and cans make more room in your recycling bin.



Colfax attendant, Al Schneider throwing a pop carton in the trash because they are not recyclable.

*Please refrain from using plastic bags to hold recyclables—especially tied plastic bags. Tied bags are difficult to open and empty. Materials tend to stick in them, causing additional work for haulers. Empty plastic bags can also blow around, littering neighborhoods.



Rock Creek lead attendant, Dean Nuebauer demonstrating the importance of putting sorted materials into the correct bins when bringing in recyclables.



Recycling & Support Specialist, Mee Yang showing how having separate containers at home and at businesses for sorting of different recycling materials saves on time and helps reduce contamination.

Drop-Off Over Flowing Materials

An option for overflowing bins or after a large gathering is to utilize the City of Menomonie Solid Waste site off Gilbert Creek Road (city residents only), any of the county owned Area Collection Stations or the Transfer Station and Recycling Center. Recycling at county sites is free for residents of Dunn County. As a reminder, trash services are only free for participating municipalities and for anyone who purchases a permit. For hours of operation at the City of Menomonie Solid Waste site, please call the City of Menomonie Public Works Department at (715) 232-2302.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Carbon monoxide detectors may be sent back to the manufacturer for proper disposal. Manufacturer information is listed in the user's manual or on the original box. Be sure to contact the manufacturer and request their specific policy before returning the detector to them. While returning carbon monoxide detectors back to the manufacturer is the best option, they may also be recycled with electronics at any Dunn County Area Collection Station or Transfer Station and Recycling Center.

Before disposing of a carbon monoxide detector, remove all batteries. Alkaline batteries may be disposed of in the trash. Lithium batteries must be taken to the annual Hazardous Waste Collection, held in the fall. Rechargeable batteries may be recycled at any Area Collection Station or the Transfer Station and Recycling Center.

Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are available in homes and businesses to put out flames quickly. If stored for an extended period of time, an extinguisher can lose pressure. Be sure to check it periodically for damage such as corrosion, dents, or other signs of leaks. If the extinguisher is rechargeable, take it to a service center. If it is not, replace it. After a fire extinguisher has been used, the proper procedures for recycling empty and half-empty cylinders differ. Oftentimes, a fire extinguisher can be reused or sent to an approved facility to be disposed of properly.

Empty fire extinguishers may be recycled with scrap metal at any Dunn County Area Collection Station or the Transfer Station and Recycling Center. Fire extinguishers made before 1970 may contain carbon tetrachloride, a known carcinogen that is considered hazardous waste. To properly dispose of these types of fire extinguishers, bring them to the Hazardous Waste Collection event this fall or contact a fire and safety company if you need to dispose of it before then.

Contact Greg Drazkowski of Menomonie Fire & Safety, at (715) 308-3765, for disposal information regarding full, half-empty and outdated fire extinguishers.



A Hole in One – Propane Tanks

Why put a hole in propane tanks? For safety! A hole ensures that all the gas has escaped and that the tank is no longer under pressure. Propane tanks without holes in them have been the source of explosions which can result in fires and injuries to workers at recycling and scrap metal facilities. Incidents can happen anywhere, even in Wisconsin. As recently as last July in Waukesha County, two propane tanks got crushed at the recycling facility and exploded, causing a fire.

What do you do with empty propane tanks? The best option is to take 20-pound propane tanks to Cedar County Cooperative in Colfax or Menomonie. If the tanks are in fair condition they may be reused.

If a tank is not accepted, use up the contents so the tank is no longer under pressure. Empty tanks and one-pound camp sized tanks may be recycled at the Dunn County Transfer Station and Recycling Center, or any area collection station. A hole must first be placed in the tank using your method of choice, since the County has no official recommendations on how to do this. The valve or cap must also be removed. Once a hole is in the tank and the valve or cap has been removed, hand the tank directly to a site attendant, who will then recycle it with scrap metal.

Cedar County Cooperative
Menomonie Tire & Auto Care Center
807 Main Street
Menomonie, WI 54751

Cedar County Cooperative
Cenex County
401 Railroad Avenue
Colfax, WI 54730



Downsville lead attendant, Kevin Scholfield holding one-pound propane tanks with holes in them which can be recycled with scrap metal along with 20-pound tanks.

Is There Such a Thing as a Free Lunch with Illegal Dumping?

Illegal dumping is not exactly new, but it is a growing and costly concern. Using lightly traveled country roads as a dump for unwanted household items such as tires and televisions may be viewed as a victimless crime, but it's not. Offenders may think it's a "free lunch" to dispose of items by dumping, but when trash is dumped in the woods or alongside a road, it creates an expense for towns, the county, the state and ultimately taxpayers at a rate much higher than paying for proper disposal in the first place. If the item is tossed onto private land, the burden of disposal now rests on the unsuspecting landowner.

Picking up and properly disposing of illegally dumped household items costs towns, villages, the county and state thousands of taxpayer dollars each year. Collecting and disposing of illegally dumped items divert the efforts of town patrolmen and county highway personnel away from other important duties such as patrolling the streets, patching and shouldering roadways.

So no, there is no such thing as a free lunch. Please consider the true cost of illegal dumping and refrain from throwing unwanted items into ditches and along roads. Join us in keeping roadways clean and safe, while saving taxpayer money.



What Else Can be Recycled with Electronics?

Vinyl Records

Try selling to a record shop or having a rummage sale in order to generate some extra cash. Also, see if a second home may be found for the records by giving them to friends or family. Any records that do not sell or obtain a second home can be recycled with electronics.

LED Light Bulbs

Although light emitting diode (LED) light bulbs may look similar to incandescent bulbs and compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), they are recycled with electronics instead of with light bulbs. Give LED bulbs to a site attendant as they must be kept separate for sorting purposes.

