

DOUGLAS COUNTY RECYCLING NEWSLETTER



For the Residents of Rural Douglas County, WI

Summer 2021

Hello Douglas County Residents!

It is again summer, which means it is time for the annual Douglas County Recycling Newsletter! On behalf of the Douglas County Recycling Program, we want to thank you, our Douglas County Residents, for another year of recycling. While this summer is more anticipated than ever before, it is important to continue to think of how you can recycle, contribute to your community and make an impact on the environment.

Over the past year, the recycling centers around Northwest Wisconsin have seen a drastic increase in use. Last year, the Douglas County Recycling Program collected 910 tons of recyclables, nearly 20 tons more than the 2019 calendar year. In order to collect the rising demand of recycling there are 10 recycling drop off center communities and 9 recycling curbside cart communities that are available to community residents.

We would also like to extend a thank you to all of the sites that host a recycling center. Without their support, the Douglas County recycling centers would not function as they do. Each recycling center and site staff do an outstanding job of minimizing contamination, helping educate the public and provide support to those who choose to recycle at our centers. As they are the front-line workers in the recycling field, we are beyond thankful for all they do to provide direction in recycling.

Again, we are asking for your help! As the volume of recycling is up, we expect the volume of recycling to continue to rise as well in the coming years. As this happens, we need to continually be aware of and educated on proper recycling. For further information on recycling, please continue reading the next few pages of this newsletter. This newsletter contains valuable information toward the awareness and education of recycling. We hope to see you all at the Douglas County Recycling Centers soon!

Visit the Douglas County website where you will find information on recycling as well as a wealth of other waste disposal options:

[https://
www.douglascountywi.org/369/Recycling](https://www.douglascountywi.org/369/Recycling)



Interested in being added to our email list?

Email your interest to:
info@nwrpc.com

You will receive updates on recycling, hazardous waste, and other interesting information.



MYTH & FACTS

The most common items that can be recycled are mail, paper, cardboard, glass bottles and jars, aluminum, steel and tin cans, and plastic bottles, jugs and tubs.

FACT. The items listed in the above statement are some of the most common items that are recyclable.

Any plastic item can be recycled at the Douglas County recycling centers or curbside.

MYTH. Only plastic bottles, jars, jugs and tubs with a #1, #2 and #5 are recyclable.

Recycled items must be clean when recycled at the Douglas County recycling centers or curbside.

FACT. Yes, items must not be dirty when recycled. Recycled items should be empty, rinsed out and clear of residue.

Plastic bags, electronics, medical waste, holiday string lights and styrofoam, are items that cannot be recycled at a recycling center or in a cart.

FACT. These are all items that are not accepted as recycling at any recycling center or curbside.

If an item is placed in the recycling container or cart, it will always be recycled.

MYTH. This is called wishcycling, in which an item is recycled that a person hopes will be. Please see page 3 for further information on wishcycling.

Caps should be recycled with the item being recycled.

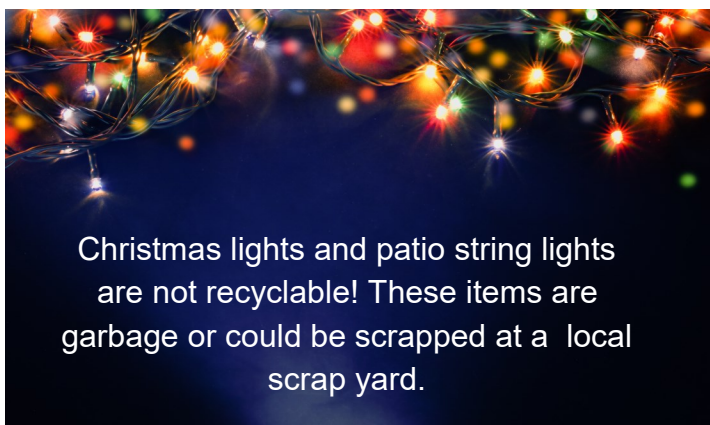
FACT. If you have a recyclable item you should leave the cap on the clean product when putting it into the recycling. Caps thrown in the recycling container are too small for the automated sorters and will end up in the garbage.

Recycled items are sorted after being dropped off at a Douglas County recycling center.

MYTH. Items that are dropped off at a recycling center are not further sorted at the site. This is why it is crucial to be aware of what items are and are not recyclable.

It is okay to put plastic bags with recyclable items in Douglas County recycling centers and curbside.

MYTH. Recycled items should not be dropped off in a plastic bag, as plastic bags are not recyclable in the Douglas County recycling containers or carts. Take your plastic grocery bags to a grocery store near you to be recycled.



Propane cylinders of any size and aerosol cans are not recyclable in the Douglas County recycling containers and carts! Aerosol containers can be disposed of at the HHW collection program (back page). Propane cylinders can be scrapped at a local scrap yard.



WISHCYCLING

Wishcycling! A word unfamiliar to most people. Well what is it? It's the act of placing items in our recycling containers that we don't know or hope will be recycled. When recycling we want to have the best intentions that the items we recycle are going to be recycled. Unfortunately, when we wishcycle we place items in the recycling container that are not recyclable and thus will contaminate the entire recycling container. That is BAD, resulting in extra contamination fees to the recycling program and potential for the entire recycling container to be landfilled, just because we hope or don't know if an item is recyclable. This is where YOUR help comes in! As recyclers, we need your help to ensure we are putting our best foot forward when recycling. We need to make sure the items we are recycling are those that can be recycled.

Nearly 1 in 4 items placed in a recycling container are not recyclable! Recycle with certainty! Don't get caught wishcycling!

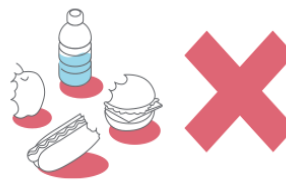
Below are some good examples of wishcycling pictures from our recycling containers in Douglas County. Plastic totes, plastic/metal refrigerator racks, plastic bags, styrofoam, and plastic wrap are NOT recyclable. Not everything that is plastic is recyclable! The fact is that some recycling actions make a bigger impact than others. Recycle only clean plastic food and beverage bottles, jugs, and tubs numbered 1, 2 and 5. If there is no number on the plastic, don't wishcycle, throw it in the garbage. Those plastic Amazon or USPS shipping packages are also NOT recyclable.



Remember these three basic rules the next time you recycle!



Recycle clean bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.



Keep food and liquid out of your recycling.



No loose plastic bags and no bagged recyclables.

Douglas County

Recycling

1400 S. River Street

Spooner, WI 54801

Recycling Specialist

info@nwrpc.com

(715) 635-2197

<https://>

www.douglascountywi.org/369

[/Recycling](#)

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**Douglas County
Postal Customer**

Douglas County NW Cleansweep Household Hazardous Waste & Unwanted Rx Medication Collection

Contact Warren Johnson with any Questions: info@nwrpc.com or 715-635-2197

Date:	Time:	Location:
Tuesday, August 31	2:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Douglas County - Parkland Town Hall 6221E Veterans Drive

CLEANSWEEP WILL ACCEPT:

Household hazardous waste will be accepted at the above location and only at the designated time. Items will be taken for free from residential properties, with the exception of fees charged for bulbs and batteries. Acceptable items include materials such as oil based paints, aerosol spray paints and lubricants, solvents, pesticides, fertilizers, household and hazardous cleaners, corrosives, flammables, mercury, lead tackle and shot, old gas, antifreeze, and other chemicals you wouldn't consider dumping. Mercury containing thermostats, switches and thermometers, and lead based paint will also be accepted. Unwanted Rx will be taken for free.

Visit <http://www.nwrpc.com/873/Northwest-Cleansweep-Program> for more information!

CLEANSWEEP WILL NOT ACCEPT:

- Latex Paint
- Empty Paint Cans
- Oil Filters
- Motor Oil
- Explosives, Flares or Fireworks
- Freon 11 & 12
- Radioactive Materials (including smoke/Co2 alarms)
- Ammunition
- Compressed Gas Cylinders-any size
- Recyclables
- Appliances
- Asbestos
- Biological or Infectious Wastes
- Sharps or EpiPens
- Spray Foam Cylinders
- Incandescent Light Bulbs
- PFAS Containing Items