

# Going Green

2025 Guide to Recycling and Waste



## Share your thoughts!

Complete a short  
survey about the  
Going Green Guide.

*See page 2.*

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# Connect With Us!



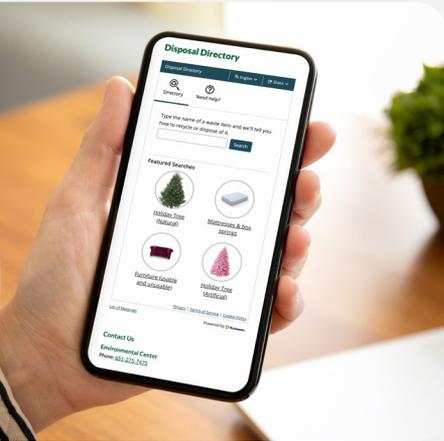
651-275-7475



WashCoRecycles.com



Subscribe to the Environmental eUpdate  
[WashCoRecycles.com/Subscribe](http://WashCoRecycles.com/Subscribe)



## Check out the Disposal Directory!

Search and quickly find local disposal, recycling, and reuse options for items you no longer want or need.



Visit [WashCoRecycles.com/Disposal](http://WashCoRecycles.com/Disposal) for more information or scan the QR code.



## We Want Your Feedback

Share your thoughts on the Going Green Guide, an annual mailer with information on reducing waste, reuse and repair, recycling, and more. After you read through it, take a short survey to let us know what's useful and how we can make it better.



Visit [WashCoRecycles.com/GreenGuideSurvey](http://WashCoRecycles.com/GreenGuideSurvey) for more information or scan the QR code.

# Food Scraps PICKUP Program<sup>®</sup>

The Food Scraps Pickup Program is free and available to many communities in Washington County. Food scraps are collected using special bags, called “food scrap bags,” that are collected with your trash and later separated using robotic sorting technology and turned into compost. The Food Scraps Pickup Program will eventually be available to all residents of Washington County. Learn more and sign up at [FoodScrapsPickup.com](http://FoodScrapsPickup.com) or call 651-661-9393.



**Order** your free annual supply of food scrap bags.



Collect your food scraps in the food scrap bags. When the food scrap bag is full, **tie a knot** at the top to close the bag.

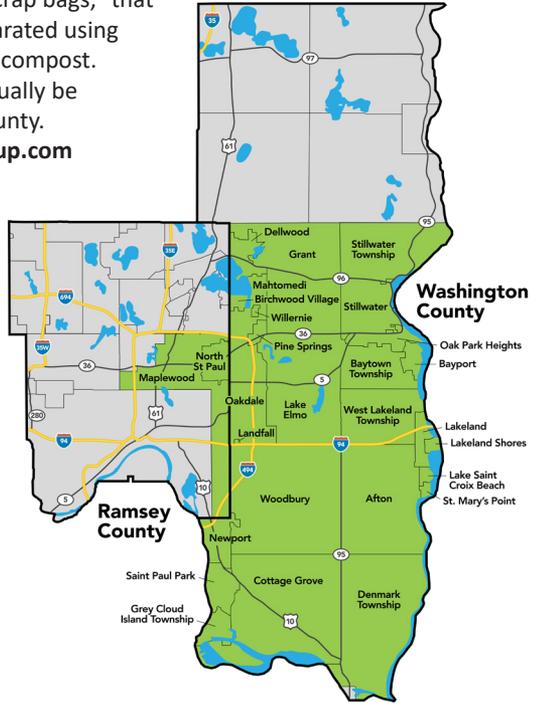


**Place your food scrap bag** inside your trash cart or dumpster for collection.



**Done!** The food scraps will be composted.

**Free food scraps containers available!**  
See page 15 for details.



## Key

Program currently available in these areas.



## Food Scraps Drop-Off

Food scraps drop-off sites are still available. Learn more about all food scraps recycling options at: [WashCoRecycles.com/FoodScraps](http://WashCoRecycles.com/FoodScraps).



**Mahtomedi**  
800 Stillwater Rd.  
Mahtomedi

**North Environmental Center**  
6065 Headwaters Pkwy.  
Forest Lake

**South Environmental Center**  
4039 Cottage Grove Dr.  
Woodbury

# At-Home Recycling

## Items Accepted

These are general guidelines. Some haulers may accept different recyclables. Please follow directions from your recycling hauler.

**!** Place recyclables loose (not bagged) in the recycling cart or recycling dumpster.

### Metal

Food and Beverage Cans



Empty and rinse.

Foundries and steel mills in the Midwest take metal cans and make them into new products like wire and parts for cars and appliances.

### Cartons



Empty and rinse.

Milk and juice cartons are sent to Sustana Fiber in Wisconsin to make material for new paper products.

### Paper and Cardboard

Magazines, Newspaper, Mail, and Boxes



Empty and flatten.

Paper mills like West Rock in Saint Paul mix paper and water together to make a pulp, which is then flattened, dried, and rolled into boxboard for cereal and cracker boxes.

# It's no myth Recycling Exists

Your recycled items become new products.

## It's not a fairy tale.

Believe what you want about unicorns, dragons, and merpeople, but in the Twin Cities, recycling is real and it works. The items you put in your cart get recycled when you recycle right. These recyclables are wanted by many companies in our state and across the country to make new products.

Learn more at [RecyclingExists.com](http://RecyclingExists.com)



Visit [RecyclingExists.com](http://RecyclingExists.com) for more information or scan the QR code.

### Plastics

Bottles and Containers



Empty and rinse.

### Glass

Bottles and Jars



Empty and rinse.

Avon Plastics in Paynesville turns milk jugs and detergent bottles into durable decking, fencing, and landscaping products. Plastics like drink bottles and produce containers get made into new bottles in Wisconsin and Ohio.

Bottles and jars are sorted by color at Strategic Materials in Saint Paul. Clear glass is sent to Anchor Glass in Shakopee to make new food and beverage bottles.

# Environmental Center

## North Environmental Center



6065 Headwaters Pkwy.  
Forest Lake, MN 55025



651-275-7475

**Monday** 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**Wednesday** 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Friday** 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Saturday** 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.



## South Environmental Center



4039 Cottage Grove Dr.  
Woodbury, MN 55129



651-275-7475

**Tuesday** 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**Thursday** 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Friday** 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Saturday** 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.



**Closed on all county-observed holidays.**

Open to residents of Washington, Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Scott counties. Provide the attendant your driver's license or other proof of residency.

Follow drop-off procedures listed at: [WashCoRecycles.com/EnviroCenter](http://WashCoRecycles.com/EnviroCenter)

## Free Product Room

The one stop shop for all of your DIY projects. Look for items such as latex and oil paints, household cleaners, automotive supplies, and much more.



Visit [WashCoRecycles.com/FreeProductRoom](http://WashCoRecycles.com/FreeProductRoom) for more information or scan the QR code.





# Items Accepted

## Hazardous Materials

- Aerosol cans
- Antifreeze
- All batteries (No EV batteries)
- Gasoline, motor oil, and filters
- Paints, thinners, stains, varnishes, and preservatives
- Propane tanks

## Electronics

- Cell phones and tablets
- Computers, monitors, and accessories
- Items with rechargeable batteries
- Microwaves
- TVs, DVD players, and VCRs

## Household Sharps

- Place in a sturdy container with the cap screwed on.
- Label container "SHARPS."

## Additional Items

- Electrical cords and string lights
- Plastic yard signs
- Shredded paper  
*Put in paper bag, label, and staple shut.*
- Plastic bags and wrap  
*Clean, dry, and in a light-colored bag.*



## Self-Serve Recycling

- Cardboard
- Food scraps
- Mixed recycling
- Scrap aluminum
- Scrap steel



Visit [WashCoRecycles.com/EnviroCenter](https://WashCoRecycles.com/EnviroCenter) for more information or scan the QR code.

## Preparing for Drop-Off

- Label products that are not in their original container.
- Seal containers tightly to prevent leaks.
- Bundle fluorescent tubes with rubber bands. **Do not tape.**
- Arrange containers upright in a single layer.
- Transport items in a cardboard box or plastic tote. No plastic bags.
- Oil, gas, and antifreeze containers (5 gallon or less) can be returned for reuse.
- Never mix chemicals.

# Events

## One-Day Collection Events

Washington County offers one-day collection events for household hazardous waste and electronics. Paper shredding is also offered at these events. No recyclables or business waste.

**April 26: 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Mahtomedi Middle School Ball Fields  
8100 75th St. N., Mahtomedi

**May 31: 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Lily Lake Ice Arena  
1208 S. Greeley St., Stillwater

**October 11: 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Lily Lake Ice Arena  
1208 S. Greeley St., Stillwater



Visit [WashCoRecycles.com/CollectionEvents](https://WashCoRecycles.com/CollectionEvents) for more information or scan the QR code.



## Shredding Events

Washington County offers free paper shredding events for confidential papers at both Environmental Centers. Documents are shredded on-site by Shred Right and recycled.



### New for 2025

Shredding events are only open to **Washington County residents and businesses.**



Visit [WashCoRecycles.com/Shredding](https://WashCoRecycles.com/Shredding) for more information or scan the QR code.

# Reuse and Repair



## Fix-It Clinics

Bring your broken items to a Washington County Fix-It Clinic and volunteers will help you troubleshoot and repair them for free. **First come, first served. Three item limit. Last items accepted at 1:30 p.m.**

**May 3: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Stillwater Public Library  
224 3rd St. N., Stillwater

**June 14: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Park Grove Library  
7900 Hemingway Ave. S., Cottage Grove

**August 2: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Oakdale Library  
1010 Heron Ave. N., Oakdale

**October 11: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Hardwood Creek Library  
19955 Forest Rd. N., Forest Lake

## New for 2025! Drop-In Hours

Drop-in hours will be offered regularly at both Environmental Centers. Repairs are self-led, with tools and basic parts available for use. Volunteer fixers may be available, but not guaranteed. See website for up-to-date hours and information.



Visit [WashCoRecycles.com/FixIt](https://WashCoRecycles.com/FixIt) for more information or scan the QR code.

## Swap Events

Swaps are a great way to prevent usable items from being thrown away. Events will take place at the same date and time at two different locations — the North Environmental Center and South Environmental Center.

**May 7:** Garden Tool Swap  
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

**August 6:** School Supply Swap  
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

**October 15:** Halloween Costume Swap  
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.



Visit [WashCoRecycles.com/Reuse](https://WashCoRecycles.com/Reuse) for more information or scan the QR code.



# Furniture and Bulky Items

These sites offer self-haul options for bulky items. Contact sites directly for details. Contact your hauler for availability of curbside collection of bulky items.



*Items are recycled.*



*\* Partially recycled; Non-recyclable items are disposed of as trash.*



*Items are disposed of as trash.*



**Appliances**



**Carpet**



**Concrete**

**SRC | Wyoming**  
6320 Viking Blvd. E. | 651-462-1099



**Fra-Dor | Little Canada**  
3101 Country Dr. | 651-484-8180



**J and J Recycling | St. Paul**  
607 Barge Channel Rd. | 651-227-4457



**J.R.'s Adv. Recyclers | Inver Grove Heights**  
10619 Briggs Dr. | 651-454-9215



**Keith Krupenny and Son | St. Paul**  
565 Barge Channel Rd. | 651-457-3680



**Recycling and Energy Center | Newport**  
100 Red Rock Rd. | 651-768-6670



**Second Chance Recycling | Minneapolis**  
1179 15th Ave. SE. | 612-332-0664 (Ext 4)

**Twin City Refuse and Recycling | St. Paul**  
318 W. Water St. | 651-227-1549



**Walters Recycling and Refuse | Blaine**  
10191 Xylite St. NE. | 763-780-8464



**Waste Management | St. Paul**  
309 Como Ave. | 651-487-8546



*This list is not an endorsement of specific businesses.  
The information listed may contain unintentional omissions and/or inaccuracies.*



Scan the QR code or visit [WashCoRecycles.com/Disposal](http://WashCoRecycles.com/Disposal) to find out how to recycle or dispose of almost anything.



**Construction/  
Demolition**

**Furniture**

**Mattresses**

**Scrap Metal**

**Tires**

**Lumber**



# Medication

Residents can dispose of their unused and expired medications at year-round drop boxes.

Learn more: [washingtoncountymn.gov/meds](https://www.washingtoncountymn.gov/meds)



## Items Accepted

**Household** prescription, over-the-counter, and pet medication.

- Pills and capsules
- Blister packs
- Creams and gels
- Unused EpiPens
- Inhalers and patches
- Liquids, powders, and sprays

## Items NOT Accepted

- No needles, used EpiPens, syringes, lancets, or thermometers.
- No liquid chemotherapy drugs.
- No vaping devices or e-liquids.

Take items listed above to an Environmental Center. See page 6 for location and hours.

**Medication from businesses is NOT accepted.**



## Drop Box Locations

**Cottage Grove** 13000 Ravine Pkwy. S.  
Washington County Service Center

**Forest Lake** 19955 Forest Rd. N.  
Washington County Service Center

**Hugo** 14669 Fitzgerald Ave. N.  
Hugo City Hall

**Mahtomedi** 763 Stillwater Rd.  
Wildwood Library

**Oakdale** 1584 Hadley Ave. N  
Oakdale City Hall

**Stillwater** 15015 62nd St. N.  
Sheriff's Office Main Lobby

**Woodbury** 2150 Radio Dr.  
Woodbury Service Center

## Preparing for Drop-Off

- Drop-off is anonymous (no ID required).
- No need to cross off names on labels.
- Keep medications in original container.
- If you don't have the original container, place medications in a small bag.

# Yard Waste

It is illegal to put yard, garden, or tree waste into the garbage. Bring yard waste to a drop-off site in Washington County.



## Washington County North Yard Waste Site

*Open to all county residents.  
No business waste accepted.*



6065 Headwaters Pkwy.  
Forest Lake, MN 55025



651-275-7475



### Summer Hours: April – November

**Monday** 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. (or dusk)

**Wednesday** 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Friday** 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Saturday** 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Sunday** 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### Winter Hours: December – March

**Monday** 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. (or dusk)

**Wednesday** 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Friday** 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Saturday** 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

## Privately-Owned Sites

*Open to all county residents.*

**Cottage Grove** Rumpca Companies Inc.  
9600 Glendenning Rd. | 651-459-1556

**Denmark Township** Gertens RES  
12119 70th St. S. | 651-458-4412

Search the Disposal Directory to find more drop-off locations:

[WashCoRecycles.com/Disposal](http://WashCoRecycles.com/Disposal)

## City-Owned Sites

*Open to city residents only.*

**Marine on St. Croix**  
651-433-3636

**Newport**  
651-459-5677



### Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Quarantine

To prevent the spread of EAB, please dispose of all tree waste at a yard waste site in Washington County.

Learn more: [www.mda.state.mn.us/eab](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/eab)

# Additional Resources

## Free Radon Test Kits

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among nonsmokers. You can't see, smell, or taste radon, but it could be present at a dangerous level in your home.

Free radon test kits are available to Washington County residents for pick-up at locations across the county. Postage fees may apply.



Visit [washingtoncountymn.gov/radon](https://www.washingtoncountymn.gov/radon) for more information or scan the QR code.



## Educational Resources

Educational activities and lessons on waste, recycling, composting, and other environmental topics are available on our website. Activities are suitable for a variety of age groups and settings. Washington County staff are also available for virtual or in-person presentations.



Visit [WashCoRecycles.com/EducationalResources](https://WashCoRecycles.com/EducationalResources) for more information or scan the QR code.



## R&E Center Tours

All trash generated by individuals and businesses in Ramsey and Washington counties is delivered to the Recycling & Energy Center, where it is processed to recover recyclables and make fuel for electricity production. Tours highlight how the facility works, how waste is managed in the East Metro, and how to better reduce, reuse, and recycle.



Visit [RecyclingAndEnergy.org/Tours](https://RecyclingAndEnergy.org/Tours) for more information or scan the QR code.



While supplies last!

## Compost Bins and Rain Barrels

Washington County is partnering with the Recycling Association of Minnesota to sell discounted compost bins and rain barrels to Washington County residents. After discount, compost bins are \$60 and rain barrels are \$90.



Visit [WashCoRecycles.com/Barrels](http://WashCoRecycles.com/Barrels) for more information or scan the QR code.

## Recycling Container Loan

Portable recycling containers are available to borrow for collecting mixed recycling such as bottles and cans at gatherings like graduation parties, family reunions, block parties, and similar events. Bags are included.



Go to [WashCoRecycles.com/EventRecycling](http://WashCoRecycles.com/EventRecycling) and scroll to "Recycling Container Loan."



Fill out and submit the online reservation form.



Receive an email reply notifying you if the containers are available for the time you want.



Pick up the containers at the site chosen.



Visit [WashCoRecycles.com/EventRecycling](http://WashCoRecycles.com/EventRecycling) for more information or scan the QR code.



## Now Available: Free Food Scraps Containers

Washington County residents can sign up to receive a free container for food scraps collection. Online sign-up is required and containers must be picked up from an Environmental Center. Limit one per household.



Scan to sign up for a free container or visit [WashCoRecycles.com/FoodScraps](http://WashCoRecycles.com/FoodScraps).





WashCoRecycles.com  
651-275-7475

### **Going Green**

This guide is published by Ramsey/Washington Recycling and Energy—a joint county effort to manage waste wisely through waste reduction, recycling, and energy recovery.



Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

03/2025