



The 2018-2019 Recycler

Important recycling information for residents of Houston County, MN

Vol. 5 No. 1 • 2018



Household Hazardous Materials Collection

LA CROSSE

La Crosse County Household Hazardous Materials (HHM)

3202 Berlin Drive, La Crosse
Call 608-785-9999

or visit www.co.la-crosse.wi.us and click on Household Hazardous Material under Important Links

Directions: The HHM facility is located at the La Crosse County Landfill Complex. Take State Road 16 east toward West Salem. The facility is approximately 1/2 mile east of Interstate 90 on the south side of State Road 16.

Hours: Mon. 12 pm–4 pm (business only) and Thurs. 12 pm–4 pm (call for appointment);
Tues. 8 am–4 pm, Wed. 10 am–6 pm & 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 9 am–noon (no appointment needed).
CLOSED FRIDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

WINONA

Winona County Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off

225 West 2nd Street, Winona, MN 55987
Call 507-457-6462

Hours: Monday–Friday 8 am–4:30 pm year-round

Use of these facilities is free to La Crosse and Winona County residents, respectively. Houston County residents may use them for a fee. Please do not leave items at these locations when the facilities are not open—it's illegal and very dangerous.

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Trash/Recycling Drop-off for Residents without Curbside Pickup

How to Prepare Materials for Recycling

Yard Waste Disposal

Contact Information



Houston County Solid Waste & Recycling Information

Houston County Environmental Services
304 S. Marshall St.
Caledonia MN
507-725-5800

Houston County Recycling Center
105 Grant St.
Houston, MN
507-896-2535

Garage & Workshop

Acetone	H
Artist's paint & media	H
Antifreeze	H
Autobody repair products	H
Automobile oil	H
Battery acid	H
Brake fluid	H
Car wax, solvent-based	H
Compressed gas cylinders (freon)	U
Contact cement	H
Driveway sealer	H
Explosives	U
Fiberglass epoxy	H
Fluorescent light bulbs	H
Gasoline/oil mixtures	H
Gasoline & other fuels	H
Glue, solvent-based	H
Glue, water-based	H
Joint compound	H
Kerosene	H
Lighter fluid	H
Nonautomotive oils	H
Oil filters	H
Paint, latex	H
Paint, oil-based	H
Paint thinner	H
Paint stripper	H
Parts cleaner	H
Photographic chemicals	H
Rust remover	H
Shellac	H
Stain	H
Transmission fluid	H
Turpentine	H
Varnish	H
Windshield washer solution	D
Wood filler	H
Wood preservative	H

Kitchen/Bathroom

Alcohol-based lotions (perfume, aftershave)	D
Bleach	D
Cleaners, ammonia-based	D
Cleaners, solvent-based	H
Cosmetics	T
Disinfectants	H
Drain cleaner	D
Floor care products	H

Hair remover	H
Medicine (liquid)	H
Nail polish	H
Nail polish remover	H
Oven cleaner	H
Permanent wave solution	D
Skin cream	T
Thermometers (mercury)	H
Toilet bowl cleaner	D
Tub & tile cleaner	D
Window cleaner	D

Home & Garden

Aerosol cans, full	H
Batteries, alkaline	T
Batteries, button	H
Batteries, rechargeable	H
Dry cleaning solvent	H
Fertilizer (without pesticides)	T
Fertilizer (with pesticides)	H
Fungicide	H
Furniture polish	H
Insect spray	H
Light ballasts	H
Metal polish, solvent-based	H
Mothballs	H
Pesticides	H
Pool chemicals	H
Rat poison	H
Shoe polish	H
Spot remover	H
Stump remover	H
Thermostats (mercury)	H
Weed killer	H

Other

Infectious/biological waste	U
Radioactive materials	U
Shock- or heat-sensitive materials (peroxide, picric acid)	U
Hazardous waste from businesses*	U

KEY

H	Take to HHM
D	Pour down drain (if connected to sanitary sewer)
T	Place in trash
U	Unacceptable waste

E-Waste Recycling

You may recycle electronic waste (e-waste) at the supervised drop-off sites. Acceptable items include:

Printers	Circuit boards	Stereos
Fax machines	Computer accessories	CB and ham radios
Copiers	Telephones	Computer gaming items
Computer monitors	Cameras	Walkmans, iPods, MP3 players
CPUs	VCRs/DVD players	Television sets
Laptops	Cable/satellite TV equipment	
Keyboards/Mice		
Disk drives		

Pharmaceuticals Drop-Off

Don't flush them or put them in the trash! This can have negative effects on fish and other aquatic life. Don't keep them! This can lead to accidental poisonings and make you a target for pill seekers. Houston County will accept pharmaceuticals, sharps and over-the-counter medications during their scheduled Household Hazardous Waste collection events (see inside for dates). A drop box for medication only is located in the main lobby of the Criminal Justice Center. Sharp containers and inhalers not accepted at drop box.



FREE Disposing of Paint

People can bring all brands of old house paint, stain and varnish. Containers must be 5 gallons or smaller.



Businesses (painting contractors and others) can use this program with one restriction: If your business produces more than 220 pounds (about 20-30 gallons) of hazardous waste per month, you may use the drop-off sites for your latex paint only but not for your oil-based paint.

Contact Houston County Environmental Services to learn more about this restriction.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PAINT?

Houston County Household Hazardous Waste and PaintCare will make sure that your leftover paint is remixed into recycled paint, used as a fuel, made into other products or properly disposed of.

Houston County residents may dispose of latex or oil paints and related items at their scheduled Household Hazardous Waste collection events (see inside for dates). Completely empty paint cans may be properly disposed of at the drop-off sites.

* Note: Businesses that qualify as Very Small Quantity Generators (VSQG) can use the HHM program for a fee. VSQGs must pre-register and schedule an appointment before bringing materials to the collection facility. Call 608-785-9999 to receive a pre-registration and VSQG qualification packet.

Houston County Household & Business Waste—How to Dispose of It

Hazardous Waste

See page 1

Recyclables

Glass • Tin Cans • Plastic • Paper Products • Batteries • Mattresses • Box Springs

- **City curbside pickup:** Prepare recyclables and put them out for pickup as directed by your city (city contact info is at bottom of next page).
- **Rural recycling:** Take recyclables to the most convenient drop-off site and place them in the appropriate bin.

What Can Be Recycled?

GLASS	TIN CANS	PLASTICS 	PAPER/FIBER PRODUCTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and beverage glass only (soda, beer, wine and liquor bottles; food containers) <p><i>Rinse clean and discard metal or plastic caps. Labels can remain. Put in paper grocery bags.</i></p> <p>NO broken glass, window glass, mirrors, light bulbs, dishes, ceramic dishes or beer/wine caps, flower pots, crystal, heat-resistant ovenware, drinking glasses.</p>	<p><i>Rinse clean and flatten if possible. Labels can remain.</i></p> <p>NO aerosol cans.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empty bottles and jugs with necks. Number 1 or number 2 code must be stamped on the bottom of the container—for example, milk jugs and pop bottles <p><i>Remove and discard caps. Drain, rinse, and flatten. String bottles or jugs together when possible.</i></p> <p>NO plastic bags or wrap, film containers, plastic pails, dishes, bubble wrap, storage baskets, flower pots.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office paper, computer paper: Envelopes can have labels. <i>Bag, box, or bundle and tie with string.</i> • Corrugated cardboard, cardboard egg cartons, cereal and juice boxes: <i>Flatten. NO styrofoam egg cartons.</i> • Newspapers (including glossy inserts), phone books: <i>Remove covers from phone books. Bag, box, or bundle and tie with string.</i> • Books: <i>Paperback—bag or box; no need to remove covers. Hardcover—discard covers and bag or box pages. Also, see Alternative Recycling Sources</i> • Magazines, catalogs: <i>Bag, box, or bundle and tie with string.</i> • Brown paper bags: <i>Bag, box, or bundle and tie with string.</i>

Alternative Recycling Sources



- **Eyeglasses and hearing aids:** *Lions Club.* Deposit in containers around town or at supervised drop-off sites.
- **Beverage pull tabs:** *Ronald McDonald Homes.* Deposit in containers around town or at supervised drop-off sites.
- **Books** (hardcover and paperback): *Houston County Historical Society, Caledonia.*
- **Greeting cards** (front only): *St. Jude's Children's Ranch Recycled Card Program.* 100 St. Jude Street, Boulder City, NV 59005
- **Used oil, oil filters, antifreeze:** *Local oil stations* (call first).
- **Household items and furnishings** (clean, in good condition): *Houston County Women's Resources.* Call 507-894-2676. Tax receipt provided.
- **Agricultural silage plastics and Bale Plastic Bags:** For further information on this disposal, please contact Revolution Plastics at 844-490-7873 or www.revolutionbag.com

General Trash

Nonrecyclable paper, plastic, and glass; styrofoam; other household trash.

- **Curbside pickup:** Use official bags or garbage totes and put them out for pickup as directed by your city.
- **No curbside pickup:** Fill bags and take to the most convenient drop-off site (see next page).

NONRECYCLABLE PAPER	NONRECYCLABLE PLASTIC	STYROFOAM	NONRECYCLABLE GLASS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kleenex, paper towels, napkins • Self-carbon paper (NCR) • Posters/tagboard • Padded shipping bags • Wax paper/coated paper • Gift wrap/bags 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Containers not marked #1 or #2 • Plastic containers (film, pill, ice cream, paint) • Plastic wrap/bags/gift bags/bubble wrap • Dishes/eating utensils • Credit/calling cards • Storage baskets • Toys • Flower pots • 12-pack beverage containers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coolers • Insulation • Packing peanuts • Egg cartons • Fast-food containers • Cups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broken glass • Window glass • Mirrors • Light bulbs (nonfluorescent) • Cooking/ovenware • Beverage glasses
			CERAMICS
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ceramic items • Clay flower pots • Dishes



Public Notice:

Houston County Materials Recovery Drop Site is a great place for area residents and small businesses to bring in their unwanted items for recycling, reuse or disposal. Oftentimes, unwanted items brought to the drop site are still useful. Quality, reusable items are separated and placed in an area where other customers can “shop” for free items for their use, and reducing the amount of recoverable items sent to the landfill. See Drop Site Supervisors or check the Houston County website, www.co.houston.mn.us for details of sites, such as where they are located and hours of operation. If you have questions, please call **Houston County Environmental Services at 507-725-5800.**

Houston County Household & Business Waste—How to Dispose of It

Drop-off Site Materials

Large household items, metal, construction materials, appliances, tires, e-waste, rural refuse

Houston
Sat. 8 AM–3 PM; Mon. 10 AM–6 PM
5154 County 9 (Go ¼ mile east on County 9 just off Hwy 76 north.)

Caledonia
Sat. 8 AM–3 PM; Wed. 10 AM–6 PM
14750 Richard's Road (Turn west off Hwy 44 by Evergreen Cemetery. Go approximately 1 mile; take private driveway off curve.)

Spring Grove
Sat. 8 AM–3 PM; Wed. 10 AM–6 PM
631 E. Main (East of Spring Grove on Hwy 44 at Houston County Highway Shop.)

Houston County Drop-off Site Locations

La Crescent
Sat. 8 AM–3 PM; Thurs. 10 AM–6 PM
160 South 3rd St (Take Chestnut St. to south side of Flea Market; take F St. across the railroad tracks to site.)

Hokah
Sat. 8 AM–3 PM; Tues. 10 AM–6 PM
5650 State 16 (Go 1 mile west of junction of Hwys 44 and 16 on Hwy 16.)

Households without curbside pickup may drop bagged garbage at the drop-off sites for a fee: **30-gallon bag: \$2.00, 45-gallon bag: \$2.50 (\$1.50 minimum)**. If you have curbside collection, please use it. You will be charged the normal disposal fee for garbage in a city or township bag if deposited at the drop-off site. Those without curbside recycling pickup may use drop-off site recycling containers at no charge.

Sites for use only by Houston County Residents and Commercial Businesses

NO PHARMACEUTICALS OR SHARPS ALLOWED!

Aluminum Cans ONLY!! No Folded Aluminum

Houston County buys aluminum cans at the drop-off sites in Caledonia, Hokah, Houston, La Crescent, and Spring Grove; the Houston County Recycling Center, 105 N. Grant Street in Houston; and at Woodland Industries, 521 Old Highway Drive in Caledonia.

ITEMS HOUSTON COUNTY RESIDENTS CAN DROP OFF AT NO CHARGE

<p>Large household items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Furniture • Carpet & padding • Appliances • Mattresses (<i>Dry Mastresses Only</i>) • Mirrors • Floor tile/linoleum 	<p>Electronic items</p> <p>Bathroom fixtures</p> <p>Small household appliances</p> <p>Lead acid car batteries</p> <p>Tires without rims <i>(Limited 4 per day)</i></p>	<p>Metal items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lawn mowers • Window frames • Bicycles • Furnaces • Pots & pans • Tools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bed springs • Poles & pipes • Metal Siding & sheeting • Downspouts • Engines & parts • Fencing & gates • Rechargeable Batteries
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ITEMS HOUSTON COUNTY RESIDENTS OR BUSINESSES CAN DROP OFF FOR \$18/CU.YD. (Fees subject to change)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothing/textiles • Wood/plastic fencing • Countertops • Plywood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shutters • PVC pipe • Cabinets • Styrofoam peanuts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pickup toppers • Treated lumber • Wooden shelving • Doors, windows, & frames 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolition/remodeling debris including sheetrock, shingles, lumber, insulation, plaster, paneling
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ITEMS HOUSTON COUNTY BUSINESSES CAN DROP OFF FOR A FEE

Businesses may drop off tires, electronic items, and commercial and standard appliances. Fees are based on disposal costs charged to Houston County and subject to change as necessary.

ITEMS THAT ARE NOT ACCEPTED BY DROP-OFF SITES OR HAVE SPECIAL COLLECTION DATES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashes/cinders (Contact your city.) • Cement sidewalks (Contact your city.) • Yard waste (Contact your city.) • Gas tanks, fuel oil barrels (Contact a salvage yard.) • Cement blocks • Gas cylinders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unusable and unwanted farm agricultural pesticides will again be collected in 2018-2019. The program is offered free of charge through Houston County Environmental services and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Collection will be held at the same time as the household hazardous waste collection. See listings, dates and locations listed below under HHW Collection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fluorescent and HID bulbs will be collected at each of the supervised drop-off sites on Saturday, April 7, 2018 and Saturday, April 6, 2019 during regular hours of operation (8:00 am to 3:00 pm).
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Yard Waste

Each city has its own yard waste policies and programs. Contact your city hall for information (numbers provided below).

Brownsville 507-482-6732	Caledonia 507-725-3450	Eitzen 507-495-3017	Hokah 507-894-4990	Houston 507-896-4033	La Crescent 507-895-2595	Spring Grove 507-498-5221
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HHW Collection

Household Hazardous Waste collection dates and locations

May 24 • 2018 Recycling Center Houston 1:00-6:00 pm	July 12 • 2018 Caledonia Fair Grounds Caledonia 1:00-6:00 pm	August 23 • 2018 Hokah Fire Station Hokah 1:00-6:00 pm	May 23 • 2019 Recycling Center Houston 1:00-6:00 pm	July 11 • 2019 Spring Grove Hwy Shop • Spring Grove 1:00-6:00 pm	August 19 • 2019 La Crescent Drop-Site La Crescent 1:00-6:00 pm
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For More Information On Recycling Disposal Call: 507-896-2535 & Waste Disposal: 507-725-5800

Houston County Recycling/Trash Disposal/Household Hazardous Waste Information Newsletter



2018 - 2019

Recycler

Houston County Environmental Services
507-725-5800

Houston County Recycling Center
507-896-2535

Home Composting: Reap a Heap of Benefits

Why compost?

The best method for getting rid of yard waste is also the easiest. Composting is nature's way of turning your yard waste into a valuable soil conditioner. Composting helps your garden and lawn, saves water, benefits the environment, and saves you money on bags and commercial soil additives.

What to compost

DO Compost: grass clippings, leaves, weeds & garden debris, small brush, twigs, wood ash, sawdust & wood chips, egg shells, and coffee grounds

DON'T Compost: meat, bones, fat, dairy products, oils, whole branches, logs, pet or human waste, charcoal briquette ash, sawdust, or ash from treated wood

How to compost

All you need to compost are some basic gardening tools, materials for a bin, and a bit of soil to start the process. Bins should be square in shape, usually measuring 2' x 2' x 2' or 4' x 4' x 4'. The bin needs to have air running through it, so snow fencing, bricks, and woven wire are excellent bin walls.

Recipe: Mix 1 part green yard waste with 2 parts brown yard waste in a pile. Mix in 1 inch of soil. Keep pile as moist as a wrung-out sponge. Turn pile every week to let air in. Within four weeks to a year, depending

on how often you turn it and how moist the pile is kept, you will have a batch of compost.

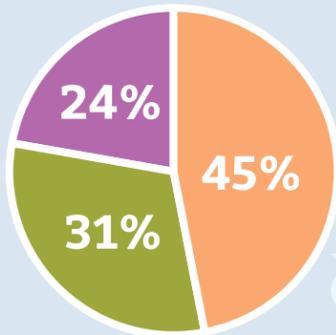
Uses for compost

Finished compost is a crumbly, sweet smelling dirt-like substance. Mix it into the soil to help the seeding process and to help fight erosion or use it as mulch instead of commercial soil additives.

Yard Care: Do Your Share and Grow a Healthy Lawn

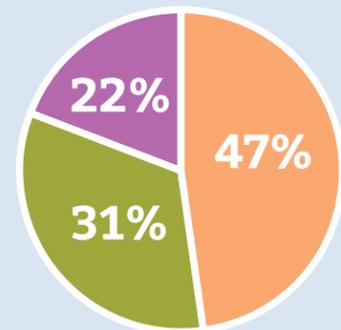
- Rake up dead thatch before the grass grows in the spring.
- Let the grass grow out to 3 to 5 inches.
- Cut only the top third of the grass off at a time (about 1 inch)
- Leave clippings on your lawn.
- Water only every 1 or 2 weeks depending on your soil.
- Avoid over-fertilizing and have your soil tested every 3 to 4 years.

Waste Diversion Rates



2015 TOTAL WASTE
14,814 TONS

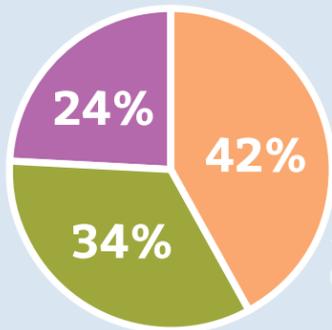
76%
Did Not End Up In Land Fill



2016 TOTAL WASTE
15,005 TONS

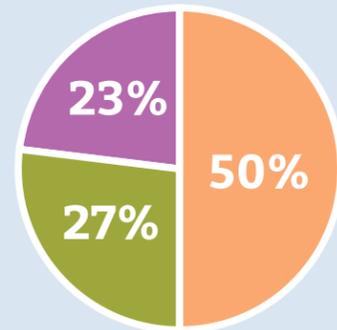
78%
Did Not End Up In Land Fill

CONVERTED TO ENERGY RECYCLED FOR OTHER USE PUT IN LANDFILL



2014 TOTAL WASTE
13,323 TONS

76%
Did Not End Up In Land Fill



2013 TOTAL WASTE
13,031 TONS

77%
Did Not End Up In Land Fill

This graph illustrates the disposal and diversion of waste within the Houston County system. This includes all the waste sent to the Xcel Energy plant and the La Crosse County Landfill as well as tons that were recycled county-wide, both curbside and at the drop-off sites. In 2016 almost 6,700 tons of waste was sent to Xcel and over 3,000 tons to the landfill. The Solid Waste Department and Xcel Energy helped reduce the amount of waste going into the landfill by diverting this valuable resource into either energy production or recycling programs.

Some of these programs include converting used shingles from a waste product into material that can be used in reducing the amount of asphalt for roads. Clean wood waste is ground up and sold to Xcel Energy to produce energy, and waste concrete is crushed and used for other applications including a replacement for gravel on roads. Other wastes that are recycled include tires, scrap metal, yard waste, and cardboard.

Because of these successful diversion programs approximately 75 percent of all waste sent into the solid waste system in 2016 was recycled or reused. This reduces the impact of these wastes on our environment because they become a resource instead of a waste; this will also help keep our existing landfill space available for many more years, eliminating the need to locate another landfill within our region.

BACKYARD GARBAGE BURNING CAN AFFECT YOUR HEALTH

The U.S. EPA estimates that one burn barrel (from an average family of four) can produce as much or more dioxin as a full-scale municipal waste incinerator burning 200 tons per day.

Burning garbage in a burn barrel or fire pit creates low-temperature fires (less than 2,200°F), which receive very little oxygen and produce a lot of smoke. Under these conditions, a variety of toxic substances are produced and then released directly into the air without being treated or filtered. Exposure to smoke can also increase the risk of heart disease, cause rashes, nausea, and headaches.

But the health concerns go well beyond those who are directly exposed to these toxic chemicals through their food. Among the health risks posed by backyard burning, dioxin, a known potent human carcinogen and endocrine disrupter is the main concern. Dioxin can have significant impacts on human immune, developmental and reproductive systems. Dioxin exposure is especially harmful for children, pregnant women, and the elderly.

In Minnesota, dioxin is of particular concern since a recent survey shows that 45% of rural Minnesota residents still burn their garbage. Because burn barrels are more common in the rural, agricultural areas of the state, there is a particular concern about high levels of dioxin settling on crops and in our streams and lakes, and eventually winding up in the food we eat. Dioxin produced by backyard burning is deposited on plants, which in turn are eaten by animals. In fact, over 90% of human dioxin uptake is consumed in this manner. Burning garbage in your backyard whether done in a traditional burn barrel, wood stove, fire-pit, or at the cabin — is far more harmful to our health, and the environment than previously thought.



Houston County Sharps Collection Program

Household generated "sharps" are accepted on Household Hazardous Waste Collection dates (see inside). **Never place loose sharps in the garbage.**

The following sharps are accepted: Needles, Syringes, Lancets Test strips, PICC lines

Procedure:

- Place the sharps in puncture resistant containers (either a registered red sharps container or a thick plastic container such as a laundry detergent or bleach bottle).
- Label the container "SHARPS" and lock the lid.
- Take the container to the Household Hazardous Materials Facility in La Crosse or Winona or check inside for your area's Household Hazardous Waste Collection dates.

Because loose sharps are dangerous, a HHM technician cannot remove sharps from a container. Call 507-725-5800 for more information.

