

# MRF TURF

## Summer 2025

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Manitowoc County  
Recycling Center & Compost Sites



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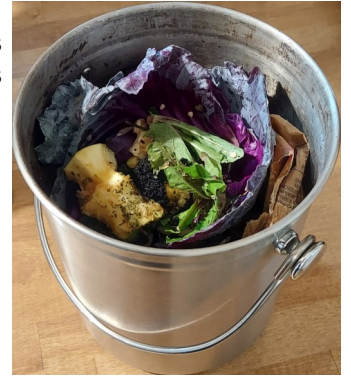
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### HOME COMPOSTING

Gardeners and homeowners, turn your household food scraps into rich compost for your garden or plants. Mix kitchen scraps and grass clipping with leaves and turn the pile occasionally until it breaks down. Not only does home composting provide excellent compost, but you can reduce the amount of materials going into your garbage. The Recycling Center Main Office sells large, 13-cubic foot compost bins with locking lids for \$72.00 (tax included). There may be other types of home compost bins available at local retailers or online that better meet your specific needs. Otherwise, there are many plans available for building your own home compost setup.

Depending on your location, a simple pile may work just fine. Otherwise, contained bins may help keep away animals and keep your area looking neater.



Many people compost at home because they want to feed their garden soil to grow their own food. By composting at home, they can avoid purchasing soil amendments and making trips extra trips to the store (only to find out they are sold out). They also have a way to deal with garden and lawn debris without making trips to a municipal compost site.

By paying attention to what goes into a home compost and how it is handled the quality can be improved. Some examples of this are avoiding weeds that have gone to seed or spread by root fragments, avoiding diseased plants, adding worm castings, crushed charcoal from natural wood (a form of bio-char), or even adding fermented weed-tea or other liquid fertilizers. Controlling pile size, temperature, turning frequency, and screening the finished material can improve quality as well.

*Stop by the Recycling Center at any time during normal business hours and take a look at our floor model. Educational resources for home composting.*



### Mission Statement

To provide materials  
recycling and recovery  
services to the citizens of  
Manitowoc County and to  
keep the public informed  
about recycling issues.



**Manitowoc County Recycling Center & Compost Sites**

3000 Basswood Road, Manitowoc WI

920-683-4333

[Recycling.manitowoccountymi.gov](http://Recycling.manitowoccountymi.gov)





# HOME COMPOSTING MATERIALS



## COMPOST



**COMPOST TIP**

Chopping or shredding these items helps speed up the composting process.

For best results, composters can mix in 2 to 3 volumes of "brown" material with each volume of "green" material.

### Carbon-Rich "Browns"

#### Brown leaves & yard waste

- Brush & twigs (1/2" in diameter or less)
- Cardboard (dry and clean)
- Egg cartons (shredded)
- Newspaper
- Nuts & nut shells (but **not** black walnuts)
- Paper towels
- Pine cones & pine needles
- Sawdust & shavings (from non-treated wood)
- Straw & hay
- Wood chips

### Nitrogen-Rich "Greens"

#### Green leaves & yard waste

- Coffee beans, grounds & used filters
- Dirt & potting soil
- Egg shells
- Flowers & yard plants
- Fruit, including cores & rinds
- Grass clippings
- Gourds & pumpkins
- Melons and melon rinds
- Tea leaves & tea bags
- Vegetables, greens & legumes



## NOT FOR COMPOST



### Not for Home Composting

- Biodegradable forks, spoons & knives
- Branches or logs more than 6" in diameter
- Charcoal briquettes or briquette ash
- Cigar & cigarette ashes
- Coffee or beverage cups
- Diapers
- Dairy products (butter, milk, cheese, etc.)
- Invasive weeds and plants
- Meat (cooked or raw) & bones
- Oils, greases & fats (including snack chips)
- Pet food
- Pet or human waste
- Pizza boxes with grease or cheese on them
- Recyclables (glass, plastic, metal cans, etc.)
- Sawdust from treated wood
- Trash (wrappers, packaging, etc.)
- Used take-out containers & Styrofoam shells
- Wood treated with varnish or paint

For more, visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) & search "compost," or consult other DNR publications, **Home Composting: Reap A Heap of Benefits** & **Home Composting: The Basic Composter**.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, audiotape etc.) upon request. Please call 608-266-2111 for more information. WA-1785 2015

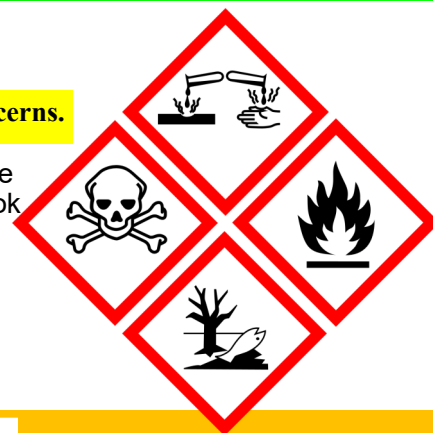


# Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep

The spring Clean Sweep event was rescheduled for fall due to road construction safety concerns.

Many common items like automotive products, household cleaners, pesticides, and home improvement products are hazardous when used, stored, or disposed of improperly. Look for items that contain the following on their labels: **Danger, Warning, Caution, Poison, Combustible, Flammable, Corrosive, and Toxic.**

Thanks to our participants and volunteers, since our collection started in 1985, we have collected 1,220,828 pounds of unwanted chemicals.



## Manitowoc County Highway Shop 3500 HWY 310

### Residents

Saturday, **October 11**, 9am - Noon

### Farms and Businesses

Friday, **October 10**, 2pm - 4pm

Pre-registration is required by May 9

Call 920-683-4333

Many cleansers, home improvement products, automotive products and pesticides can be dangerous when stored or disposed of improperly. They can contaminate the soil, water, and air when spilt or illegally dumped. Improperly stored items could be involved in accidental poisonings of children and pets. The Clean Sweep Program provides an opportunity to safely dispose of these materials for free and for eligible businesses to save on their disposal costs.

All of the collected items are properly recycled, neutralized or disposed of at special disposal sites or hazardous waste incinerators that render the materials harmless.

The Manitowoc County Clean Sweep is part of a regional partnership with Sheboygan and Fond du Lac County. It is possible partly through grant funding from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, a donation from the Ridgeview Landfill and volunteer labor.

## REDUCTION IS YOUR FIRST CHOICE!

### Before you buy:

- Read the labels
- Choose safer alternatives
- Buy the smallest amount needed for the job

### After you buy:

- Follow directions for safe use
- Store properly in the original container
- Share what you can't use
- Dispose of leftovers properly

## ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Pesticides and poisons
- Oil and lead based paints
- Wood preservatives
- Solvents
- Aerosols
- Cleansers and polishes
- Contaminated oil
- Antifreeze
- Gasoline
- Mercury and mercury containing devices
- Pool chemicals

Disposal or recycling options exist for many unacceptable items. Contact the Manitowoc County Recycling Center at 920-683-4333 or visit

[Recycling.manitowocountywi.gov](http://Recycling.manitowocountywi.gov)

## UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- **LATEX PAINT\***
- Explosives such as ammunition
- Radioactive materials such as smoke detectors
- Compressed gas tanks such as fire extinguishers and propane tanks
- Unknown chemicals
- Tires
- Infectious and biological waste including sharps
- Light bulbs and batteries
- TVs and electronics
- Appliances
- Freon gases
- Pharmaceuticals



\*Residents are encouraged to dispose of latex paint in their trash. Just take the lid off and let it dry or add paint hardener or cat litter. Once hard, latex paint can be disposed of in the trash.

## GUIDELINES

- Household and farms may dispose of acceptable hazardous waste items at no cost.
- Participants must be residents of Manitowoc County.
- Wastes must be brought in the original containers. Keep materials separate. Do NOT mix chemicals.
- To prepare materials for transport, line a cardboard box with a plastic bag, place them in the box and separate with cardboard.
- Place items in your trunk or the back of your vehicle.
- Gas cans, totes, and other containers will not be returned.
- When arriving at the Clean Sweep site, slow down and follow traffic directions.
- Remain in your vehicle at all times.
- Do not come before or after the listed times.
- Farms and businesses must register by May 9. Call 920-683-4333 for information.

**Program Sponsors:** Manitowoc County Solid Waste Dept., Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP), Waste Management Inc., Ascend Services Inc., and Manitowoc County UW Extension.



LAMP RECYCLING is one of the services provided by the Manitowoc County Recycling Center's ongoing electronics collection program. Some lamps, including fluorescent tubes, compact fluorescent bulbs and high intensity discharge bulbs, contain small amounts of mercury that can be harmful to human health and the environment when they are disposed of in the trash. Even incandescent bulbs contain lead, which is also a toxic metal. All the materials in these bulbs can be recycled.

During 2024 the Recycling Center collected approximately 12,563 bulbs from residents and businesses. Once received, the bulbs are carefully packaged for shipping to a specialized recycling facility where hazardous materials are safely removed. All the materials in these bulbs can be recycled without generating much waste. Even the hazardous materials, like mercury, can be recovered.

Bring your burnt out lamps and ballasts to main office at the Manitowoc County Recycling Center. When transporting large amounts of fluorescent tubes secure them in boxes or by taping them together in manageable bundles using an easy release masking or painter's tape (no duct tape).



Item	Fee
4 ft. Fluorescent Lamps	\$0.60 each
8 ft. Fluorescent Lamps	\$0.90 each
Compact Fluorescent Lamps	\$0.60 each
High Intensity Discharge (HID) Lamps <i>(Including Sodium, Metal Halides, &amp; Mercury Vapor)*</i>	\$1.65 each
Incandescent, Flood and Spot Light Lamps	\$0.35 each
LED Lamps <2'	\$1.40 each
LED Lamps >2'	\$1.80 each
Fluorescent light fixtures (without bulbs)	\$9.50 each
Holiday lights <i>(string lights only, no lighted decorations)</i>	No charge
Ballasts (non-PCB)	\$0.55 per lb
Ballasts (PCB, unidentified, or mixed)	\$3.50 per lb
*There will be an additional charge for any broken lamps.	
**Do not use duct tape to bundle fluorescent lamps together, use an easy-release tape like painter's tape or masking tape.	

### LITHIUM BATTERY DISPOSAL

Lithium batteries are commonly found in many devices today including phones, tablets, laptops, drones, and many high tech toys. They typically carry a high capacity charge needed to meet the energy demands of the devices they power.

Do NOT place these batteries, or and devices that contain them, in your curbside recycling or any recycling center drop off bin.

These batteries can easily start fires when they become damaged by the equipment used to handle recyclables or trash. Damaged batteries can heat up and become an ignition source in large piles of paper, cardboard or plastic bottles.

Lithium batteries have been responsible for many fires in the solid waste and recycling industries, including fires in collection trucks, transfer stations, recycling centers and landfills.



So what should you do? There are places that can collect and recycle unwanted lithium batteries and battery containing devices. In fact, we can accept most rechargeable lithium batteries and devices for a small fee at our main office as part of our electronics recycling service, visit [manitowocountywi.gov/.../electronics-collection/](https://manitowocountywi.gov/.../electronics-collection/) or call the Manitowoc County Recycling Center at 683-4333 for details.

**TIRE COLLECTION**

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center tire collection service has started and will run from April through October.

**Fees and Guidelines**

- \$6.75—per car tire or smaller (5 tires or less).
- \$8.75—per standard truck tire (5 tires or less).
- \$430 per ton (21.5 cents per pound) for:
  - Quantities of 6 or more tires
  - Semi tires
  - Tires on rims
- \$530 per ton (26.5 cents per pound) for off road tires including:
  - Agricultural equipment tires
  - Mining equipment tires
  - Mixed loads containing off road tires
- Stop in the Recycling Center Main Office **before** dropping off tires.
- Collection employees reserve the right to judge, based on tire size, and quantity, if a customer is charged on a per tire basis or by tire weight.
- Tire loads should not be contaminated with gravel, mud, brush, plastic, wood or any other non-tire materials. Loads with excessive contamination may be refused or charged a higher rate at the discretion of the Recycling Center.
- Residents and businesses with dump truck load or larger quantities of tires must call the Recycling Center before coming.
- For more information call the Recycling Center at 920-683-4333 or visit [Recycling.manitowoccountymi.gov](http://Recycling.manitowoccountymi.gov).

**Location & Hours:**

3000 Basswood Rd  
Manitowoc

Monday—Friday

7am—4pm

Saturday

8am—Noon

**Tires Accepted:**

Car

Truck

Semi

Tractor

Motorcycle

ATV

Bicycle

**\*Rubber products  
that are not tires are  
not accepted.**

Our Tire Collection service started in 1998 and has collected approximately 4.64 million pounds of waste tires. Waste tires can be reused in a number of beneficial ways. They can be shredded into rubber chips and used as artificial turf or as a groundcover in playgrounds. Tire rubber can be incorporated into asphalt roads, running tracks, and used in other rubber products. Depending on what other materials are in the tires, they may also be used as tire derived fuel at permitted facilities.

**FREON CONTAINING APPLIANCES**

Many customers stop in or call asking what to do with their air conditioners, dehumidifiers, or refrigerators. We do not accept these items because we are not licensed to handle or remove Freon. There are other places in the area that do though. Be sure to call ahead for their guidelines and pricing. If you have unwanted Freon containing items consider taking them to one of the following places:

- Appliance Disposal, Manitowoc, 920-323-0493
- [Sadoff Iron & Metal](#), Manitowoc, 920-684-3388
- Langs Appliance Service, Manitowoc, 920-682-8091
- [Tisler Salvage Inc.](#), Reedsville, 920-864-7631
- [B & B Metals](#), Newton, 920-693-8261
- Salvage Battery and Lead, Mishicot, 920-755-4511





## RECYCLING DEPOT

The Manitowoc Recycling Center maintains a residential drop off area at the Recycling Center Main Office located at 3000 Basswood Road. It is open Monday-Friday from 7am to 4pm, and Saturday from 8am to noon. This site is intended for use by all county residents. There is no trash or garbage drop off at this location. Contact a local hauler or the Ridgeview Landfill for disposal of trash. Different municipal drop off sites may be more accessible to you depending on the city, township or village you are from.

### General Drop Site Guidelines

- Place your recyclables in the bunker or receptacle labeled for that material.
- Remove any plastic bags or strings and take them home with you to place in your trash.
- Do not place nonacceptable items in the bunkers or receptacles.
- Do not place materials outside receptacles on the ground.
- Large loads of cardboard, paper or plastic can be placed on appropriate pile on the tipping floor.
- Use caution driving through the drop site and on the tipping floor.



The recycling and compost areas are monitored for illegal dumping, littering, and other issues. Please follow all posted guidelines.

### Paper

Includes newspapers, junk mail, magazines, computer paper, books with metal or plastic binding removed etc.. Paper should be clean and dry. No paper contaminated with food or oil. No paper coated with foil, plastic or heavy glue. No plastic/foil wrapping paper.



### Plastic

Check for a neck. **We only accept #1 and #2 bottles and jars.** Bottles and jars should be empty. No tub shaped containers or bottles that contained oil or pesticide (even if rinsed). No plastic wraps, films, bags, trays, pails, packaging peanuts, Styrofoam, or any other non bottle shaped item. Please do not tie milk jugs together or tie in plastic bags.



### Glass Bottles

Any color glass bottle or jar can be recycled. Put into designated bunker. Remove lids or caps and rinse. No window glass, mirrors, light bulbs, clay, ceramics, drinking glasses or ovenware.



### Cartons

Cartons include shelf stable and refrigerated containers for wine, milk, juice, cream, soy milk, soup, and egg substitutes. Drop off cartons with the plastic bottles. They should be emptied and flattened.



### Cardboard

Should be clean and flattened. No heavily soiled cardboard or cardboard coated with wax, tin, or plastic. Tubes, beverage carriers and pizza boxes with moderate grease/cheese spots are acceptable.



### Cans

Tin, steel, and aluminum cans. Coated cans, foil, and pie tins are ok. Empty and rinse out food residue.



## ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER REQUEST

Are you interested in receiving current updates recycling programs in Manitowoc County? Join our electronic mailing list to receive our quarterly newsletter. Either call us at 920-683-4333 or email [jonreisenbuechler@manitowoccountymi.gov](mailto:jonreisenbuechler@manitowoccountymi.gov) and request to be added to our email distribution list. The recycling center will not give away or sell your information. You will receive our quarterly newsletter detailing news and information about the recycling center and related events.

## SCRAP METAL DUMPSTER

The Recycling Depot now has a scrap metal dumpster available for your convenience. It is for clean scrap metal only, including steel, iron, copper, sheet/cast aluminum, tin, and mixed metals. Please remove excessive non-metal components.

- NO propane (or other) tanks
- NO electronics or appliances
- NO batteries or lamps
- NO garbage, plastic, wood, or rubber
- NO chemicals, gas, oil, or other hazardous wastes.



The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is operated by Ascend Services Inc. Formerly Holiday House of Manitowoc Inc.



The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is a business unit of the Manitowoc County Department of Public Works.

