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Fall 2025

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



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RECYCLING BIN LIDS

One of the curbside haulers in the City of Manitowoc, Pozorski Hauling, has a snap on lid for their recycling bin available. It is an affordable option to secure your recycling bin on windy days if you contract with them. If your family frequently generates more recyclables than fit in one bin, a second bin can be purchased as well. If this is appealing to you, contact Pozorski Hauling at 920-682-3544 for cost/availability.

There is a display model at the Recycling Center Main office if you want to stop in and check it out.

Wind blown trash and recycling can pollute our communities and environment. It looks disgusting and can cause issues for wildlife and water bodies. Part of the problem is that strong winds or stormy weather can easily knock over your trash tote, recycling tote, or recycling bin. Especially if they are overflowing, open topped, and full of loose items.

The lid is not currently required and there are other options to keep your recyclables secured if you have a recycling bin. Some people construct a homemade lid that is lipped and weighted so it stays in place when the wind blows. Others place their trash bag on top. Others just don't put material out if it is windy, or they take it to the Manitowoc County Recycling Center depot instead. Some will put it out in the morning right before the truck passes by. Clear bags are also an option when storms are expected. Weighted items in your bin are not always a good idea, they may keep the material secure but can be mistaken for trash and thrown in the garbage truck when it passes by.



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.manitowoccountywi.gov



CLEAN SWEEP UPDATE

The 2025 Manitowoc County Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep programs had an overwhelming turnout. Due to the large amount of material and vehicles we were forced to make the difficult decision to cut off our line. We wish we could help everyone properly dispose of their hazardous materials but, unfortunately, there are limits to what a single event can safely handle.

Many counties that host temporary hazardous waste collection events have to shut their gates when they reach their limits. This has not happened at the Manitowoc event before and we typically have most vehicles go through in the first 2 hours, even during high turnout years. We were caught by surprise, and now steps are being taken to help keep this from happening again. This is a clear indication that there is a strong need for additional events including both additional funding and staffing.



We understand the frustration of being turned away and sympathize with those affected by this. Due to the advanced planning needed to hold events there will not be another this year. To help make it up for those who could not attend, we have made arrangements to cover the disposal costs for any Manitowoc County resident taking their household hazardous waste items to the Brown County Hazardous Material Recovery Facility for the remainder of 2025. This includes any item on the acceptable list for our normal Clean Sweep event, like pesticides, cleaning products, oil and lead based paints, automotive chemicals, and mercury. A good start is to look for items that contain the following warnings on their labels: Danger, Warning, Caution, Poison, Combustible, Flammable, Corrosive, and Toxic.

Location & Contact Info:

Brown County Resource Recovery
2561 S. Broadway
Green Bay, WI
920-492-4950

Website:

[Brown County Hazardous Material Recovery Facility](#)

Drop off hours:

Tuesday 9am – 3pm
Thursday noon – 6pm
Or by appointment.

**Guidelines:**

- Free disposal for acceptable hazardous waste items for Manitowoc County residents.
- Fees apply to any items that are not considered hazardous including electronics, batteries, propane tanks, light bulbs, cooking oils, and others.
- Bring proof of residency.
- Drivers must remain in their vehicles.
- Hazardous materials must be in the back end of vehicles (trunk, truck bed). Material will not be removed from front or back seats.
- Large loads including full truck beds and full trailer loads must call and make an appointment. They reserve the right to reject or delay any unscheduled large load that shows up during their residential hours.
- A product exchange room is available Tuesday 9am – 3pm and Thursday 1pm – 6pm.

ABSOLUTELY NO ASHES

Never dump ASHES off at the compost sites. We do not accept them. Our signs, flyer, and website clearly state that we do not accept them. We have had fires started by people dumping ashes. One of those fires shut the Basswood site down for 2 days. Since we started citing people, the incidence of ash dumping has declined, but it does still occasionally happen.

If you are caught dumping ashes at either compost site, you will receive a \$200 citation, even if you didn't see the signs or look at the guidelines.



You may have added ashes to your garden at one time, but we do not want them in our compost site for two important reasons. First, even if ashes seem cool they often still contain embers that can start fires, especially after being crushed by vehicle tires during dry conditions. Second, ashes may contain undesirable chemicals from whatever was burned, and we have no way to know if it was clean or treated wood, or worse. The best thing to do with your ashes is to use them at your property in your garden, or thoroughly douse them in water and let them sit at least a month before sending them to the landfill. If you have curbside pickup service, or use a municipal drop off site, be sure to check their guidelines too; many places do not accept ashes for fire safety reasons.

COMPOST SITE UPDATE

Beginning November 16 the Basswood Road and Woodland Drive Compost Sites will have new operating hours. The Basswood Compost Site will be open Monday-Friday, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm and Saturday from 8:00 am until noon. **Beginning November 16, the Woodland Compost Site will be closed until April 2026.** Beginning November 1, the Recycling Center Main Office will be closed on Saturdays and will reopen on Saturdays beginning April 2025.

Starting November 16...

BASSWOOD COMPOST SITE

3000 Basswood Rd, Manitowoc
Mon-Fri 7am-4pm
Sat 8am-Noon

WOODLAND COMPOST SITE

4191 Woodland Dr, Two Rivers
CLOSED November 16 through March 31

Both the Basswood Road and Woodland Drive Compost Sites are available for drop off of acceptable yard materials during the posted hours. When using the compost sites drive slow and watch for traffic. It is advisable to avoid using the compost sites during or after heavy rains since they can easily become rutted and slippery. Do not use the compost sites outside of the posted hours.

Accepted Items: Grass, leaves, flowers, plants, pumpkins, fruits, vegetables, garden waste, yard clippings, brush, branches (not more than 6 inches in diameter or longer than 5 feet), clean woodchips, clean saw dust, and natural holiday trees.

Unacceptable Items: ASHES, plant pots, seedling trays, bags, plant tags, or anything plastic, stumps, animal waste, sod with soil, topsoil or dirt, rocks, gravel, lumber, garbage, large branches greater than 6 inches in diameter or longer than 5 feet, or non-residential materials without paying the tip-fee.

Loads may be subject to inspection by Recycling Center staff. Illegal dumping is subject to fine per Manitowoc Code Section 6.17. Placing unaccepted items in an otherwise designated recycling container or pile is considered illegal dumping and is subject to fine. The sites are monitored by video surveillance. If you have questions about a particular material, call 683-4333 and ask.

**COMPOST PRODUCTS**

Mulch and compost products are available at the Recycling Center Main Office during the posted office hours. Purchases must be made before loading. Note that the office hours are different than the drop off site hours. Loading is generally available Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 3:30pm. Call 920-683-4333 for more info. Loading and delivery are subject to weather, site conditions, and product availability.

**PRODUCT PRICE BY CUBIC YARD**

- Screened Compost \$20
- Non-screened Compost \$5
- Wood Mulch \$15
- Shredded Leaf Mulch \$12

*Minimum purchase for loading is 1/2 cubic yard
Minimum purchase is 1/4 cubic yard (about 50 gallons)*

DELIVERY

- 6 cubic yards max.
- Zone 1 (within 10mi) \$50.00
- Zone 2 (over 10mi) \$85.00

RECYCLING CENTER OFFICE

3000 Basswood Rd, Manitowoc
Mon-Fri 7am-4pm, Sat 8am-Noon
(Office is closed Saturdays from Nov 1—March 31)

FREE ARBORIST WOODCHIPS

Due to the large amount of arborist wood chips from contractors we have started separating them from our yard trimmings. Throughout 2025 and 2026 visitors may help themselves to this pile for no charge. There is material available at both the Woodland and Basswood Compost Sites.

We will load small truck and trailers for \$5/cubic yard at the Basswood site during normal office/loading hours. We are able to offer reduced loading fees for customers that want to haul out large quantities (several large dump truck loads or more) of these arborist woodchips but they must call ahead to make arrangements.

This material is highly variable and you should expect varying quality depending on the day and section of the pile. For example, one area may be from ground up Pine tree limbs and another from an Ash or Maple tree.



TIRE COLLECTION ENDS OCTOBER 31ST

The Recycling Center offers a seasonal tire collection service that will close at the end of October. It will reopen in April 2026. Participants often ask why it is only a seasonal collection. The pricing for our tire recycling service is based on the cost of having the large accumulation of tires transported and processed at a reputable tire recycling facility. The cost is based on the weight of the tires shipped, any water collected in the tires can be shaken off as they are loaded. However, during cold weather, water freezes inside the tires and does not come out easily; this adds significantly to the weight and the processing cost. Luckily, there are not a lot of people who want to bring tires in during the winter.

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.
- Bring your waste tires to the Manitowoc County Recycling Center during normal office hours.
- 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

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.**





DRUG DISPOSAL PROGRAM

Drug Drop Boxes are available year-round at participating law enforcement buildings. Participants should remove pills from the original container and put them in a "ziplock" style bag that is quart size or smaller. Pills can be mixed in one bag. Bring the bag to a law enforcement drug drop box. Recycle or dispose of the empty pill bottles and boxes at home. Liquids, creams, and powders stay in their original container with the caps tightened.

October 25, 2025 is the [DEA National Prescription Drug Takeback Day](#). While there are no planned events in the Manitowoc area this fall, our permanent drug drop boxes are part of the program and can be used during the listed hours.

Guidelines:

- Accepted drugs include prescriptions, over the counter, pet medications, controlled substances, and supplements.
- Place pills in a "ziplock" style bag that is quart size or less. Liquids, cremes, and powders can stay in the original container with caps tightened.
- Pill bottles and boxes are NOT accepted. Cross out your personal information and dispose of them or recycle them at home.
- Needles, sharps, mercury devices, chemical waste, electronic glucose monitors, non-medical inhalers, and personal care products like shampoo and cosmetics will NOT be accepted.
- Do NOT bring medications to drug disposal event before or after the listed times.
- Households only. Businesses should call 683-4333 for disposal information.
- Practice safe storage by keeping medications in a secured location.
- Practice reduction by consulting with your physician about your medication needs.
- Never share your prescriptions with another person.

PERMANENT DROP BOX LOCATIONS:

- Manitowoc Co. Sheriff's Office: 1025 South 9th St, 8am-3:30pm M-F
- Manitowoc City Police Dept: 910 Jay St, Manitowoc, 7:30am-4:30pm M-T, 7:30am-11:30am F
- Two Rivers Police Dept: 1717 East Park St, Two Rivers, 8am-4:30pm M-F
- Mishicot Village Police: 511 East Main St, Mishicot, during [Village Hall](#) hours
- Kiel Police Dept: 619 Paine St, Kiel, open 7:30a-3p M-F

Some local pharmacies offer Drug Drop Boxes as well. Since they are not part of the Manitowoc County program, they may have slightly different guidelines. They are a safe and secure method to dispose of your old medications and may be more convenient for many people. Check at your local pharmacy for details.

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 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.

