

Order a compost bin today!

Composting: A Great Way to Manage Kitchen and Yard Waste

Washington County and five other metropolitan area counties have teamed up to offer residents another opportunity to purchase backyard composting bins at a reduced price.

Backyard composting bins offer residents an easy way to manage kitchen and yard waste while creating an organic-rich finished compost for use in gardens and flower beds.

The Garden Gourmet compost bins, available through this offer, are rectangular-shaped with dimensions of approximately 24 inches wide by 24 inches deep by 48 inches tall and have a capacity of 13 cubic feet. The bins are constructed of recycled black plastic and feature a snap-locking cover to keep animals out and a sliding door for easy harvesting of finished compost.

This bin is identical to the one offered in the 2004 Washington County program. Each bin order includes a kitchen food waste bucket and an assembly and composting instruction sheet. This bin and bucket combined would ordinarily retail for approximately \$80 but is offered through this program for only \$30.

Reserve your composting bin online at www.greenguardian.com or call (651) 292-3933 to place an order over the telephone.

Pre-ordered bins may be picked up at five metropolitan area locations:

Location	Date	Time
Falcon Heights (2 days) Minnesota State Fairgrounds (Como Avenue parking lot, just west of Snelling and Como)	Sat, April 30 Sun, May 1	10 a.m.-6 p.m. 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Fridley Columbia Arena 7011 University Avenue	Thurs, April 28	2 p.m.-7 p.m.
Inver Grove Heights Inver Hills Community College 2500 80th Street	Sat, May 21	9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Minneapolis Minneapolis Public Schools Education Service Center 807 NE Broadway Street	Sat, May 7	10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Maple Grove Maple Grove Government Center 12800 Arbor Lakes Parkway	Sat, April 23	10 a.m.-2 p.m.



Reserve your Garden Gourmet compost bin today! Backyard composting bins offer residents an easy way to manage kitchen and yard waste while creating an organic-rich finished compost for use in gardens and flower beds. This offer features the compost bin (left), a kitchen waste food bucket (right), and an instruction sheet for only \$30.



Who is this?
What is his mission?

Turn to **page 12** to find out!

Fast Fact: Steel recycling saves enough energy every year to electrically power one-fifth of the households in the US or about 18 million homes.

Proper disposal of cathode ray tubes contributes to a healthier environment; many disposal options are available

What is a cathode ray tube?

Many people have one or more televisions or a computer in their home. Chances are the televisions or monitors contain a cathode ray tube (CRT).

A CRT is the part of the television or monitor that displays information. When it comes time to upgrade these items, people will no longer be able to toss them in the trash.

Effective July 1, 2005, state law bans CRTs (found in most computers and televisions) from being placed in the trash (Minnesota Statute 115A.9565).

Why should residents care about proper CRT disposal?

CRTs are considered the single largest source of lead in Minnesota's municipal waste, containing five to eight pounds of lead per unit.

Lead makes up approximately 20 percent of each CRT. And the amount of waste is increasing rapidly, considering the estimated useful life of a computer is only three to five years and the newer LCD flat screens, Plasma, and High Definition (HDTV) are replacing traditional televisions.

The ban will keep toxic lead out of landfills and processing facilities and will increase the amount of materials being recycled.

Disposal Options for Residents

Give it away:

If you have a useable computer or television, list it on the Twin Cities Free Market.

The Free Market is an online service that connects free, usable items with people who want them. Go to www.twincitiesfreemarket.org.

Sell it:

The following companies are sell-back options for computer equipment. Contact these companies for more information on items accepted and costs:

AABAI Computer Services
1527 Grand Ave.
St. Paul
(651) 228-3000

Computer Renaissance
1900 E. Co. Rd. D
Maplewood
(651) 770-5322

Computer Renaissance
2335 Fairview Ave. N.
Roseville
(651) 633-6600

Take it back:

Return your computer or television to the manufacturer. There are several take-back programs available. Check out www.greenguardian.com.



Recycle it:

Contact your waste hauler to see if they accept computers and/or televisions for recycling.



Are cathode ray tubes (CRTs) in your home? CRTs are found in home electronics, such as televisions and computers. CRTs are the single largest source of lead in Minnesota's municipal waste.

Recycle it (continued):

The following companies will recycle your old television or computer. Contact these companies for more information on items accepted and disposal costs:

Asset Recovery
150 State St.
St. Paul
(651) 602-0789

Materials Processing Corp
2805 W. Service Road
Eagan
(651) 681-8099

Green Light Recycling
10040 Davenport St. NE
Blaine
(763) 785-0456

Plaza TV & Appliance
800 White Bear Ave
St. Paul
(651) 731-3603

JR's Appliance
8980 Jefferson Trail
Inver Grove Heights
(651) 454-9215

Retrofit Recycling
2960 Yorkton Blvd
Little Canada
(651) 766-7422

Additional Disposal Options:

Visit www.moea.state.mn.us/plugin/recyclers-household.cfm.

Disposal Options for Businesses

Under the Minnesota Hazardous Waste Rules, all businesses are required to properly manage electronic wastes.

Proper management can help businesses avoid penalties for polluting, save time otherwise spent on managing hazardous wastes, and reduce disposal costs.

See the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Fact Sheet "Managing Electronic Wastes from Business Sources" (www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/w-hw4-15.pdf). Additional information may also be found in the *Resourceful Waste Management Guide* at www.greenguardian.com/business/rwmg_focus_ee.asp.

Plastic bag recycling program surpasses first-year projections, recycles more than 550,000 pounds

In 2004, the Minnesota Waste Wise program called “It’s in the Bag” recycled more than 550,000 pounds of plastic bags that were collected from stores in the Twin Cities area, exceeding the first-year goal of 500,000 pounds. That’s more than 24 million bags and enough material to make 314 10’x25’ decks.

However, it is suspected that there are millions of plastic bags still going to waste. Since most bags are very durable, they can be used more than once. If you find yourself accumulating too many bags to reuse, take them to stores that will recycle them.

What type of plastic bags can be recycled?

Acceptable

- Plastic grocery bags,
- Plastic retail bags with hard plastic or string handles removed,
- Plastic newspaper bags,
- Plastic dry cleaning bags, and
- Plastic produce and bread bags with all food residue removed.

Unacceptable

- Zipper-type bags, Salt bags,
- Bags with food residue,
- Soil or mulch bags,
- Styrofoam, and
- Bubble wrap.

Please only recycle clean, dry, empty plastic bags.

Where can bags be dropped off?

Take plastic bags to any Cub Foods, Kowalski’s Market, Festival Foods, Lunds, or Byerly’s store and place in the collection containers.

The River Market in Stillwater also takes plastic bags through this program.

For a list of more participating stores, go to www.itsinthebagmn.org.

What happens to the bags?

They are collected by Merrick, Inc., a non-profit agency that sorts the bags and bales them for shipment to Trex Company, the nation’s largest manufacturer of recycled plastic decking.

Trex uses a mixture of recycled plastic such as recycled grocery bags and hardwood scraps from furniture makers to make their product. **Each 2”x6”x16’ Trex decking board uses approximately 2,250 plastic bags.**

Are there other locations to recycle plastic bags?

Rainbow Foods in Cottage Grove, Forest Lake, Oakdale, and Woodbury also accept plastic bags, as well as Wal-Mart stores in Forest Lake and Oak Park Heights.

The goal for 2005 is to recycle 1 million pounds or 50 million bags, so save those bags and drop them off at participating retailers.



Recycle those plastic bags! Plastic bag recycling is easy and convenient. Residents may take their plastic bags to drop-off locations like the one pictured here.

If your business would like to participate in this program, please call Minnesota Waste Wise at (651) 292-4662 to learn how.

New items added to Recycled Products Kits

Borrow a Recycled Products Kits today and teach others about the benefits of recycling!

More than 3,000 people in Washington County have viewed one of Washington County’s Recycled Products Kits in the past year.

These kits are used by Scout and other community groups, schools, churches, cities, and businesses to teach citizens about recycling.

The kits contain 12 examples of products made from commonly recycled items including lumber made from recycled plastic milk and detergent bottles, a t-shirt made from recycled soft drink bottles, and a door mat made from tires.

A recent addition to the kit is a video entitled “Recycling Works for Minnesota,” which highlights some of the businesses in Minnesota that recycle and use recycled materials in their manufacturing process.

A display panel system was recently purchased to help exhibit the materials in a more three-dimensional manner.

The panel system is loaned with one kit. Included in all kits is a block of aluminum cans that is suitable for a guessing game contest or other activity.

Contact Dan Schoepke, Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment, at (651) 430-6714 for more information or to reserve a kit.



Help promote recycling! The newly updated Recycled Products Kit contains a variety of materials and is a useful tool for schools, businesses, and other groups.



Hazardous Materials Are in Every Home

Disposal options for

Washington County offers free hazardous materials dropoff for its residents at a year-round site located in Oakdale.★

Proof of County residency, such as a driver's license, is required.



Hazardous Materials Collection Site

1900 Hadley Avenue N. – Oakdale
(look for Household Hazardous Waste signs)

Open year-round:



Tuesdays: 12 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Thursdays: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Saturdays: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Closed on Thanksgiving,
Christmas, New Year's &
other major holidays




Hazardous materials Accepted


Household products

- Aerosols 
- Cleaners
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Mercury switches & thermometers
- Paint 
- Roofing tar
- Thinners and solvents


Automotive products

- Brake fluid
- Car batteries
- Driveway/garage sealers 
- Gasoline
- Used oil and filters


Lawn and garden products

- Herbicides 
- Insecticides
- Pesticides
- Wood preservatives, stains


Hobby/recreation products

- Fire extinguishers 
- Fireworks
- Glues, paints
- Lighter fluid
- Pool chemicals
- Propane tanks
- Rechargeable batteries

Hazardous materials Not accepted

- Appliances
- Asbestos
- Ammunition
- Explosives
- Treated wood
- Medical waste, including needles
- Computers, TVs, & other electronics 

Other items Not accepted

- Yard waste
- Construction waste 
- Tires
- Trash
- Used cooking oil

See facing page for disposal options for many of these items 

For information on disposal options


Call your trash hauler or Washington County at 651-430-6655.

No business waste is accepted

Pack it up. Bring it in.


Do this:

- ▶ Please bring only accepted items. See list at left.
- ▶ Transport items in a paper bag, cardboard box, or plastic tote and put them the trunk away from children.
- ▶ Arrange bottles and cans in a single layer, upright and sealed. Paint cans may be double-stacked.

- ▶ All containers must be sealed with a tight lid or cap.
- ▶ Label materials that are not in their original containers.
- ▶ Oil, antifreeze, and gas containers may be returned for reuse. Put such waste in a clearly marked container, no more than ¾ full. 



- ▶ Bundle fluorescent tubes with rubber bands. Please don't tape.

- ▶ Place a piece of tape over contacts for rechargeable batteries to avoid sparking. 

residents

Check out the Reuse Room



Free paint, automotive products, cleaners, and other products are available to residents 18 years or older. These are products that were dropped off and that meet the criteria for reuse.

Another reuse option:

Twin Cities Free Market

The Free Market is an online listing service for residents who want to give or get free reusable goods for the home, garage and garden. It is part of an effort to reduce the amount of reusable goods being thrown away.

www.twincitiesfreemarket.org

Need more information on waste and the environment? Visit

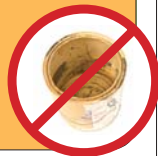


GreenGuardian.com



Don't do this:

- ▶ **Do not put your items in a plastic bag.** Use a box or a grocery-style paper bag to keep bottles and cans arranged and upright.
- ▶ **Do not mix or combine chemicals!** Pouring chemicals together can be dangerous and prevents recycling.
- ▶ **No empties.** Empty containers may be placed in the trash.



Dropoff options for appliances, computers, electronics, tires & other waste

These business will accept the following materials for a fee. Call ahead for details.



Appliances



Computers, TV's and other Electronics



Self-haul Trash
Household remodeling and other bulky items

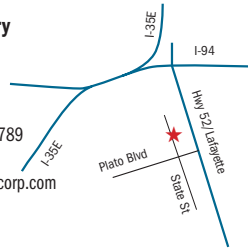


Hold on! Call your trash hauler first. They may offer curbside pickup options for your items.

Asset Recovery

150 State Street
St Paul

Disposal: M-F 7-5
Phone: 651-602-0789
Website: www.assetrecoverycorp.com



Burnsville Landfill

2650 Cliff Rd W
Burnsville

Disposal: M-F 6:30-6, Sat 7-2
Construction/Demolition
Debris: 6:30-5, Sat 7-noon
Phone: 952-890-3248



JR's Appliances

8980 Highway 149
Inver Grove Heights

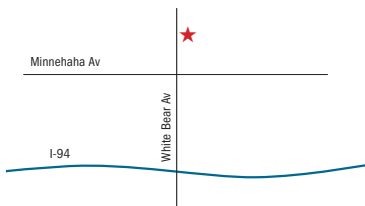
Disposal: M-F 8-4, Sat 10-3
Phone: 651-454-9215
Website: www.jrsappliance.com



Plaza TV & Appliance

800 White Bear Av N
St Paul

Disposal: M-Th 9-8, Fri 9-6, Sat 9-5
Phone: 651-731-3603
Website: www.plazatvandappliance.homeappliances.com



Resource Recovery

2901 Maxwell Av
Newport

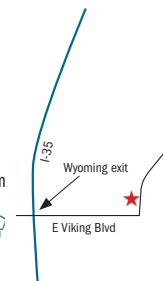
Disposal: M-F 5am-10pm,
Sat 6am-4pm
Phone: 651-768-6600



SRC

6320 E Viking Blvd
Wyoming

Disposal: M-F 8-4:30,
Sat 8-1:30 (Apr-Oct)
8-noon (Nov-Mar)
Phone: 651-462-1099
Website: www.src-group.com



Vasko Disposal

309 Como Av
St Paul

Disposal: M-F 6-6, Sat 7-2
Phone: 651-487-8546
Website: www.vaskorubbish.com



Other items

Treated Wood

See Buberli's Recycling, pg. 10 for treated wood disposal



Yard Waste

See pg. 10 for dropoff locations

Tires

Check with your local tire retailer for best rate



Spring 2005 Compost Sites and Hours*

(Call individual sites for fee and price information.)

Cottage Grove

Open to all county residents for yard waste, brush, and stumps.

Location: On Glendenning Road and 95th St. South, ½ mile south of the Jamaica Avenue/Highway 10-61 interchange.

Phone: (651) 458-1026 or (952) 946-6999

Open: April - mid-November*

Hours:

Mon - Fri 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sun 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Waste Accepted:

Debagged Leaves and Yard Waste

Brush and Stumps

Materials Available:

Finished Compost

Forest Lake

Open only to residents of Forest Lake.

Location: Bixby Park; intersection of 2nd Avenue NW and 8th St.

Phone: (651) 464-3550

Open: April 5 - November 15*

Hours:

Wed 1:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. or Dusk**
Sat 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Waste Accepted:

Debagged Leaves and Yard Waste

Lake Weeds

Materials Available:

Finished Compost

Hugo

Open only to residents of Hugo.

Location: West of Highway 61 on 170th St. (County Road 4A)

Phone: (651) 429-6676

Open: mid-April - November 15 (or first snowfall)

Hours:

Sat & Sun 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Waste Accepted:

Debagged Leaves and Yard Waste

Materials Available:

Finished Compost

Marine on St. Croix

Open only to residents of Marine.

Location: North on Highway 95 next to the community drainfield.

Phone: (651) 433-3636

Open: mid-April - October 30*

Hours:

Wed 12 noon - 7 p.m. or Dusk**
Sat 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Waste Accepted

Debagged Leaves and Grass Clippings

Materials Available

Finished Compost

Newport

Open only to residents of Newport.

Location: At Bailey Road & Sterling Avenue

Phone: (651) 459-5677 or (651) 459-2475

Open: mid-April - November 13*

Hours:

Wed & Fri 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Sat 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Waste Accepted (Call for prices):

Grass and Leaves

Brush

Materials Available:

Limited quantity of finished compost and wood chips

St. Paul Park

Leaves and grass accepted from St. Paul Park and Grey Cloud residents only. Brush accepted only from St. Paul Park residents.

Location: Next to Riverside Park on 13th Avenue, west of 3rd Street.

Phone: (651) 459-9785

Open: April 4 - November 13

Hours:

Mon & Wed 1:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sun 1:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Closed Easter, Memorial Day, and Labor Day

Waste Accepted (Call for prices):

Debagged Yard Waste

Brush

Materials Available:

Finished Compost

Wood chips

Stillwater Area

Open to all county residents.

Location: Buberl Recycling and Composting 5750 Memorial Ave. N. (behind Stillwater Motors, west of entrance to Stillwater High School)

Phone: (651) 439-8399

Hours: April* - October*

Mon - Fri 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sat 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Waste Accepted (Call for prices):

Grass and Leaves

Brush and Stumps

Treated Wood

Materials Available (Call for prices):

Finished Compost

Mulch

Woodbury

Open to all county residents for yard waste and brush.

Location: 4600 Cottage Grove Drive.

Directions from intersection of County Road 19 and Bailey Road:

Go 1 mile east on Bailey Road to Cottage Grove Drive.

Turn south (right) on Cottage Grove Drive and proceed ½ mile to site.

Phone: (651) 436-1213

Open: mid-April - late November

Hours:

Mon - Sat 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Wed - Senior's Day: ½ price, 65 and over (grass and leaves only).

Waste Accepted (Call for prices):

Debagged Leaves and Grass

Pumpkins

Brush

Materials Available (Call for prices):

Finished Compost

Wood chips

**Site hours and opening/closing dates may be affected by weather conditions.*

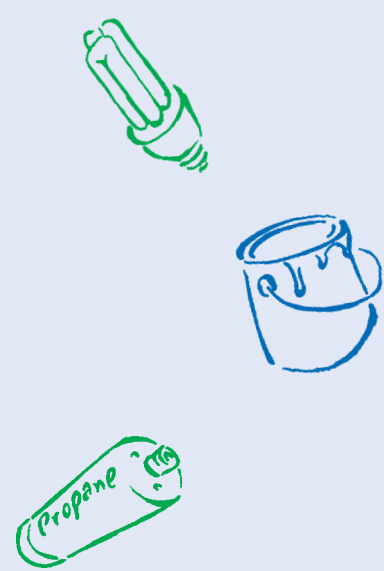
Sites are closed on holidays.

***Dusk means the site will close at the scheduled time or dusk, whichever comes first.*



Remote Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events 2005 Schedule

Dates and Locations	Location Address	Event Information
May 7 <i>Cottage Grove</i> 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m.	Cottage Grove Public Works Garage 8635 West Pt. Douglas Road	<p>Washington County sponsors remote household hazardous waste collection events throughout the county.</p> <p>Remote collections are open to all county residents and accept the same items as the year-round collection center in Oakdale (see page 8).</p>
May 21 <i>Stillwater</i> 9 a.m.-3 p.m.	Stillwater Lily Lake Ice Arena 1208 South Greeley Street	
June 11 <i>Forest Lake</i> 9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Forest Lake Public Works Garage 21350 Forest Boulevard North	
June 25 <i>Lake St. Croix Beach</i> 9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Lake St. Croix Beach City Hall 1919 Quebec Avenue South	
July 23 <i>Scandia</i> 9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Scandia Old Public Works Garage 14727 209th Street North	
August 20 <i>Hugo</i> 9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Hugo City Hall 14669 Fitzgerald Avenue North	
October 8 <i>Cottage Grove</i> 9 a.m.-1 p.m.	Cottage Grove Public Works Garage 8635 West Pt. Douglas Road	



For more information: Call Washington County
 Telephone: (651) 430-6655
 Web site: www.co.washington.mn.us/publichealth
 Household Hazardous Waste 24-hour Infoline: (651) 430-6770





Property owners may obtain financial assistance for sealing abandoned wells

A well that is not in use – or sometimes referred to as an “abandoned” well – can be a potential threat to health, safety, and the environment. Wells that are no longer in use may be buried or forgotten. Often they have not been sealed properly.

Sealing is the process of clearing an unused well of debris and filling the well with a special material called grout. The sealing must be done by a licensed well contractor.

Unused wells that have not been properly sealed can be a source of groundwater contamination, potentially affecting nearby drinking water wells. They may threaten the quality of the water in municipal wells, your neighbor’s well, or even your own well.

Since groundwater provides 100 percent of the drinking water for Washington County, protecting it is everybody’s business!



Washington County is now offering a well sealing cost-share program for abandoned wells. To be eligible, wells must not be part of a potential or current property sale and may not already be

sealed. Selection criteria will be based on potential to contaminate groundwater, well construction, and a combined annual household income below \$90,000. Applicants chosen for funding will be reimbursed up to 50 percent of the well sealing costs (maximum of \$2,000).

To learn more about the well sealing program or to obtain a grant application, call (651) 430-6655 or visit the county web site at www.co.washington.mn.us/info_for_residents/environment/groundwater.

Citizens may also visit the Minnesota Department of Health’s web site for additional information on abandoned wells: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/abandwel.html>.

Fast Fact: Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a television for three hours.

GreenGuardian.com offers tips on how to waste less and recycle more

GreenGuardian.com is a regional web site that provides residents and businesses with information on how to recycle and properly dispose of waste.

At the site, citizens will find information on how to dispose of just about anything including batteries, paint, computers, and televisions.

The web site also provides useful information on topics such as how to get removed from mailing lists to reduce junk mail and how to cut packaging waste. GreenGuardian.com also lists local environmental events and community projects that inform others about waste reduction, composting, and recycling.

GreenGuardian.com is accessible every day and at any time of the day, so if you’re cleaning the garage on a Saturday morning and wondering what hours the Household Hazardous Waste Facility is open, you can check by using your computer.

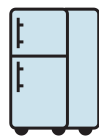
Specific disposal information is linked directly to Washington County’s web site, where residents can find local disposal options. To learn more, visit www.GreenGuardian.com.



Green Guardian helps citizens learn more about recycling – In 2003, the Green Guardian visited the Washington County Fairgrounds and spread the message on how to reduce, reuse, recycle, or properly dispose of common household items and much more. Visit www.GreenGuardian.com for tips and ideas.

Clean out your clutter!



www.twincitiesfreemarket.org

The Free Market is a quick, easy, and free way to find someone who will take it off your hands.

People on the Free Market are always looking for useable furniture, appliances, electronics, exercise equipment, lawn and garden tools, and more!

Log on to list items you have, browse the catalog of free stuff, or place a request for an item you need.