

Tidbits from the Recycling Bin

Please rinse out recycling containers, just a little bit of effort will reduce the smell in your recycling bin and make sure your bin doesn't attract unwanted guests.

Please remove plastic bottle lids, pumps, rings, caps. This makes them easier to compact in your bin, and also helps in separation. The bottle tops are made of different materials than the plastic bottles.

Please don't put plastic shopping bags in your recycling bin as they can jam the machinery in the recycling process. Although we do not recycle plastic shopping bags, many supermarkets can. If you landfill the plastic shopping bags please tie them in a knot so they don't become windblown litter.

It helps to break down cardboard boxes so they take up less room in your recycling bin.

If you recycle shredded office paper we will need you to put it in a bag, so we can sort it from the other papers being recycled. The recycling center bales shredded office paper separately.

Donate unwanted clothes, toys and household goods to a charitable organization or homeless shelter; Worn out clothes can be turned into rags for household cleaning.

Compost your kitchen and garden waste at home. This could reduce your waste by 25% and fertilize your soil in your garden in the process.

Buy product in packaging that you know can be recycled.

When shopping take your own reusable shopping bags.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rebuy! People are recycling, companies are collecting the materials and making new products from those materials.

The last step is to buy retail products made from recycled material, close the loop and support recycling at home and at work, buy quality recycled products.



Facts from the Recycling Bin

The average American uses 650 pounds of paper each year; 100 million tons of wood could be saved each year if all that paper was recycled.

Americans use 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour.

Recycle one ton (2,000 lbs.) of paper we save: 17 trees, 7,000 gallons of water, 4,100 kilowatts of energy (enough power for the average home for six months); 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space and 587 pounds of air pollution.

The 17 trees saved by recycling one ton of paper can absorb a total of 250 pounds of carbon dioxide out of the air each year.

Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours or the equivalent of a half of gallon of gasoline.

If every American recycled just one-tenth of their newspapers, we could save about 25 million trees each year.

About 80% of what Americans throw away is recyclable, yet the average recycling rate is only 28%.

The average American uses 142 steel cans annually.

On average, each one of us produces 4.4 pounds of solid waste each day. This adds up to almost a tone of trash per person, per year.

Americans throw away enough aluminum to rebuild our entire commercial fleet of airplanes every three months.

Half of all polyester carpet manufactured in the US is made from recycled soda bottles.

If you have any questions,
please contact:

**NORTHWEST IOWA
AREA SOLID WASTE
& RECYCLING**

HRS: Monday-Friday 8am-4pm

4540 360th Street

Sheldon, Iowa 51201

(712)324-4026



What should I do
with all my recycling?

The Answer
is Inside...

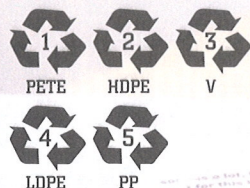
**NORTHWEST IOWA AREA
SOLID WASTE
AGENCY
& RECYCLING**

Recyclable

MIXED PAPER

Office paper
Colored paper
Shiny paper
Envelopes (transparent windows okay)
Junk mail
Catalogs (reduce to 1/2 inch thick)
Newspapers
Brown paper bags
Magazines (reduce to 1/2 inch thick)
Phone books (reduce to 1/2 inch thick)
Shredded paper (bag it separately)
Hardcover books (remove covers, reduce to 1/2 inch thick)
Paperback books (reduce to 1/2 inch thick)
Paper egg cartons
Fiber board (Cereal boxes, soda boxes)

PLASTIC



All plastic containers labeled 1-5
Milk and juice jugs
Pop and water bottles
Dish and liquid soap bottles
Bleach and detergent containers
Ice cream tubs and yogurt cups
Cooking oil containers
Lotion bottles
Household cleaning containers
(Clean - no liquids, lids or caps and pumps)

ALUMINUM AND METALS

Aluminum & tin cans
Aluminum foil & pans
Clean all cans, foil and pans

CORRUGATED CARDBOARD

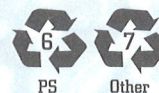
Corrugated cardboard
Pizza boxes (must be clean)
Break it down and flatten!

Not Recyclable

FOOD & PAPER WASTE

Frozen food & juice boxes
Food wrappers & bags
Dirty paper plates, cups & napkins
Food waste (uneaten food)
Tissues
Paper towels
Wax paper

PLASTIC



All plastic containers labeled 6-7
Plastic containers with no numbered label
Styrofoam & packing peanuts
Plastic bags
Plastic utensils, cups & plates
Disposable diapers
Plastic food wrapping
Tupperware containers
Medical supplies and sharps

GLASS

No glass will be accepted due to possible contamination of other materials.

BATTERIES & CELL PHONES

Due to fire hazard - no batteries and cell phones will be accepted at the Recycling Center, but are accepted at Northwest Iowa Household Hazardous Material Regional Collection Center.

NON-CORRUGATED CARDBOARD

Wax-coated cardboard