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Spring 2026

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



IN THIS ISSUE

TIRE COLLECTION	1
DRUG COLLECTION EVENT	2
COMPOST SITE SEASONAL HOURS	2
COMPOST PRODUCTS	3
LITHIUM BATTERY DISPOSAL	3
LAMP RECYCLING	4
ELECTRONICS RECYCLING	4
HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEAN SWEEP	5
DRUG DISPOSAL PROGRAM	6
RECYCLING DEPOT GUIDELINES	7
ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER REQUEST	7
SCRAP METAL DUMPSTER	7

Mission Statement

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



TIRE COLLECTION

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

Fees and Guidelines

- \$8.00—per car tire or smaller (5 tires or less).
- \$10.00—per standard truck tire (5 tires or less).
- \$460 per ton (23 cents per pound) for:
 - Quantities of 6 or more tires
 - Semi tires
 - Tires on rims
- \$560 per ton (28 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.

Our Tire Collection service started in 1998 and has collected approximately 4.93 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.



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.**

Manitowoc County Recycling Center & Compost Sites

3000 Basswood Road, Manitowoc WI

920-683-4333

Recycling.manitowoccountymi.gov



DRUG TAKE BACK EVENT

As part of the Drug Disposal Program, we are working with a number of partners to hold a Drive-thru Drug Takeback event at Froedtert Holy Family Memorial Hospital main entrance on Saturday, April 25, from 9 am - 12 pm.

The guidelines and acceptable items are the same as the drop box part of the program (see page 7), only you don't need to get out of your car and it will be on a Saturday. Please drive safely and do not come before or after the listed times.

This event was made possible through the group efforts of Healthiest Manitowoc County Substance Use Prevention Coalition, Manitowoc County Recycling Center & Compost Sites, Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office Metro Drug Unit, Manitowoc Police Department, Froedtert & the Medical College of Wisconsin, and Holy Family Memorial Hospital.

This event, and the drug drop boxes, are part of a larger drug take back initiative coordinated by the [Wisconsin Department of Justice](https://www.wisconsin.gov/departments/justice/).



COMPOST SITES—SEASONAL HOURS

Beginning April 1st the Basswood Road and Woodland Drive Compost Sites will have new hours. The Basswood Site yard material drop off area will be open Monday-Friday, 7am to 6pm and Saturday from 8am until 6pm. The Basswood Site is located at 3000 Basswood Road in Manitowoc. The Woodland Site, located at 4191 Woodland Drive in Two Rivers, will be open Monday-Friday, 10am to 6pm and Saturday from 8am until 6pm.

BASSWOOD SITE

3000 Basswood Rd
Mon-Fri 7am-6pm
Sat 8am-6pm

WOODLAND SITE

4191 Woodland Dr
Mon-Fri 10am-6pm
Sat 8am-6pm

Both the Basswood Road and Woodland Drive Compost Sites are available for drop off of acceptable residential yard materials during the posted hours. Remove plastic bags and other unacceptable debris from the materials you drop off. Brush drop offs should be placed on the brush pile. Keeping your yard material drop offs clean and free of unacceptable items will help us create better compost products. 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 waste, brush, branches (not more than 6 inches in diameter or longer than 5 feet), clean woodchips, clean saw dust from tree removal, and natural holiday trees.

Unacceptable Items: **ASHES**, stumps, animal waste, sod with soil, topsoil, dirt, rocks, gravel, lumber, garbage, large branches greater than 6 inches in diameter or longer than 5 feet, also any non-residential yard materials without a permit and paying a tip-fee.

Loads may be subject to inspection by Recycling Center staff. Illegal dumping is subject to fine of \$200.50 per Manitowoc Code Section 6.17 and may include additional charges. Placing unaccepted items in an otherwise designated recycling container or pile is considered illegal dumping and is subject to fine. If you have questions about a particular material, call 683-4333 and ask.



Thank you to everyone who uses the compost sites as they are intended, we appreciate your efforts!

COMPOST PRODUCTS

Compost and mulch 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 unless the site becomes impassable during and after heavy rains. Our minimum purchase is 1/4 cubic yard and the minimum we can load is 1/2 cubic yard. Call 920-683-4333 for more info.

Deliveries of 6 cubic yards/load can also be set up within Manitowoc County starting in mid-April. Note that there can be a significant wait time for deliveries.

In addition to the pictured products we also sell non-screened compost for \$5/cubic yard. We also allow residents to shovel there own contractor/arborist wood chips for free (we will load this material for \$5/cubic yard).

RECYCLING CENTER OFFICE

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

Delivery Fee

\$50 <10mi, \$85 >10mi. Not including material.



Screened Compost

\$20/cubic yard



Wood Mulch

\$15/cubic yard



Shredded Leaf Mulch

\$12/cubic yard



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 [Manitowoc County - Electronics Collection - Manitowoc County](#).



LAMP RECYCLING

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center accepts many types of light bulbs, lamps and lighting as part of an 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 improperly.

All lamps are handled as "Universal Waste" and send 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 to the 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).

Lamp recycling fees vary depending on the type and size of the lamp. Complete guidelines and current rates are available on our website at [Manitowoc County - Electronics Collection - Manitowoc County](#).

Businesses and customers with large quantities of lamps should call ahead to schedule a drop off time. Businesses are required to handle old lamps as Universal Waste. This Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources flyer outlines the best management practices for businesses and facilities that accumulate old lamps: [How to Handle Universal Waste: Lamps](#)



ELECTRONICS RECYCLING.

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center has an ongoing electronics collection program. A variety of electronics are accepted including televisions, computer equipment, kitchen gadgets, and electric tools. Items that cannot be accepted include Freon containing appliances like air conditioners, dehumidifiers, or refrigerators as well as bulky appliances like stoves, washers, or dryers.

It is important to recycle electronics for a number of reasons. They can contain hazardous materials that can enter the environment if disposed of improperly. Dumping or burning them can allow heavy metals and toxic compounds to infiltrate into the soil, air, and water. Heavy metals such as lead and mercury have the ability to leach out of electronic devices under certain conditions. These materials can cause a number of health problems in humans and wildlife. Electronics recycling helps recover reusable raw materials, conserves landfill space, and creates jobs.

Since 2010, Wisconsin's Electronic Recycling Law banned certain consumer electronic devices from landfills and incinerators and established a collection and recycling system in Wisconsin for households and K-12 public schools. The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is registered with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as a certified electronics collector. This means that ALL the electronics recycled through our program are sent to reputable recycling companies who guarantee the confidential destruction of any personal data remaining on your electronics, recycle or reuse all of the materials they receive.

All televisions and monitors are measured diagonally across the glass portion of the screen. Televisions and monitors must not be broken or stripped. Due to the increased health and safety issues associated with handling, storing, and transporting stripped electronics or broken televisions, these items may be refused or assessed an extra fee depending on the situation.

Electronics recycling fees vary depending on the device. Complete guidelines and current rates are available on our website at [Manitowoc County - Electronics Collection - Manitowoc County](#).

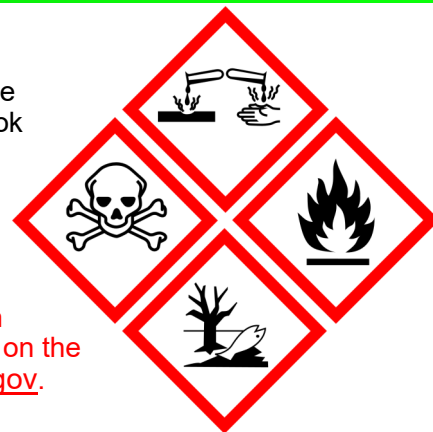


Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep

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 1,260,093 pounds of unwanted chemicals.

NEW—Residents can bring acceptable household hazardous waste items to the Brown County Hazardous Waste Facility **free** of charge throughout 2026. For more information on the Brown County partnership program visit our website at Recycling.manitowocountywi.gov.



Manitowoc County Highway Shop 3500 HWY 310

Residents

Saturday, **May 16**, 9am - Noon

NEW—Truck bed full and trailer full loads must register by May 8 see below.

Farms and Businesses

Friday, **May 15**, 2pm - 4pm

Registration is required by May 8 see below.

Many of these items 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 households and farms 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.

Registration deadline is May 8.

- Residents with large loads 920-683-4333 to register.
- Farms call 683-4333, be prepared with type and amount of chemicals.
- Businesses registration information/forms are available online at Recycling.manitowocountywi.gov in the Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep webpage.

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
- Used Oil and Filters
(consider using local options for used oil and filters)
- Nicotine Vape Pens

Disposal or recycling options exist for many unacceptable items. Contact the Manitowoc County Recycling Center at 920-683-4333 or visit 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
- Electronics including light bulbs, ballasts, televisions, and batteries
- Appliances
- Freon gases
- Pharmaceuticals
- THC/Cannabis Vape Pens

*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.
- Transport chemicals in a leak proof tote or plastic lined cardboard box. Cushion as necessary to avoid breaking.
- 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, businesses, and households with large loads must register by May 8.

DROP YOUR DRUGS IN OUR BOX



YES



NO



DRUG DISPOSAL PROGRAM

Drug Drop Boxes are available year-round at participating law enforcement buildings. Since the Drug Disposal Program started in 2006, 27,102lbs of unwanted medications have been collected for proper disposal. 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.

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 a 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, Manitowoc, 8am-3:30pm M-F
- Manitowoc City Police Dept: 910 Jay St, 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

DISPOSAL EVENT:

Saturday, April 25th: 9am-Noon, Froedtert Holy Family Memorial Hospital Main Entrance, 2300 Western Ave., Manitowoc. This is a drive through event. Please drive safely.

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 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 heavily 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 flattened. No cardboard heavily contaminated with food or oil. Pizza boxes with moderate grease/cheese spots are acceptable. No cardboard coated with wax, tin, or plastic.



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.

