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Fall 2026

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



IN THIS ISSUE

FINER SCREENED COMPOST	1
ABSOLUTELY NO ASHES	2
COMPOST SITE UPDATE	2
COMPOST PRODUCTS	2
FREE ARBORIST WOODCHIPS	3
RECYCLING BIN LIDS	3
BATTERY RECYCLING LAW	4
TIRE COLLECTION ENDS OCT 31	4
DRUG DISPOSAL PROGRAM	5
RECYCLING DEPOT GUIDELINES	6
ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER REQUEST	6
SCRAP METAL DUMPSTER	6

Mission Statement

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

FINER SCREENED COMPOST

We have switched to a smaller screen size for our compost so we now have a finer product available. This makes it easier to work with in garden and landscape projects.

In the past screening was done with a 3/4 to 1 inch trommel screen that allowed more material to pass through, especially smaller chipped wood and branches. We used a 1/2 inch trommel screen for our last batch and that filters out more of the undesirable material.

In addition to the finer screen size, we have also reduced the amount of woodchips in our compost blend by requiring landscapers and arborists to drop off wood chips in a separate pile. We started that about 3 years ago and are now seeing less in our finished product (we typically take 2-3 years to make compost). Some woodchips can be useful for the compost process because they help with airflow in the piles but too many becomes a problem.



Typically we screen compost twice a year when weather and material conditions permit. It is difficult to efficiently screen when it is wet and compost holds moisture so screening in early spring or even after extended wet periods can be slow. This can make stockpiles difficult to replenish in early spring.

We are typically able to load customers and make deliveries into late fall if there are relatively dry periods and the piles have not frozen.

If you anticipate needing compost in early spring, it is not a bad idea to pick it up at the end of the season.

Prices are currently $20/cubic yard. There is a $5 minimum purchase (1/4 cubic yard) which is equal to ten 5 gallon buckets. We are able to load open trucks and trailers purchasing 1/2 cubic yard or more.

Manitowoc County Recycling Center & Compost Sites

3000 Basswood Road, Manitowoc WI

920-683-4333

Recycling.manitowoccountywi.gov

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 2027.** Beginning November 1, the Recycling Center Main Office will be closed on Saturdays and will reopen on Saturdays beginning April 2027.

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. 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.

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.



BATTERY RECYCLING LAW

The State of Wisconsin has enacted a Battery Recycling Law that will create a landfill ban for battery disposal by January 2028 and require battery producers to form a stewardship plan for battery recycling by January 2027. Currently for households only lead acid batteries are banned from landfill disposal but other batteries chemistries are not.



Lithium based batteries have caused significant damage to infrastructure in the solid waste industry including collection vehicles, landfills, transfer stations, salvage yards, and recycling centers. Lithium and other minerals in some common battery chemistries are also important minerals that are frequently imported into the Country to manufacture new batteries. Battery recycling can help reduce the number of fires and reclaim those minerals.

The law will cover all single use and rechargeable batteries weighting up to 25 pounds and rated for less than 2000 watt-hours. This includes all battery chemistries. Examples include common household batteries like button batteries, AA, AAA, C,D, 9-volt, 6-volt as well as removable batteries from electronic devices like small electronics, drones, drills, lawn equipment, e-bikes/scooters, vacuums, etc.

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center accepts most common batteries chemistries and sizes for a fee as part of our long-term electronics recycling program. Batteries that are 2000watt hours or over (typically from electric cars, forklifts, household power back ups, and industrial equipment) are not accepted at our program but we may be able to provide resources for where to take those.

To prepare for the increase in batteries being recycled we are taking steps to streamline our process. We will no longer require terminal taping or sorting by battery chemistry. All batteries will be charged a flat fee of $1.50 per pound. We will continue to accept lead based car and small sealed lead batteries for free, so please keep those separate. We will also accept damaged lithium ion batteries for the normal rate but please keep them separate and handle them with caution since they are a fire hazard.

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 2027. 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 or visit Recycling.manitowoccountywi.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.**





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.

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@manitowoccountywi.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.