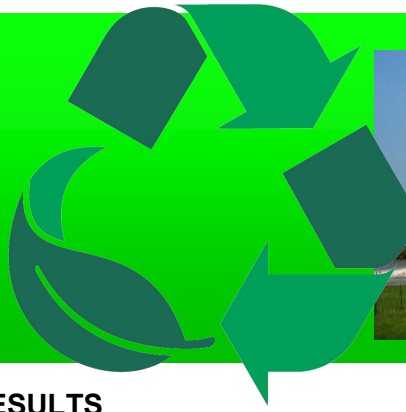


MRF TURF

Summer 2026

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



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CLEAN SWEEP RESULTS

The Manitowoc County Department of Public Works and Manitowoc County Recycling Center would like to thank all the participants and volunteers of the Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep program.

Clean Sweep is an annual collection event for hazardous waste items commonly found in households and farms, such as pesticides, solvents, cleaners, and oil based paints. Since it started in 1985, households and farms have turned in 1,276,228 pounds of unwanted chemicals.

This year the collection had 262 households, 6 farms, and 5 businesses participate and collected a total of 21,601 pounds of hazardous waste. Households turned in 13,166 pounds of hazardous chemicals. Farms turned in 2,969 pounds. Most of the items turned in were old solvents/thinners, though a significant amount of pesticides and oil-based paints were also dropped off. The business portion of Clean Sweep served 5 local businesses who qualified as "Very Small Quantity Generators" under the program. These businesses brought in 5,466 pounds of hazardous waste. Businesses are offered a substantial discount when they bring their materials to the Clean Sweep event. Overall, there was a 51.7% decrease in the amount of chemicals collected at the event compared to last year. This decrease was expected due to the timing of the event and the recent addition of the Brown County option for hazardous waste disposal (see page 2).

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.

Clean Sweep is made possible partly through grant funding from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, a donation from the Ridgeview Landfill and volunteer labor. The Manitowoc County Recycling Center has a number of programs throughout the year that you can use to help our environment and clean up at home including Composting and Drug Disposal programs, an ongoing Electronics Collection, a Tire Collection as well as the Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep event.

To learn more about these and other programs visit Recycling.manitowoccountymi.gov.

2026 Hazardous Waste

Catagory	Pounds
Pesticides/Poisons	2,853
Lead/Oil Based Paint	2,471
Caustics/Corrosives	697
Reactives	23
Solvents/Thinners	5,500
Waste Oil	0
PCBs	0
Aerosol Cans	1,129
Mercury	8
Dioxins	0
Other	485
Agricultural	2,969
VSGQ Business	5,466
TOTAL POUNDS	21,601

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.manitowoccountymi.gov

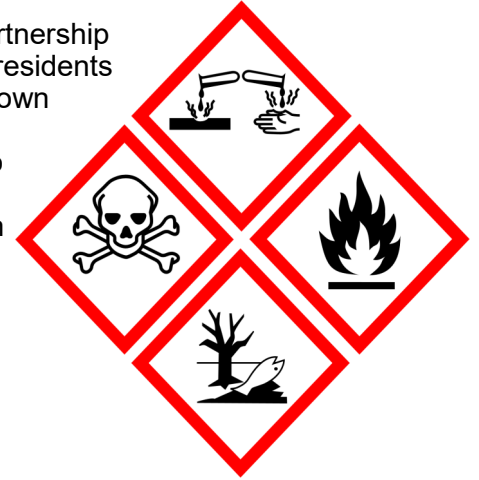


HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL: BROWN COUNTY OPTION

For 2026 Manitowoc County expanded the Clean Sweep Program to include a partnership with the Brown County Hazardous Material Recovery Facility. Manitowoc County residents can dispose of acceptable household hazardous waste items, for FREE, at the Brown County Facility year-round during designated days and times. This partnership is meant to compliment the local Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep event. People who cannot wait for the next event now have a free means of disposal if they are willing to drive to Green Bay, a trip which is easily combined with other out of town errands.

Since the Brown County Partnership started in October 2025, they have had 73 visits from Manitowoc County residents, who brought in 5,028lbs of acceptable hazardous waste items.

Further information about the Brown County option is available on our website at <https://manitowocountywi.gov/.../brown-county-option/>

**Brown County Resource Recovery**

2561 S. Broadway
Green Bay, WI
920-492-4950

Website: [Brown County Hazardous Material Recovery](https://manitowocountywi.gov/.../brown-county-option/)

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 latex paint, electronics, batteries, propane tanks, light bulbs, cooking oils, and others.
- Farms and businesses are not covered under this arrangement but may still utilize the Brown County program and pay for their materials. Appointments are necessary, see their [website](#) for details.
- 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.
- Staff is not able to "pour off" liquid hazardous waste and return the containers during collections. If you are bringing gasoline or other fluids to the Hazardous Material Recovery facility this material must be brought in a container that can be left at the facility.
- 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.



TIRE COLLECTION

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center tire collection service is available 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.

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.**

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.

SHREDDED LEAF MULCH

Shredded leaf mulch can be a useful for gardeners who are looking for an alternative to straw or wood mulch for protecting their garden soils. Similar to other ground covers, shredded leaves will help suppress weeds, help retain soil moisture, buffer soil temperature, and slow soil erosion. They will break down faster than wood mulch or straw, and can easily be incorporated into the top layers of soil with little to no tilling within the season.

Shredded leaves are also useful for home composters. Keep a stockpile next to your compost pile and mix it in with kitchen scraps and grass clippings. This will help maintain even moisture and air in the pile, which will reduce strong odors and complaining neighbors.

The fall leaves from the curbside collections in the City of Manitowoc are typically shredded and stockpiled for spring. This reduces the bulk, helps moisture and air move through the piles better, and helps them compost faster. We blend shredded leaf mulch with green materials during the spring and summer months to make our compost recipe. Since we maintain a stockpile of these shredded leaves we can easily offer them to the public for their gardening needs.

Shredded leaf mulch and other 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 unless the site becomes impassable during and after heavy rains. Deliveries of 6 cubic yards/load can also be set up within Manitowoc County starting in mid-April. 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.



**Shredded Leaf Mulch
\$12/cubic yard**

HOME COMPOSTER

Gardeners and homeowners, turn your household food scraps into rich compost for your garden or plants. Mix kitchen scraps and grass clipping with leaves and turn the pile occasionally until it breaks down. Not only does home composting provide excellent compost, but you can reduce the amount of materials going into your garbage. Large, 13-cubic foot compost bins with locking lids are available at the Recycling Center for only \$72.00 (tax included).

Stop by the Recycling Center at any time during normal business hours and take a look at our floor model. Educational resources for home composting are available as well.



FOOD WASTE REDUCTION

The USDA defines food waste as “The edible amount of food, postharvest, that is consumable but is not consumed for any reason.” Globally, an estimated 2.5 billion tons of food is wasted every year equivalent to 5,000,000,000,000 pounds. The United States contributes 60-70 million tons or 120 billion pounds of food waste on average each year alone.

In Wisconsin, the DNR estimates residents and businesses discard 854,000 tons of food based on their 2020-2021 study. The DNR surveyed 14 Wisconsin landfills and found 30.4% of the waste contents were organics, of that percentage, 14.1% was food waste and 5.5% was food scraps. Of that food found in Wisconsin landfills, 70% of it was still edible.

So what can you do to help as a consumer? That will depend on your personal circumstances, some people may have unique ways to address this for themselves or their families. We have put together some common strategies for you to consider.

Reduce at the Source

On average, people throw away around 25% of the food they purchase, costing them an estimated \$1,800 to \$2,000 every year. Some suggestions that may help use up your food are:

- Properly store food to extend the lifespan of the product by freezing, refrigerating, etc.
- Keep inventory by tracking what foods you have in your fridge, freezer, and pantry to minimize overbuying and prioritize use of older products you have.
- Learn what the labels of food products mean! 60% of Americans throw away edible food from misinterpreting a label as an expiration date.
 - Best if Used By/Before: Indicates time of best flavor and quality. Does not refer to safety.
 - Use-By: Recommended use of product for peak quality. Only refers to safety for infant formula.
 - Sell-By: Indication for the store on how long to display item for inventory. Does not refer to safety.
- Get creative with your cooking and leftovers! Use leftovers, produce and other foods you plan to throw away to make new meals. Resources online can help you with ideas and meal planning.
- Shop your kitchen first to determine what meals you can make with what you have and determine what you need based on what is being used.
- Stick to a list of items you need and the quantity. Avoid overbuying and purchasing in bulk. It's only a deal if you eat it all!
- Skip the perfect produce and buy the smaller, misshapen or miscolored foods. Looking past the cosmetic standards, all produce has the same taste and nutritional value!



Continued on page 5.

Donate to Food Banks

The United States throws out 50% of the food produced, which means we have enough food to feed roughly two American populations and yet an estimated 50 million Americans are food insecure. Food Banks provide a space to donate food for people and families in need. A nutritious way to help your community and prevent food waste. Always call ahead before donating to confirm items, ask questions, and avoid donating spoiled or expired foods.

Peter's Pantry

920-682-6989

843 S. 21st St. Manitowoc, WI
Open: Monday 4PM—6PM, and
Tues, Thurs, Fri 9:30AM—11:30AM
Accepting: Canned goods, dried foods,
and fresh fruits and vegetables.

Grow It Forward

920-645-9467

1501 Marshall St. Manitowoc, WI
Open: Mon-Fri 9AM—5PM
Accepting: Fresh fruits and vegetables,
dairy products, canned foods,
grains, and dried foods.

TR Ecumenical Pantry

920-793-5364

1902 22nd St. Two Rivers, WI
Open: Mon, Fri 8:30AM—12PM, and
Wednesday 9AM—12:30AM
Accepting: Canned goods, dried foods, canned
meats, soups, beverages, fresh produce, etc.

Compost at Home

As food waste in landfills rots and decomposes, it releases methane, a gas that has 28-80 times the potency of carbon dioxide. According to the EPA, food waste in landfills causes 58% of landfill methane emissions. If food cannot be repurposed or donated, a final solution to prevent food waste in landfills is composting.

Compost is a product of microorganisms decomposing organic materials such as green materials rich in nitrogen including food scraps and lawn clippings; and brown materials rich in carbon including dry leaves, twigs and more in an oxygenated environment. This biological process creates a nutrient rich application for soil that can be used to grow new produce and plants. Composting greatly reduces methane emissions, reduces landfill mass, and increases plant growth.

How to compost:

- Add scraps to a compost bin outside
- For every 1 part of "green" add 2-3 parts "brown" materials
- Water between layers to retain dampness if needed
- Maintain heat for faster composting (~140 degrees)
- Turn and mix the contents weekly for about 6 weeks
- Then turn every other week for 2 months
- Allow compost to cure for 2-6 months, turn it if needed
- Add brown matter to help with moisture or orders

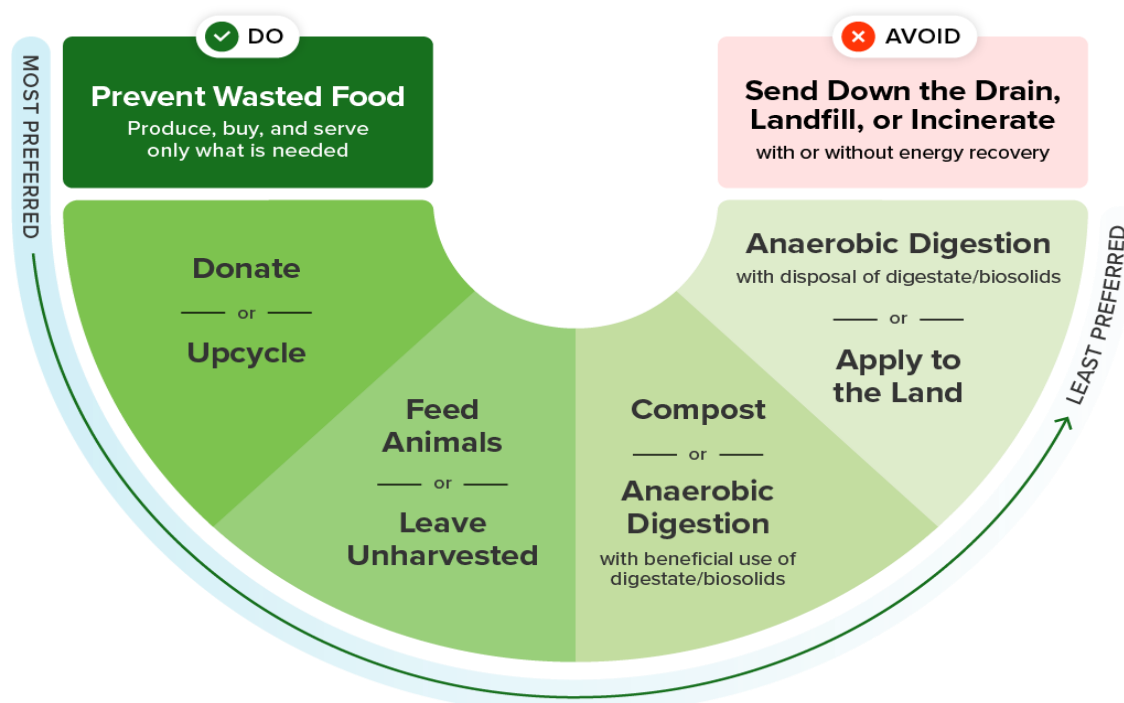
Green Materials	Brown Materials
Fruits and vegetables	Dry leaves
Coffee grounds & filters	Shredded uncoated paper
Grass clippings	Small twigs and plant stems
Flowers, pumpkins	Plain shredded cardboard

Once complete you should have a dark, nutrient rich addition for houseplants, gardening, or soil improvement. For more details and information on composting at home, refer to the Wisconsin DNR Information on the next page.



Wasted Food Scale

How to reduce the environmental impacts of wasted food



HOME COMPOSTING MATERIALS



COMPOST



COMPOST TIP

Chopping or shredding these items helps speed up the composting process.

For best results, composters can mix in 2 to 3 volumes of "brown" material with each volume of "green" material.

Carbon-Rich "Browns"

Brown leaves & yard waste

- Brush & twigs (1/2" in diameter or less)
- Cardboard (dry and clean)
- Egg cartons (shredded)
- Newspaper
- Nuts & nut shells (but **not** black walnuts)
- Paper towels
- Pine cones & pine needles
- Sawdust & shavings (from non-treated wood)
- Straw & hay
- Wood chips

Nitrogen-Rich "Greens"

Green leaves & yard waste

- Coffee beans, grounds & used filters
- Dirt & potting soil
- Egg shells
- Flowers & yard plants
- Fruit, including cores & rinds
- Grass clippings
- Gourds & pumpkins
- Melons and melon rinds
- Tea leaves & tea bags
- Vegetables, greens & legumes



NOT FOR COMPOST



Not for Home Composting

- Biodegradable forks, spoons & knives
- Branches or logs more than 6" in diameter
- Charcoal briquettes or briquette ash
- Cigar & cigarette ashes
- Coffee or beverage cups
- Diapers
- Dairy products (butter, milk, cheese, etc.)
- Invasive weeds and plants
- Meat (cooked or raw) & bones
- Oils, greases & fats (including snack chips)
- Pet food
- Pet or human waste
- Pizza boxes with grease or cheese on them
- Recyclables (glass, plastic, metal cans, etc.)
- Sawdust from treated wood
- Trash (wrappers, packaging, etc.)
- Used take-out containers & Styrofoam shells
- Wood treated with varnish or paint

For more, visit dnr.wi.gov & search "compost," or consult other DNR publications, **Home Composting: Reap A Heap of Benefits** & **Home Composting: The Basic Composter**.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, audiotape etc.) upon request. Please call 608-266-2111 for more information. WA-1785 2015



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@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.

