

# 2022 Recycling and Solid Waste Guide



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Ottumwa/Wapello County Solid Waste  
Commission

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### Important Phone Numbers

Ottumwa/Wapello County Solid Waste Director	641-683-0694
Ottumwa/Wapello County Recycling Center	641-683-0685
Ottumwa/Wapello County Hazardous Waste Facility	641-683-0685
Ottumwa/Wapello County Landfill	641-683-0644
Ottumwa Health Department	641-683-0650
Iowa Department of Natural Resources	319-653-2135
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	913-551-7621
Police (Non Emergency)	641-683-0629
Fire Station (Non Emergency)	641-683-0666
Public Works	641-684-2180
Ottumwa City Hall	641-683-0600
Airport	641-683-0619
City Clerk	641-683-0621
Engineering	641-683-0655
Library	641-682-7563
Parks	641-682-1796
Planning and Zoning	641-683-0606
Water Pollution Control	641-683-0641
Report Litter	888-665-4887
Ottumwa Water & Hydro	641-684-4606

# Recycling & Trash Collection Update

## Base Service Rate

Billed on your water bill.

Includes collection of one 64-gallon container of trash each week. Other containers will not be collected

Includes collection of an unlimited amount of recyclables each week.

Includes one weekly bulky item collection. See page 8 for more information.

Includes the collection of cut & tied limbs & branches.

This service is not intended for the collection of whole trees. See page 7 for more information.

Curbside collection of leaves, grass clippings & garden debris are not included in your base service rate. However, you can purchase any compostable sack, and affix a green yard waste tag to each bag. These are available for \$1.00.

Service	Rate	Available From
Appliance Tags	\$5.00	Major Ottumwa Grocery Stores
Yard Waste Tags (Including grass clippings, leaves, small brush, and garden debris)	\$1.00	Major Ottumwa Grocery Stores, Menards & O'Hara Hardware
Bag Tags for Extra Trash	\$1.00	Major Ottumwa Grocery Stores and Quick Shop

## Curbside Garbage Collection Guidelines

All garbage must be bagged.

Garbage is limited to one 64-gallon trash cart (weight limit is on the cart)

Each additional bag in excess of what fits in the can must have a bag tag on it. They are \$1.00 each.

Set out your garbage, and recycling bins by 4:00 am on your scheduled collection day. You may set them out the evening before. There is no scheduled time of day for collections. If you set your trash out late, it will not be collected, and limits still apply.

Do not put ammunition or hot ashes in your garbage, recycling or yard waste containers.

Do not place bricks, car parts, concrete or other household hazardous waste in your trash, recycling or yard waste containers. Trash that is not properly prepared WILL NOT be collected. For the health & safety of all concerned, refuse must be secured in a bag that is intact. Extra bags with no tags, in excess of 33-gallon, or over 40 lbs. will not be collected, and cans sitting closer than three feet will not be collected.

### Acceptable Placement of Waste



3 Feet



## Recycling Basics - The following guidelines are designed to help make recycling as simple and easy as possible:

Out by 4:00 AM.

Be sure items placed in the recycling bin are recyclable. Non-recyclable items cannot be accepted for collection, and they increase operating costs. If you have questions about what's recyclable, call 641-683-0685.

Always remove ALL remaining product residue from glass, plastic, or metal containers by rinsing them out with water. This will keep your recycling bin clean and eliminate odors. You DO NOT need to remove paper labels.

As a bin fills, it may help to crush or flatten plastic containers to conserve space.

Do not place broken glass in the recycling bin. This is a hazard to the collection and sorting crews, and the bin will not be collected.

Do NOT put sharps in the recycling bin! They can be dropped off at the Recycling Center if they are in an approved sharps container, a laundry soap bottle, or a fabric softener bottle. Tape it shut and bring it to the Center.

If it is raining or snowing, please place your paper products in plastic bags and tie them shut to prevent your paper from becoming wet.

Do not put recyclables in black plastic bags. The collectors can not identify what items are in black bags. Any recyclables in black bags will not be collected. Please use light colored bags, like plastic grocery bags.



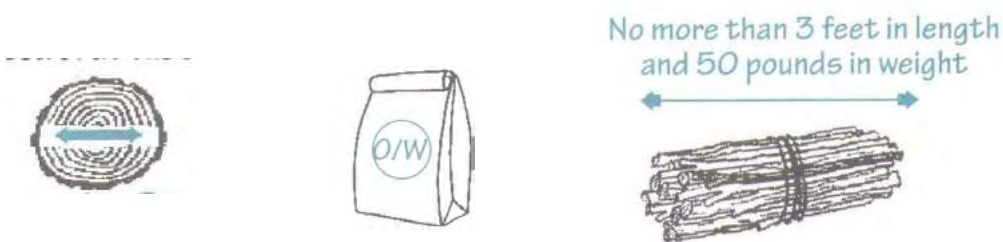
They set out! Do You?

Items need to be on the curb prior to 4:00 AM on collection day. All trash cans & recycling bins must be removed from the curb within 12 hours of collection.

## Curbside Collection of Yard Waste

Your basic refuse charge pays for the collection of limbs & branches which are properly prepared. All branches and limbs must be cut in lengths of no more than 3 feet, tied with string or twine, (do not use wire or nylon rope), and weigh no more than 50 pounds. Branches can be no larger than 3" in diameter. The bundles must be set out at the curb by 4:00 AM on Tuesday for collection on the south side and 4:00 AM on Thursday on the north side. This service is for occasional branches and is not intended for the removal of whole trees. Larger quantities may be disposed of at the Landfill for no charge from residents. There is a charge for businesses, (see pg. 14).

Leaves, grass clippings and small garden debris must be bagged in compostable bags, and have a \$1 green yard waste tag affixed, available at the courtesy counters at major grocery stores, Menards, and O'Hara Hardware. Plastic sacks will not be collected curbside. Weight limit 40 lbs.



### Remember

The Ottumwa/Wapello County Landfill accepts limbs/branches and leaves/grass clippings free of charge from residents. There is a \$30.00 per ton charge for businesses. All loads must be tarped, or a tarp fee will be applied.



## Bulky Item Collection

Bulky items are large items such as furniture. These items are collected at the curbside either on Tuesday on the south side and Thursday on the north side. There is a limit of one item per week and you need to call Bridge City Sanitation at 682-1700 by 4:00 pm Monday for collection on the south side and by 4:00 pm on Wednesday for the north side. Appliances and scrap metal are collected on Tuesday on the north and south side both. They need called in by 4:00 pm on Monday. Appliances require a \$5.00 tag. Examples of items that are bulk items and go to the landfill for disposal include:

Box springs/mattresses

Windows/doors

Porcelain bathroom fixtures

Fiberglass bathtubs

Furniture

Carpet (cut in 6ft. Widths & tied)



Examples of bulk items that go to the Recycling Center

Appliances

Scrap Metal





## Where to Find the Recycling Center



The Recycling Center is NOT a Redemption

Center. We will take your deposit container but no money will be remitted.

### Rules:

No dumping of trash or unacceptable items is allowed. Persons found dumping illegal items will be fined.

Children and Pets must remain in vehicles at all times.

NO scavenging through containers or appliance area. Deposit containers can not be taken.

Household hazardous waste see page 16. Latex paint is accepted. Usable paint is given away. Old paint is dried up and disposed of.

All plastic bags used to transport recyclables need to be taken home for reuse or disposal in the trash.

Please place all recyclables in the appropriate containers. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to ask in the Office.

For holiday schedules, visit the city's web page at [www.ottumwa.us](http://www.ottumwa.us) or the solid waste website at [www.ottumwarecycles.com](http://www.ottumwarecycles.com)



Did you know?

Recycling really does help! Not only does recycling save valuable landfill space, creates jobs and helps protect our environment, it also conserves natural resources.

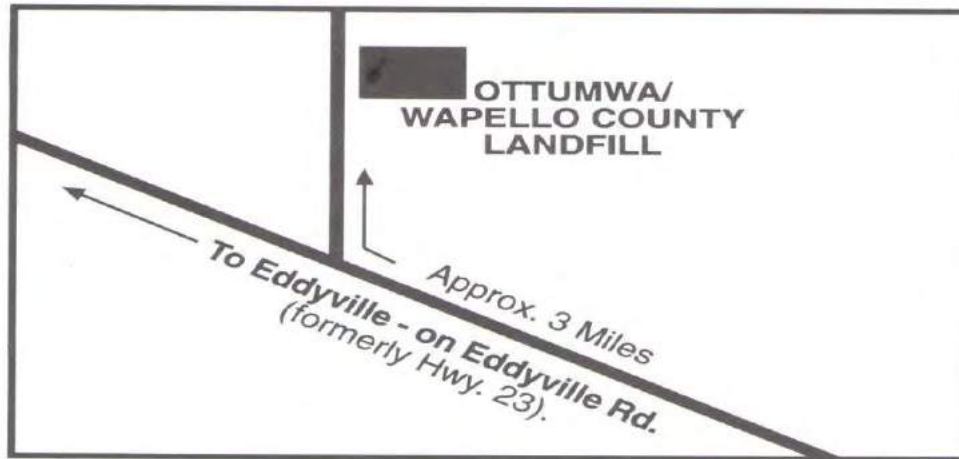
➡ Every ton of paper recycled saves 17 trees, 500,000 trees could be saved if every family in the United States recycled their newspaper.

➡ Recycling a ton of paper also saves 7,000 gallons of water, 4,100 kilowatt hours of electricity, and produces 50% less water & air pollution than if a ton of paper had been produced from scratch.

➡ Dumping one-quart of motor oil will contaminate 250,000 gallons of water. Dilution is not the solution to pollution.

➡ Recycling two gallons of motor oil will run an average house 24-hours

## Where to find the Landfill



Location: Out West Second, toward Eddyville. Look for the sign on the north side of the road.

Hours? Monday—Friday 7AM—4PM & Saturday 7AM— Noon

### Rules:

All loads must be tarped. There will be a \$10 penalty assessed for first time and up to \$25 afterwards for residential vehicles which are un-tarped when entering the landfill. Commercial vehicles which are un-tarped, or not properly tarped, will receive a penalty of \$25- \$75 for each violation.

NO liquids of any kind are accepted at the Landfill.

Businesses with special wastes should call 683-0644 for assistance.

Yard waste of any kind is not accepted for landfilling, but may be disposed of in the compost area free of charge from households. Grass & leaves can be disposed of at the new area adjacent to the landfill scale.

NO tires, car batteries, or appliances are accepted for landfilling. Tires and appliances must be taken to the Recycling Center. Metal and car batteries must be separated from trash for disposal in separate areas within the Landfill or taken to the Recycling Center.

Toxic Waste IS NOT accepted at the Landfill. See pg. 16

Fees: The disposal charge is \$57.00 per ton. The minimum charge is \$14.25 for 500 pounds or less. Amounts greater than 500 will be prorated at the \$57.00 per ton rate. The charge for pallets and processed wood debris is \$30.00 per ton with a \$7.50 minimum charge. The charge for construction & demolition debris \$57.00 per ton with a \$14.25 minimum. Loads of wood waste containing other material will be charged \$57.00 per ton.

## Ottumwa Curbside Collection of Solid Waste, Recyclables, Yard Waste & Bulky Items

These services are provided to each customer once per week as part of the base service rate. Trash and recyclables collection will be on the same day of the week. Each household will receive a recycling bin as part of the base service rate. The following services are part of the curbside collection service.

### Basic Trash Service Information



The refuse charge (RC) on your water bill pays for 64-gallons of trash per week, unlimited recyclables, one weekly collection of bulky items, (see page 11 for more information) and the collection of cut & tied limbs, (see page 9 for proper preparation instructions). The curbside collection of leaves and/or grass clippings is paid for through the purchase of compostable bags with a \$1 green yard waste tag affixed to the bags. The tags can be purchased at local grocery stores, Menards & O'Hara Hardware.

**Trash that is not properly prepared WILL NOT be collected.**

For the health and safety of all concerned, refuse must be secured in a bag that is intact.

Extra bags sitting on top of cans without bag tags will not be collected.

Additional trash in excess of 64-gallons can be disposed of in a 33-gallon bag with a tag. Small bags tied together with one tag on them will not be collected.

Examples of items that are collected on Tuesday and go to the Recycling Center for recycling include:

Refrigerators/freezers

Lawn mowers

Washers/dryers

Appliances require a \$5.00 pink sticker

**Bulky Item Collection Will Not Include:**

Any items generated by a household business or any other business. This includes hobbies, auctions, evictions, rummage sales and moving sales; new construction or demolition debris, concrete, brick, asphalt roofing, toxic, hazardous, or infectious wastes; explosives, liquids, waste oil and batteries. Other restrictions may apply. Set all bulky items on the curb prior to 4:00 AM on the collection day to ensure pick up.

### **What Can Be Recycled?**

In order for recycling to work and be beneficial, quality recycling material is a must. Placing materials in your recycling bin that causes contamination doesn't increase recycling, it increases contamination. If you have one of the 35-gallon recycling bins, it is important to follow the directions for using them. Glass, plastic, tin, and aluminum should be placed in the bottom **loose**. Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, telephone directories, office paper/junk mail, and paper back books should be bagged together in handle tie grocery bags and cardboard and paperboard should be bagged in a separate bag. Paper products should go on top. If you have cardboard that is large, you can flatten it and put it next to your bin or under your bin.

#### **Newspapers, Magazines, Catalogues, Office Paper & Phone Books**

Old newspapers such as the Ottumwa Courier, magazines, catalogs, office paper, and paperback books can be recycled. Remove all plastic bags and or rubber bands. This material must be clean and kept dry. Place this material in see-through bags in your recycling bin. NO yellowed, stained, or wet newspaper. NO plastic coated paper. NO food contaminated paper. No tissue or hand towels. No Tyvek envelopes (the ones with a white liner) or carbon paper.

## Corrugated Cardboard & Paperboard

Old boxes, both corrugated (with the wavy middle layer) and paperboard are recyclable. This would include cereal and gift boxes, old packing boxes, and boxes that were received in the mail. Please flatten all boxes and place along inner side of your recycling bin or underneath it. No gable-top waxed cartons (milk & juice). No food contaminated boxes, and no paperboard beverage cartons (pop & beer).



## Plastic Containers

Plastics. No need to look for a number. If it is a bottle or jar, it is recyclable. Please rinse to help keep your recycling bin and the Recycling Center clean, and help reduce the attraction to pests. Acceptable bottles include milk jugs, pop bottles, shampoo, and conditioner bottles, dish soap or water bottles, coffee cans, and cleaning products bottles. The Recycling Center is not a redemption Center.



- No toys
- No laundry baskets
- No plastic bags or wrap
- No motor oil containers (even if there is a #2 on the bottom)
- No Plastic Storage Containers
- No molded plastic containers
- No Styrofoam

## Aluminum & Steel Cans

This includes beverage cans, soup cans, and empty aerosol cans. Please rinse cans, but there is no need to remove labels. Metal paint cans can be recycled if they're completely empty. Remove the lid and place the lid and the can in your recycling bin. This way collectors will know the can is empty. Large metal pieces or appliances can be set out for collection on Tuesday for bulky item collection. Call Bridge City Sanitation at 641-682-1700.

NO aluminum foil wrap or pans

No Propane tanks. Large Propane tanks can be taken to Hamilton Produce.



## Glass Food Containers

The Recycling Center accepts food and beverage container glass. This includes pop bottles, wine bottles, juice containers, and beer bottles. No light bulbs or safety glass. Please rinse all containers and remove the lids. DO NOT place broken glass in your recycling bin as it is a hazard to the collectors and employees at the Recycling Center.

No mirrors

NO window glass

NO safety glass

NO light bulbs



## Yard Waste

Leaves, grass clipping, garden debris, and small brush may be collected curbside in compostable bags with a \$1 green yard waste tag affixed to each bag. Yard waste tags are available at major local grocery stores, Menards, and O'Hara Hardware at the Courtesy Counters. Brush and tree limbs must be cut into 36" lengths, bundled and tied into weights of less than 50 lb. Limbs can not exceed 3" in diameter. This service is NOT intended to be used for the disposal of whole trees. Yard waste is collected on Tuesdays on south side and Thursday on the north side. If Monday or Tuesday is a holiday, collection will be on Thursday. To ensure collection, place your yard waste at the curb by 4:00 am on collection day. Yard waste may NOT be disposed of with general trash in the landfill. Individuals choosing to haul yard waste to the landfill may do so free of charge. The landfill accepts all types of yard waste, however, limbs and brush should be separated from grass clipping and leaves. Businesses including lawn mowing and landscaping services must take all yard waste to the Landfill. Yard waste must be separated from other waste and removed from plastic bags before disposing in the composting area. Remember all loads going to the Landfill MUST be covered or a \$10—\$25 fee will be charged for residential vehicles and a \$25- \$75 fee will be charged for commercial vehicles.



## Home Composting

Another option for yard waste disposal is home composting. This can provide a rich fertile soil for the garden, lawn, or house plants. For more information on home composting, call 641-683-0685.

## **Additional Recycling Services**

### **Business & Industrial Recycling**

The Recycling Center is happy to assist with all waste reduction efforts. Businesses that want to establish recycling and waste reduction programs are invited to contact the Ottumwa/Wapello Recycling Center. The Recycling Center staff will help with employee training, educational material templates and troubleshooting assistance are also available for no charge.

### **Multi-Family Dwellings May Subscribe**

Are you a landlord or building owner who wants to establish a recycling program for your tenants? The Recycling Center will gladly assist you in developing your program. Whether it is program design, handout creation or troubleshooting, the staff will be happy to help you.

### **Landscape Rocks**

A large variety of landscape rocks are available at the Landfill. We invite you to come to the Landfill and choose one. The cost is \$.05 per pound. Delivery is available; call 683-0644 for information.

### **How are Solid Waste Activities Funded?**

Many people think that the Ottumwa/Wapello Recycling Center and Landfill are supported by tax money. Both facilities are funded entirely by revenue generated from Landfill tipping fees and the sale of marketed recyclable materials. These revenues help fund new landfill space development, equipment purchases and educational materials. The sale of materials from the Recycling Center funds a portion of the Recycling operation. The percentage funded depends on the market prices. The remaining funds come from Landfill tipping fees.

### **Household Hazardous Material**

There are many hazardous products found in households. Products that are corrosive, toxic, flammable or reactive are considered hazardous by the Federal EPA. Improper use, storage and or handling of these products can result in dangerous outcomes, even death. The Ottumwa/Wapello County Solid Waste Commission has a Regional Collection Center at the Ottumwa/Wapello Co. Recycling Center. Make a list of the items you wish to dispose of and call the Recycling Center at 641-683-0685 to schedule an appointment. **Disposal is by appointment only.** Contact the Recycling Center for more information.



## Ni Cd Battery Collection Program

The Ottumwa/Wapello County Recycling Center accepts spent Ni-Cd batteries and cell phones for recycling. Ni-Cd batteries are often found in cell phones, laptop computers, and battery powered tools and toys. All Ni-Cd batteries say “Ni-Cd” or have the Ni-Cd symbol on it. For more information contact the Recycling Center.



## Sharps Disposal

The Ottumwa/Wapello County Recycling containerized sharps, (needles, lancets & dropped off at the Recycling Center must containers such as laundry soap or fabric Sharps will not be accepted in two liter Sharps are only accepted for drop off. DO THE RECYCLING BIN.



Center accepts pre syringes). All sharps be in Heavy Plastic softener bottles. soda bottles, etc. NOT PLACE THEM IN

## Paint Information

The Recycling Center has a latex paint exchange program. This program enables residents to place LATEX paint ONLY on the loading dock for disposal. Employees go through the paint, dry up what is not good for disposal, and any paint that is usable is placed in the swap area for residents to come and get.

## **Paint Information Continued**

No liquids can be landfilled. Do not put paint in your trash or recycling bin. If you wish you can dry latex paint up yourself. There are several ways to do it. You can take the lid off and leave the paint to dry. Another option is to add cat litter or other absorbent material to the paint; stir and continue to add until the paint is solid. If you have a large quantity you can line a cardboard box with a plastic trash bag and pour the paint in a little at a time, letting the paint dry between layers. It helps to add cat litter to this process as well. If you have additional questions about latex paint contact the Ottumwa/Wapello Recycling Center at 641-683-0684.

## **If your paint is not latex?**

Oil based paints and products like varnish, shellacs, and paint thinner are considered to be hazardous. Special care is needed when disposing of these types of products. Many of these products are extremely flammable and have strong fumes.



## Often Asked Questions

Questions concerning collection or collection crews? Please call Bridge City Sanitation, 641-682-1700. To request a recycling bin, call this number also.

*If it is raining or snowing or looks like it might, "what do I do with my recyclables?"*

You have three options: 1) hold your recyclables until the following week, 2) bag your paper items, like newspaper, magazines, catalogues, and paper board in see-through plastic bags and tie them shut, or 3) personally bring your recyclables to the Recycling Center.

*Where can I get answers to trash & recycling related questions?*

Check the Solid Waste Website at [www.ottumwarecycles.com](http://www.ottumwarecycles.com) or call the Recycling Center at 641-683-0684.

*Monday is a holiday. "When will my trash be picked up?"*

If a holiday occurs at anytime during the week, trash and recycling will be picked up on an alternate day. For example, if the holiday is on Monday, then the collection will be on Tuesday. Bulky items that are regularly collected on Tuesday will be collected on Thursday. If the holiday is on Friday, then the collection will be on Thursday. Watch GO-TV, check the website, the City's website at [ottumwa.us](http://ottumwa.us), call the Recycling Center at 641-683-0684 or Bridge City Sanitation at 641-682-1700.

*Why can't I recycle wet newspaper, magazines, catalogues, or office paper?*

There are several reasons why wet paper can't be Recycled. One reason is that paper fibers only hold so much moisture, and if the paper is already wet when it gets to the mill, it will not absorb enough of the chemicals used to recycle the paper to make the recycling process successful.

*What can I do with latex paint?* The Recycling Center accepts Latex paint, usable or not.

*My yard waste was not collected. Why?*

Common reasons for this include: yard waste was not in a compostable bag or it didn't have a green \$1 yard waste tag on it. Limbs and branches not properly prepared or excessive limbs and branches. Yard waste must be called into Bridge City Sanitation by 3:00 pm Monday for collection on Tuesday on the south side, and by 3:00 pm on Wednesday for Thursday's collection on the north side.

## Often Asked Questions Cont.

### *I have heard that pop & beer cartons aren't recyclable. Why?*

Beverage containers typically used for pop and beer have been treated with a chemical to prevent them from falling apart when they become wet. This makes them difficult to recycle, and the Mills don't want them.

### *Why can't we recycle more types of plastic?*

Plastics are created to serve different purposes. For example, some plastics are filled with hot things and then have to be sealed to hold carbonations, like pop bottles. Other plastics have to have the ability to bend and seal with a heat application like frozen food bags. Each of these plastics are created in a different way making it impossible to recycle them together.

### *I am cleaning out my Garage and my Basement and I have found a lot of pesticides and other chemicals. What do I do with these things?*

Those items should not be disposed of in your regular garbage. You can make a list of the items you wish to dispose of, call the Recycling Center with your list and schedule an appointment time to bring them. This service is by appointment only. One way to avoid this problem in the future is to use what you buy, and only buy what you can use up.

### *Bridge City Sanitation has left my recycling bin on my curb today. Why?*

There are several reasons why this might have happened. If your bin was placed on the curb after 4:00 am on your collection day they may have already collected in your area. Common other reasons include: broken glass in the bin, sharps in the bin, recycling in black bags, food in the bin, wet paper. If you feel your bin was left in error, please contact Bridge City Sanitation at 641-682-1700.

Some common items that are placed in the bin for recycling that are not recyclable in our program are, Styrofoam, bubble wrap, foam wrap, candy wrappers, wrapping paper, plastic toys, paper plates, cartons like the ones chicken broth or orange juice comes in, straws, pop and beer cartons.

