

City of Ottumwa Trash & Recycling Information

Basic service in Ottumwa includes

- * Collection of one 64-gallon container of trash each week. Additional bags may be put out for collection. There is a weight limit of 40 lbs. per bag, and each bag must have a \$1.00 trash tag on them. Bag tags are available at major grocery store Courtesy Counters. Please remember to keep your trash container in a sanitary manner. This will help insure the health and safety of all concerned. Please do not put materials such as animal waste and kitchen waste in your can without bagging it. If you are disposing of sharps (needles or lancets) in your trash proper handling is essential. Clip the needle point or recap discarded needles. Place sharps in a rigid puncture proof container with a secured lid. Acceptable containers include commercially available sharps containers or heavy plastic detergent or fabric softener bottles. Containers like coffee cans, milk jugs, pop bottles, and cans or plastic bags are **not** acceptable. Be sure to wrap sharp objects such as broken glass in several layers of newspaper before placing it in your trash sack or place in a box next to your trash can.

- * Collection of unlimited recycling.

- * Collection of **one** bulky item per week. Appliances require a \$5 pink appliance tag. Available at major grocery store Courtesy Counters. Some examples of a bulky item are a couch, table, chairs, mattress, stove, and etc.

- * Includes collection of small branches and limbs that fall in the yard from time to time. Must be no more than 3" in diameter, cut in 3' lengths, and tied in bundles of no more than 50 pounds. This service is not intended for the collection of whole

trees. For yard waste (grass, leaves, and garden debris) purchase any compostable sack, and apply a \$1 yard waste tag to each bag. There is a weight limit of 40 lbs. on the yard waste sacks. Yard waste tags are available to major grocery store Courtesy Counters. Yard waste is collected on Tuesday on the South Side and Thursday on the North Side from April 1 through November 30.

Know What to Throw—Recycling Basics

Don't be a wish cycler. Sending material to the Recycling Center to be thrown away is the most expensive form of disposal.

Newspapers— Ads, magazines, catalogs, phone directories, paperback books, and office paper should all be bagged in grocery type bags together. Paper must be kept dry.

Corrugated Cardboard—and paperboard should be kept together, but separate from the newspaper. Flattening these items will save room in your bin. **Pop and beer** containers and waxy cartons, such as what broth comes in should go in the **regular garbage**.

Aluminum & Steel Cans— Includes coffee, beverage, soup, empty aerosol cans , and EMPTY metal paint cans. **Do not include propane tanks!**

Glass—Green, brown, and clear food or beverage containers. Drinking glasses, Pyrex, window glass, light bulbs and mirrors ARE NOT recyclable. Florescent bulbs and CFL bulbs can be brought to the Recycling Center.

Plastic Bottles and Jars— Rinse, recap, and place in your recycling bin.

Do not include toys, laundry baskets, flower pots, Styrofoam, plastic bags, plastic wrap, candy wrappers, chip bags, plastic storage containers, carry out food containers, or bottles that have had vehicle motor oil in them.

If you have questions, call the Recycling Center at 641-683-0685.

Items to Recycle



Corrugated cardboard
& Paperboard. Cleaned

Out & flattened. Remove
Styrofoam & plastic



Tin & aluminum cans
Rinse. Leave Label on



Office paper, newspaper
magazines, catalogs,
paper back books. Bag in
grocery bags.



Plastic bottles & jars
Rinse



Glass bottles &
Rinse

Recycling Dos and Don'ts

- Do break down cardboard
- Do make sure items are clean & dry
- When in doubt, throw it out (in the garbage)
- Don't put food or garbage in your recycling
- Don't put diapers in your recycling
- Don't put sharps (needles and lancets) in recycling
- Don't put yard waste in your recycling
- Don't put bags or pop & beer cartons in recycling

Unacceptable Items

- Pop & beer cartons
- Paper milk & juice cartons
- Styrofoam
- Straws
- Light bulbs
- Food
- Paint cans
- Yard and Wood waste
- Propane tanks
- flammable liquid
- Medical waste
- Batteries



Why the Ottumwa/Wapello County Recycling Center Doesn't Take More Items.

Recycling is as important as ever. The problems that have been taking place are mainly due to the United States sending recycling to China that had too many contaminants, and China quit buying our recycling. This caused a temporary glut of material. The Ottumwa/Wapello County Recycling Center only accepts materials that there are reliable markets for. Many places that took more items have had to quit taking them, and some have even returned to dual stream versus single stream to reduce contamination. Don't be a wish cycler. If in doubt, throw it out.