

HOW TO REDUCE, REUSE AND RECYCLE



WHAT GOES WHERE



FIX-IT
Clinic



Dakota
COUNTY

Keep this guide handy to answer your questions about reducing, reusing and recycling in Dakota County.

Please recycle your old guide.



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REDUCE AND REUSE

WHY REDUCE AND REUSE?

The best way to reduce waste is to not create it in the first place. Reducing waste helps:

- **Save you money**
Repairing or buying used can be more affordable than buying new.
- **Build community**
Donating and swapping items with your community fosters connections with people.
- **Conserve resources**
Finding new uses for things saves the water, energy and fuel it takes to make new stuff.
- **Divert waste from the landfills**
Reusing the stuff you already have reduces the amount sent to local landfills.



DONATE AND BUY USED

Find repair, rental and donation businesses near you with the Reduce & Reuse Map.

Scan the QR code or visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *reduce and reuse*.



REDUCE AND REUSE

REPAIR YOUR STUFF AT A FIX-IT CLINIC

Learn to repair your broken items instead of buying new ones. Get free help repairing small household items and clothes at monthly Fix-It Clinics. Volunteers bring tools and help from troubleshooting to a completed repair. Dakota County Fix-It Clinics have helped residents fix nearly 30,000 pounds-worth of items. Some of the top items fixed are:

- Blenders
- Clean clothing to mend
- Coffee makers
- Fans and lamps
- Jewelry
- Radios and stereos
- Sewing machines
- Toys
- Lamps

Scan the QR code or visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *fix-it clinics*.



PUT AN END TO JUNK MAIL

Junk mail can be recycled, but you can stop it from reaching your mailbox in the first place.

Visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *junk mail*.



RECYCLING AT HOME

YES. Put these items in your recycling:

PAPER

- Newspaper and inserts
- Magazines and catalogs
- Mail and office papers

CARDBOARD

Flatten

- Corrugated cardboard
- Paperboard like cracker boxes

CARTONS

Empty and dry; leave caps on

- Milk and juice cartons
- Soup, broth and wine cartons
- Juice boxes

METAL CANS

Empty and dry

- Aluminum, tin and steel cans

GLASS BOTTLES & JARS

Empty and dry; leave caps on

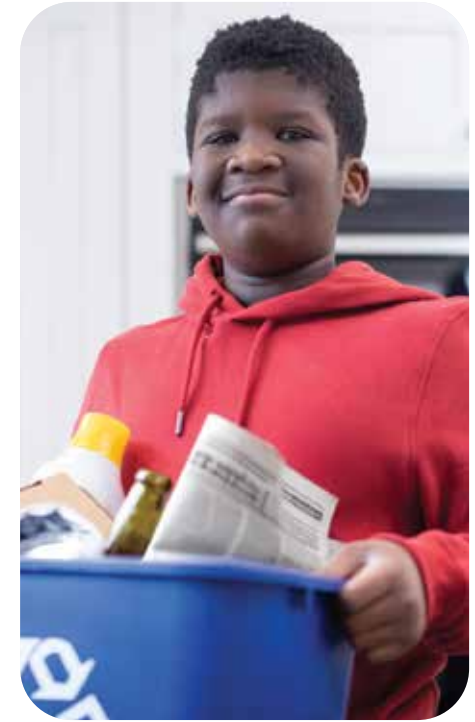
PLASTIC BOTTLES CONTAINERS & JUGS

Empty and dry; leave caps on

- Containers numbered 1, 2 or 5
- Soda, juice and water bottles
- Milk and juice jugs
- Laundry detergent bottles and jugs
- Margarine, cottage cheese, cream cheese and other tubs and lids
- Clear berry and produce containers



1. Focus on the YES list.
2. Put these items loose in your recycling. Do not use plastic bags.
3. Make sure items are empty and dry. They don't need to be perfect — just free of most food and residue.
4. Flatten boxes.
5. Leave caps on containers.



NO. Keep these items out of the recycling:



No plastic bags, do not bag recyclables



No batteries or electronics



No tanglers, cords, hoses or chains



No food or liquids



No shredded paper



No Styrofoam



No paper cups, plates or napkins



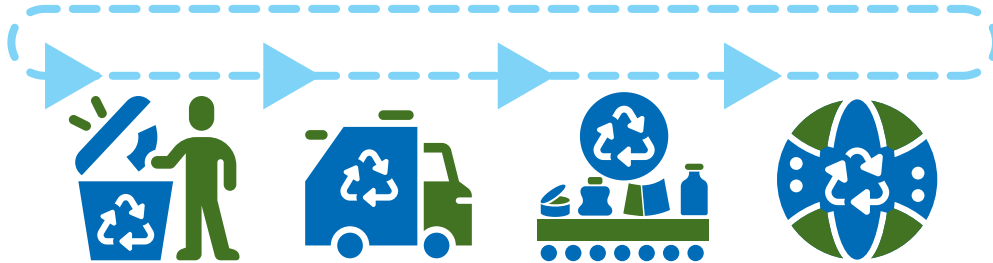
No trash

www.dakotacounty.us, search *recycle*.

WHY RECYCLE?

Recycling is a team sport, and each player is important.

Recycling is the process of turning items into something new, which reduces the amount of things sent to the landfill and saves resources.



You:
Recycle right.
The items on page 4 are important to recycle because they can be turned into new products.

Haulers:
Collect your recycling and bring it to a recycling facility. This is required by Minnesota State law.

Recycling facilities:
Sort by material to get the items off to the right places.

Businesses & manufacturers:
Convert recycled materials into new products like new bottles, boxes, jars and lawn furniture.

CONFIDENTIAL PAPERS



Do you need to shred?

Instead of shredding, use a permanent marker to block out sensitive information and recycle the paper normally. Do not put shredded paper into your recycling.

The Recycling Zone can no longer accept shredded paper. The facility that used to take it is no longer operating.

Community shredding events

Find shredding events and other options for confidential paper on the Recycling Guide.



PLASTIC BAGS & WRAP



Do not put plastic bags in your recycling. Drop off clean and dry plastic bags and wrap at these locations so they can be brought to places that can recycle film plastic.

Drop-off locations

- Cub Foods
- Home Depot
- Kohl's
- Kowalski's
- Lowe's
- Lunds & Byerlys
- Target
- Walmart

Accepted

- Bubble wrap and air packets from shipping
- Cracker and cereal box liners (no paper or metallic liners)
- Dry cleaning bags
- Newspaper sleeves
- Plastic retail bags
- Plastic shipping envelopes
- Sidewalk salt bags
- Water softener bags
- Wrap from household products like paper towels, toilet paper
- Zip-top food storage bags

Search *plastic bags* on the Recycling Guide.

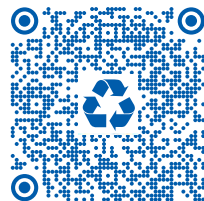
RECYCLING GUIDE

When in doubt, check it out!



Not sure where something goes? Look it up on the online Recycling Guide. Find out where to recycle, donate or get rid of hundreds of household items.

Scan the QR code or visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *recycling guide*.



CHEMICALS, ELECTRONICS AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Many household items like yard and garden chemicals, cleaners, auto products, electronics and more are accepted for free at the Recycling Zone in Eagan.

ACCEPTED

Free drop off (unless noted)


- Auto products like motor oil, antifreeze, gas
- Batteries – all types and sizes
- Electronics like cell phones and toasters; \$10 fee for TVs and computer monitors
- Holiday lights and cords
- Home sharps (needles, syringes, lancets)
- Household chemicals
- Paints and stains
- Propane tanks
- Scrap metal
- Tires; Fee depending on size
- Vacuums
- Most products labeled dangerous, flammable, poison, combustible or corrosive

NOT ACCEPTED:

- Appliances
- Carpet
- Furniture
- Humidifiers and dehumidifiers
- Lumber
- Mattresses
- Medical waste and medications
- Shredded paper
- Yard waste



DROPPING OFF IS EASY:

- 1 Keep products in original or labeled containers. Place items in a box you can leave behind. Contact the Recycling Zone ahead of time for amounts larger than a pickup truck or for unknown and unusual chemicals.
- 2 Put items in the trunk or back of your vehicle. Keep sharps in a container in the front seat.
- 3 Drive up with your ID ready to be scanned. Have a credit card or exact change for TVs, monitors and tires. 
- 4 Stay in your car — staff will unload your items.

2026 DROP-OFF HOURS

Wednesday9 a.m.–8 p.m.
Thursdaynoon–8 p.m.
Friday9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Saturday8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Closed on major holidays.

ADDRESS

3365 Dodd Road, Eagan
952-891-7800

Scan the QR code or visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *recycling zone*.



WHY DROP OFF AT THE RECYCLING ZONE?

The Recycling Zone makes sure items dropped off are recycled and disposed of safely which helps keep our land and water clean. Over 68,000 households drop off items each year.

THE REUSE ZONE

Shop products like paint, stain, household cleaners and more for free at the Reuse Zone located inside the Recycling Zone. Inventory comes from what people drop off, so supplies vary. Only take what you will use so product is left for others.



THE SAFE WAY TO DITCH YOUR VAPE

Vapes are hazardous waste—do not put vapes in the trash or recycling.

Bring vapes to the Recycling Zone for free and safe disposal. Separate vapes and place each vape in its own clear, sealable plastic bag.



BATTERIES

Some batteries contain mercury, lead, cadmium or silver. These metals are hazardous to the environment. Bring your batteries to a drop-off location for recycling.

Single-use batteries

AA, AAA, button, C, D and 9 Volt

💰 Fees may apply

Batteries Plus

Apple Valley, Eagan, West St. Paul

Recycling Zone

Eagan (free)

Rechargeable batteries

💰 Fees may apply

Batteries Plus

Apple Valley, Eagan, West St. Paul

Certified Recycling

Burnsville

The Home Depot

Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan,
Inver Grove Heights

JR's Advanced Recyclers

Inver Grove Heights

Lowe's

West St. Paul

Recycling Zone

Eagan (free)

Vehicle batteries

Businesses that sell vehicle batteries are required to accept up to five used batteries per person at one time for free, whether you buy a new battery or not. You can also bring them to the Recycling Zone.

 Search *batteries* on the Recycling Guide.



Preparation:

Tape both ends with clear packing tape. Taping the ends can help prevent fires and clear tape helps staff identify and sort the battery.



Do not put rechargeable batteries in the trash or recycling.



MEDICATIONS



Safely get rid of medications at drop box locations throughout Dakota County.

Drop-off at county locations is free and anonymous.

Accepted

Personal prescription and over-the-counter medication

- Pills
- Powders
- Liquids
- Creams
- Pet medications
- IV bags
- EpiPens®
- Inhalers
- Patches
- Sprays
- Vitamins
- Chemotherapy drugs

Not accepted

- Illegal drugs
- Medications from businesses
- Medical devices
- Empty containers

Roundtable Rx:

Donates prescription and over-the-counter medication to Minnesotans in need.

To learn more about what they accept and how to donate your medications, visit www.roundtablerrx.org.

Keep your family and yourself safe



Drop-off locations

County drop boxes are located at various police stations, including the Dakota County Law Enforcement Center. See the full list of drop box locations and their hours on the Recycling Guide.

 Search *medications* on the Recycling Guide.

THE BULKY STUFF



Think nobody would take the appliances, electronics, cabinets, furniture, or mattresses you're getting rid of? Think again!

Use the chart to see where you can drop off or schedule a pick-up for these items.

Choose to reuse

Consider donating or selling usable items.
Find donation options on the Recycling Guide.



Call ahead for instructions, fees, hours and specific materials accepted.

	Drop off or pickup	Appliances (microwaves, humidifiers, toasters, etc.)	Building materials (fixtures, cabinets, flooring, etc.)	Carpet	Electronics	Furniture	Mattresses/ box springs	Scrap metal	Tires	Wood (treated and untreated)	Cardboard (large amounts)
Appliance Depot (J.R.'s Advanced Recyclers) <i>5 items or less:</i> 8980 Jefferson Trail, Inver Grove Heights, 651-454-5995 <i>More than 5 items:</i> 10619 Briggs Drive, Inver Grove Heights, 651-454-9215	DROP OFF	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO
Certified Recycling 14305 Ewing Ave., Burnsville 952-894-1448	DROP OFF & PICKUP	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES
Dakota Area Transfer 3358 165th Street E, Rosemount 651-204-1453	DROP OFF	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Freeway Transfer Station 1030 W. Black Dog Rd., Burnsville 952-890-5300	DROP OFF	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Lloyd's Construction Services — Coates Transfer 4180 160th St. E, Rosemount 952-746-5832	DROP OFF	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Recycle Minnesota 8812 215th St. W., Lakeville 952-469-9806	DROP OFF	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Republic Services 12620 Vincent Ave. S., Burnsville 763-972-3335	DROP OFF	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Recycling ZONE 3365 Dodd Rd., Eagan 952-891-7800 Fee for tires, TV monitors and computers. See page 8.	DROP OFF	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES

FOOD WASTE



WHY PREVENT FOOD WASTE?

Food is the largest part of our trash. As much as 40% of all food produced for humans is wasted in the United States.

Learn what changes you can make at home to save your food.

Visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *food waste*.

FOOD SCRAPS DROP-OFF PROGRAM

Give food scraps a new life through the food scraps drop-off program. It's free and easy for Dakota County residents to drop off food scraps:

SIGN UP

Online, by phone or email:

- www.dakotacounty.us, search *food scraps* or scan the QR code
- 952-891-7557
- foodscraps@co.dakota.mn.us

You will receive more information, tips and free BPI-certified compostable bags in the mail.



YARD WASTE



Where does yard waste go?

It is illegal to put yard, garden and tree waste into the trash. Instead, ask your trash hauler about yard waste or bring yard waste to a drop-off site.

Visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *yard waste*.

Call ahead for instructions, fees, hours and materials accepted.

	Open	Leaves & grass	Trees & shrubs	Sod & soil
B & D Composting 6520 280th St. W., Northfield 612-685-3040	Year-round	YES	NO	NO
Gertens 5205 Blaine Ave E., Inver Grove Heights 651-239-1315	Year-round	YES	YES	YES
Gertens R.E.S. Facility 805 Yankee Doodle Road, Eagan 651-209-3511	Seasonal	YES	YES	YES
Hastings Yard Waste Site (Hastings residents only) 425 31st St. E. Hastings 651-459-1887	Seasonal	YES	YES	NO
The Mulch Store 2013 W. 122 St., Burnsville 952-890-9375	Year-round	YES	YES	YES
The Mulch Store 16454 Blaine Ave. E., Rosemount 651-423-44015	Year-round	YES	YES	YES

BACKYARD COMPOSTING

Food scraps and yard waste can be mixed together to create a home compost, a great soil amendment to help your plants and garden thrive.

Visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *compost*.

YES: Fruit and vegetable scraps and yard waste.



NO: Meat, bones, fish and dairy.



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Become a Recycling Ambassador

Take the course to learn all things reduce, reuse and recycle so you can inspire change in your community. Visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *recycling ambassador*.

Tour de Trash

Get up close and personal with your trash. Join the tour to see where your recycling, food scraps and trash go. Visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *tour de trash*.

Sign up for our newsletter

Subscribe to the Environmental News for Residents to get the latest news and tips on waste reduction and recycling in Dakota County. Visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *e-news*.

**Escanee para una copia en español
o visite www.dakotacounty.us,
busque *what goes where guide*.**



Dakota County Environmental Resources
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124

We do our best to verify all information.
If something isn't right, let us know, and
use the website for the most up-to-date
business information.