

**Wayne County
Department of Public Services**

Resource Recovery Guide



**Helping to make a
difference!**



*Robert A. Ficano
County Executive*

**Wayne
County**



Robert A. Ficano
County Executive

Dear Wayne County Residents,

The Wayne County Department of Public Services is pleased to present the Resource Recovery Guide—your complete resource for reuse, recycling, and disposal.

Although we have made progress in reducing the amount of trash we throw away, we can still do much more.

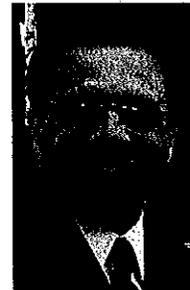
Here are some simple things you can do to reduce waste:

- **Buy smart.** The next time you purchase something, look for less packaging and choose items that are reusable and durable. This saves you money because there is less to throw away and less to replace.
- **Reuse.** Donate items you no longer need.
- **Recycle More.** Look for products that can be recycled locally.
- **Close the loop.** Purchase goods made from recycled content.
- **Compost.** Composting can significantly reduce your waste.

Thank you for helping to reduce waste. It's good for our planet and helps to keep Wayne County a beautiful place to live and work.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Ficano,
Wayne County Executive



This guide is for informational purposes only. The guide should not be regarded as complete with respect to the products, services, or institutions it lists and is not meant to be exclusive or exclusionary in any way, and it does not vouch for the capabilities, trustworthiness, or performance of any individual, business or institution listed in these pages. Please contact the Wayne County Resource Recovery Coordinator at (734) 326-3936 if you have questions or comments.

Important Contacts



Wayne County Department of Public Services

Household Hazardous Waste Information	(734) 326-3936
Land Resource Management Division	(734) 326-3936
Facilities Management Division	(313) 224-3620
Field Operations (Henry Ruff)	(734) 326-4500
Wyandotte Wastewater Treatment Facility	(734) 285-5500
Water Quality Management Division	(734) 326-3936
24 Hour Environmental Hotline	(888) 223-2363
Rouge River Website	www.rougeriver.com
Wayne County Website	www.waynecounty.com

The Wayne County Department of Public Services' Land Resource Management Division (LRMD) works to protect the land and water resources of the County through their solid waste and soil erosion programs. This is accomplished with regulatory programs operating to ensure Wayne County residents that solid waste disposal and construction practices are environmentally sound. The Solid Waste program oversees solid waste landfills, transfer stations, and processing facilities in the County and enforces both County and State regulations. Additional responsibilities of the LRMD include solid waste planning, which entails development and implementation of Wayne County's Solid Waste Management Plan. In this capacity, the LRMD provides direction and education on recycling and composting; both of which are successful methods of reducing the volume of waste disposed of within the County.

Wayne County believes that proper waste management can be attained through an integrated approach including resource recovery (i.e. recycling and composting), landfilling, and incineration. This guide was developed to provide information regarding this integrated approach.

Wayne County Department of Public Services

Mr. James Jackson, Director

Land Resource Management Division

Mr. Robert N. Ratz, Director

3600 Commerce Court, Bldg. E

Wayne, MI 48184

734-326-3936

24 Hour Environmental Hotline 888-223-2363

Visit our Website at www.waynecounty.com

Household Hazardous Waste

Hazardous Chemicals... In The Home



Hazardous chemicals. Their mere mention alarms us. Yet we keep them under our sinks, in our medicine cabinets, and in our garages. In fact, we use them almost every day. Almost all products can be misused in ways that make them dangerous and some products pose risks to human health and the environment even when used as intended because they contain hazardous chemicals. Known as hazardous products, they include cleaners, pesticides, home improvement products, and even some personal care items. These products may contain the same chemicals that are found in strictly regulated industrial products and wastes.

What Are The Risks?



Unintentionally, but regularly, we are exposed to hazardous products. We inhale them, we touch them, and sometimes we accidentally ingest them. Detergents can cause skin rashes, fumes from cleaners can cause dizziness and nausea, caustic products can cause burns, and extensive exposure to some toxic products can even be fatal. Long-term health impacts from regular exposure to hazardous products are largely unknown. Children, the elderly, pregnant women, and the sick are often most at risk.

Hazardous products also pose risks to the environment. For example, pesticides can harm beneficial garden creatures and charcoal lighter fluid releases air pollutants. Many hazardous products should not be discarded in the trash or down the drain. Improper disposal causes health risks to humans and contaminates the groundwater, rivers, and lakes, harming plant and animal life. If you purchase a hazardous product, use it as directed on the label, follow disposal instructions, or dispose of it through your local Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program.

The best way to reduce the risks is to avoid using hazardous products in the first place. For many jobs around the home there are alternatives that are significantly less harmful. These simple alternatives can save you money and reduce waste by using items you already have on hand. See page 5 for suggested alternatives.



Household Hazardous Waste Tips

- Keep unused portions in their original containers with labels intact and readable.
- Store hazardous materials in a cool, dry place inaccessible to children or pets.
- Reduce your waste and save money by purchasing only materials you need and will use.
- Use products in accordance with the manufacturer's directions and follow all safe handling requirements.
- Let used solvents and paint thinners set for a while in a closed jar. The dirt and paints will settle to the bottom. The top portion can be reused. The amount of actual waste for disposal will be much less.
- Offer surplus portions of products that are usable and safely packaged to others, such as pesticides to nurseries, and paint to theater groups.
- Never pour motor oil, paints, pharmaceuticals, or chemicals down storm drains or sinks. These household hazardous wastes should be taken to a household hazardous waste collection event in your community or to a household hazardous waste drop off site.
- Reduce the amount of hazardous wastes you purchase and use non-toxic alternatives when you can. If a product cannot be used for its original purpose, then the material should be disposed of properly.

Non-Toxic Alternatives

For an all-purpose cleaner: mix a cup of vinegar in a pail of water.

To disinfect: use one half cup of borax or washing soda (sodium carbonate) dissolved in a gallon of hot water.

To wash windows: mix one part vinegar to four parts water.

To deodorize carpets: sprinkle with baking soda and vacuum after 30 minutes.

To polish furniture: use equal parts mineral oil and lemon oil.

To clean floors: use 1/4 cup of white vinegar, 1/4 cup washing soda (sodium carbonate not baking soda) in one gallon of warm water.

To clear clogged drains: To keep drains clean, pour 1/2 cup of baking soda down drain and add 3 cups of boiling water. Let rest for 15 minutes and rinse. Repeat process every month to keep drains clean.

Household Hazardous Waste

Contact your municipality to find out if they have a household hazardous waste collection scheduled. If you need immediate options, contact the appropriate facility listed below. **Always call first!**

Battery Solutions - 38680 Michigan Avenue, Wayne

Phone: (734) 467-9110 Hours: M-F, 8:00 - 5:00

Accepts: Household and automotive batteries; fluorescent tubes, and mercury containing devices. Call for information regarding charge.

Chemical Analytics - 29959 Beverly, Romulus

Phone: (734) 326-9400 Hours: M-F, 8:30 - 3:30

Accepts: Fuel oil only & mercury at no charge to residents.

Environmental Quality (EQ) - 2000 E. Ferry, Detroit

Phone: (313) 923-0080; Hotline / Questions: (313) 923-2240

Hours: M-F, 8:30 - 3:30 (By appointment)

Free to Detroit residents; Minimal charge to others.

Accepts: Fuel oil, used motor oil, paint, turpentine, most solvents, hydraulic fluids, pesticides, herbicides, asbestos, batteries, aerosol cans, flammables, combustibles (oil, gas, etc.), antifreeze, car wax, and light bulbs.

Pacific Oil Resources, Inc. - 44141 Yost Road, Belleville

Phone: (734) 397-1120 Hours: M-F, 8:30 - 4:30

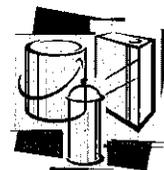
Accepts: Motor Oil only (in 5 gallon containers) at no charge.

SQS Environmental Recycling Group—13040 Merriman, Livonia

Phone: (734) 437-9650

Call for appointment; Fee: 75¢ per pound.

Motor Oil - See page 23.



NOTE

Wayne County's Department of Public Services provides four Household Hazardous Waste Collections per year for County residents. The collections are designed to accept unwanted household chemicals for proper disposal and electronics (i.e. computers, printers, scanners, keyboards, cell phones, fax machines, and TVs) for recycling from residents. Items that are accepted include, but are not limited to, household paints, stains, floor care items, furniture polish, bathroom cleaners, lawn and garden chemicals, antifreeze, mercury fever thermometers and other mercury-containing devices. **For information on dates and locations, contact the Wayne County Household Hazardous Waste Information line at (734) 326-3936 or check our website at www.waynecounty.com**

What You Should Know About Mercury In Your Home



Why is Mercury (Hg) Harmful?

Mercury is a toxic substance that can be found in many household items, including thermometers and old thermostats. You should avoid buying items that contain mercury and use substitutes whenever possible. Mercury is a dangerous and potent bio-accumulative neurotoxin that can affect the central nervous system, kidneys, and liver. Short-term high-level mercury vapor exposure can cause nausea, shortness of breath, pneumonitis, and bronchitis. Atmospheric mercury mixes with rain and snow and falls into lakes and waterways. When mercury is deposited in lakes or waterways, bacteria convert it into methyl mercury. Methyl mercury contaminates the food chain and builds up in the tissue of fish and of wildlife and humans who eat fish.



What to do if you break a mercury-containing thermometer

Due to mercury's volatility and potential for inhalation, spilled mercury should be cleaned up as quickly and thoroughly as possible. Mercury vapors are odorless and colorless and account for 80% of elevated mercury exposures. **Never use a vacuum cleaner or broom!** Contain the spill and make sure it did not get on articles of clothing and shoes. Keep children and pets away and ventilate the area.

Do not dispose of mercury-containing devices in the trash. Never pour the mercury down a drain. It will accumulate in the trap and off-gas the harmful vapors. If spilled in the carpeting, you may need to cut out the affected area of the carpeting and double or triple wrap the section in plastic prior to disposal.

For immediate or specific information, call the **Michigan Department of Community Health, at 517-335-8138**. For a "Cleaning Up Small Mercury Spills" brochure, call 1-800-MI-TOXIC. If the mercury comes in contact with clothes, dispose of them also. Never wash mercury-laden fabrics in a washing machine! **In case of emergency, call the poison control center 24 hours a day at (800) POISON1**. For a list of mercury alternatives and other information, look up the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality homepage at www.deq.state.mi.us

What to do if you have a mercury thermometer



- Remove mercury thermometers from your home before they break. Thermometers or any other mercury containing device should be disposed of properly. Contact your city, or township for dates of local household hazardous waste (HHW) collections.
- If your community does not have an annual HHW collection, contact one of the companies listed below, or contact Wayne County Department of Public Services at 734-326-3936 for other disposal options in your area.
- Purchase a mercury-free thermometer. Digital thermometers are as accurate as mercury thermometers for most applications. Since they are mercury-free, no mercury will be released if they break in the home, or when they are thrown away. Digital thermometers last longer because they do not break. Consequently, they cost less in the long run.

DISCARDS CONTAINING MERCURY	ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS
Thermometers	Digital Thermometers
Thermostats (Non-electric models)	Electric Models
Batteries (Old alkaline type prior to 1996)	Rechargeable alkaline or Mercury-free batteries
Button Batteries	Mercury-free button batteries
Silver Amalgam Waste	Ask your Dentist
Old Latex Paints (Before 1990)	New Latex Paint
Some shoes that light up	Mercury-free shoes
Switches (from some lights and appliances)	Mechanical or Electrical Switches
Contact Lens Solution Containing Thimerosal	Mercury-free solution
Lights (Fluorescent, High Intensity Discharge and Mercury Vapor Lamps)	Energy Efficient Fluorescent Lights

The following locations will accept mercury-containing items for recycling. Always call first.

Battery Solutions, 38680 Michigan Ave., Wayne 734-467-9110

Chemical Analytics, 29959 Beverly Rd., Romulus 734-326-9400

Environmental Quality, 2000 E. Ferry, Detroit 313-923-2240

SQS Environmental Recycling, 13040 Merriman, Livonia 734-437-9650

Reducing Junk Mail

How did they get my address?

If you'd like to stop receiving unsolicited mailings, here are several approaches for reducing junk mail. Be patient, as it may take three to six months before you notice a reduction.



- (1) **Contact credit bureaus.** To stop receiving "pre-approved" credit card offers, call the credit card bureau at 888-5-OPTOUT (888-567-8688).
- (2) **Call mail-order catalog companies.** Most catalogs provide an 800 telephone number for placing an order; call this number and ask to be taken off their mailing list.
- (3) **Reduce advertising supplements.** Grocery store advertisements, typically delivered midweek, are often accompanied by a postcard; some postcards show pictures of missing children. Contact the company on the return address of the postcard that accompanies these advertising supplements. One company mailing these items is: *Valassis Communications, 888-241-6760.*
- (4) **Get off national mailing lists.** The Direct Marketing Association offers removal of names from direct marketing lists. To do this write to *DMA Mail Preference Service, P.O. Box 643, Carmel, NY 10512* or, go online at www.dmachoice.org. Also, check out www.privacyrights.org
- (5) **Request charities not distribute your information.** When you make a donation to a charity or nonprofit group, enclose a note requesting that the organization not rent, sell or exchange your name with anyone else.
- (6) **Stop junk mail.** Envelopes marked "address correction requested" or "return postage guaranteed" can be returned unopened to the sender by crossing out your address and writing "refuse, return to sender" on the envelope. Then place this article of mail back in your mailbox. DO NOT write this on mail without that special notation; the post office will NOT return it to the sender unless it is so marked. Also, check out the following websites:
www.obviously.com/junkmail/
www.catalogchoice.org/
www.stopjunk.com/
- (7) **Notify mailing brokers.** Some companies specialize in collecting and selling mailing lists. Call some of these companies and ask to be placed in their "suppress" files:
R.L. Polk & Company • 800-873-7655
Database America, Consumer Compilation Division • 888-859-8052
- (8) **Remove your name from sweepstakes offers.** To have your name removed from the major nationwide sweepstakes mailers, contact:
Publishers Clearinghouse • 800-645-9242
Readers Digest • 800-234-9000
American Family Publishers • 800-237-2400
- (9) **Businesses.** The two largest business-to-business direct marketers are:
Dun and Bradstreet • One Diamond Hill Road • Murray Hill NJ 07974-1218
• 800-333-0505
Info USA • Attention – Business Update Department • PO Box 27347
• Omaha, NE 68127 • 800-321-0869

Business Recycling

Reducing Waste Makes Good Business Sense

Recycling makes good business sense. Garbage disposal is expensive and recycled items are marketable. Your business has the potential to generate income by following the guidelines in this handbook; while at the same time reducing the monthly cost of having your trash hauled away and disposed.

Take your
own cup
to reduce
pollution



Every time a company manufactures a product, they also make pollution – When you buy durable and reusable items, there's less to throw away and less to replace.

When you Reduce Waste...

- Net operating costs can be reduced.
- Your company can save money on the purchase of recycled content or remanufactured goods.
- Customers, employees and the community take special notice and support environmentally friendly businesses.
- Best of all, it doesn't cost much to begin a waste reduction and recycling program!

Master Business Recycler Manual

Now available from the Michigan Recycling Coalition—gives experienced recyclers new ideas for their programs and gives beginners step-by-step instructions to evaluate their waste stream, reduce their waste, design a recycling program, and implement it effectively. **Everything you need to know to design, implement, promote and expand an effective waste reduction and recycling program for your business.**

To obtain a copy of the Manual, contact:

Michigan Recycling Coalition

P.O. Box 10240

Lansing, MI 48901

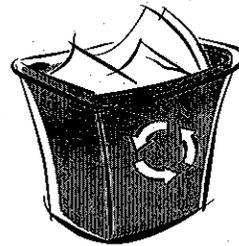
517-974-3672

www.michiganrecycles.org

Become a team member in Wayne County's ambitious plans to reduce the amount of waste that must be landfilled as outlined in the 2000 Wayne County Solid Waste Management Plan. See page 13 for businesses that offer recycling services.

Community Recycling Programs & Services

Like many Americans, you collect and sort items that can be recycled. That's good, because you help your community reduce the amount of garbage going to the landfill. But putting items out for collection or dropping them off at a local center is only the first of three steps in the recycling process. It may surprise you to learn that what you *buy* is just as important as saving the things your recycling center takes.



To Market, To Market...

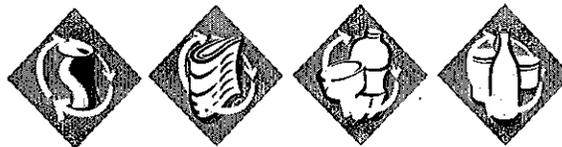
Today, approximately 21% of our trash is recovered annually for recycling. Where do these millions of pounds of recyclables go after collection? Manufacturers use them to make new products—recycling's second step. The third and final step returns the new products to the marketplace. This step is one that *you* need to support if recycling is to remain part of the solution to the country's garbage issue.

Why Should I Buy Recycled?

You "close the loop" when you buy items or packaging made from recycled materials. They have now come full circle: from bag or bin to a manufacturer, to the store shelf, and back to your home. And after using the item, you can start the loop again by saving it for the local recycling program. When you buy recycled, markets are created and a use is assured for recyclables being collected in your community and in thousands of others. Manufacturers will respond by continuing to use recyclables in their products. Without informed consumers and a ready market for products made of recycled materials, local recycling programs will become more costly and fewer recyclables may be collected and processed. More reusable material will end up in landfills, and communities will need to deal with an increased amount of garbage.

How Do I Find Them?

Products and packaging made from recycled material are everywhere—in stores that sell groceries, office supplies, auto parts, and everything in between. Recyclables are transformed into an amazing variety of new products. Plastic milk jugs return to yards and parks as plastic lumber and picnic tables. Steel food cans return to the hardware store as nails and screws. Newspapers become egg cartons. There's no limit to the things that can be made from recyclables.



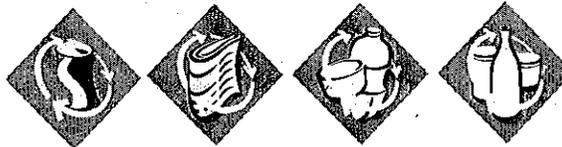
Community Recycling Programs & Services

Many products are identified recycled or partially recycled on the label or on the product itself. Others may contain recycled material but may not be identified. For instance, there's a good chance that the glass containers, aluminum and steel cans, paperboard boxes and plastic detergent bottles you buy are made of some recycled material.

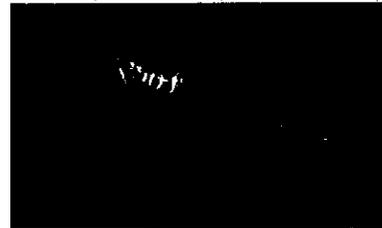
Some products and packaging also have labels describing the amount of "pre-consumer" and "post-consumer" waste that was used. "Pre-consumer" waste is also known as "manufacturing waste," and includes any scraps, trimmings, over-runs, etc., from the manufacturing process. "Post-consumer" waste is a product or other material that has served its intended use and has been discarded and then collected for recycling.

Did You Know...?

- For every ton of paper you recycle, you save 17 trees, 464 gallons of oil, 42 gallons of gasoline, 4,210 KWH of electricity, and 7,000 gallons of water.
- Using recycled paper instead of virgin materials reduces air pollution by 74% and water pollution by 35%.....and it **closes the loop!**
- Recycling glass reduces water use by 50%.
- Using recycled aluminum instead of virgin ore saves 4 tons of bauxite and 1,500 pounds of petroleum coke and pitch for every ton of reused aluminum; Recycling 40 aluminum cans saves the energy equivalent to 1 gallon of gasoline. In 2003, Americans recycled enough aluminum cans to save more than 15 million barrels of oil. Keep America Beautiful notes: it takes the same amount of energy to make one aluminum beverage can from scratch that it does to produce 20 cans from recycled material.
- Using recycled iron and steel instead of virgin ore to make new steel results in 40% reduction in water use and 90% savings in virgin materials used.
- Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours.
- Recycling one tin can saves enough energy to run a TV for three hours.



When it comes to recycling Aim High!



How does your community compare?

Most communities in Wayne County offer a curbside recycling program. Those that don't, may have recycling drop-off centers. The table on the next page compares the residential recycling rates for all Wayne County communities. All figures are shown as reported by the communities. The average recycling rate (excluding composting) for Michigan is 20%. Some of our communities are well above the State average, but many are below. **The average residential recycling rate for Wayne County in 2008 was 7%, and the average composting rate was 12%.** Wayne County encourages all communities to continue to step-up recycling efforts to increase the rates!

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

If your community does not offer curbside recycling, contact your local Department of Public Services office to find out the location and hours of operation for the community's drop-off center. The following businesses also offer recycling services to residents and businesses. Call first to find out the drop-off hours and other terms.

Canton Waste Recycling, 42020 Van Born Rd., Canton 734-397-5801

Plastic, paper, cardboard, tin, glass, oil, paint-limit 5 one-gallon containers, antifreeze & batteries. Hours: Scheduled Fridays 10-4, & all Saturdays 8-11, Please note: Canton residents only.

FCR, 8 Mile & Evergreen, Southfield 248-208-2270

Has drop-off area for paper, metal, glass, plastic, and polystyrene

Great Lakes Recycling, 30615 Groesbeck, Roseville 866-464-5746

NPR Recycling, 30880 Smith Rd., Romulus 734-721-0197

Has drive-through drop off for paper recycling

Recycle Here, 1331 Holden, Detroit 313-876-0449

www.recyclehere.net

Drop-off for variety of items, Wednesdays 10-6, Saturdays 9-3

Recycle Max, Detroit 313-864-2222

Veolia Center, 10835 Five Mile, Salem Twp. 248-349-4444

Has drop-off area for paper, metal, glass, and plastic

Waste Management, 6333 Lynch Road, Detroit 800-796-9696



City/ Twp.	Residential Recycling Rate-2008 %	Residential Compost- ing Rate-2008 %	City/ Twp.	Residential Recycling Rate-2008 %	Residential Compost- ing Rate-2008 %	City/ Twp.	Residential Recycling Rate-2008 %	Residential Compost- ing Rate-2008 %
Allen Park	6.6	22.9	Grosse Pte. Park	15.7		Plymouth Twp.	13.6	17.7
Belleville	7.7	13.4	Grosse Pte. Shores	8.7	31.3	Redford Twp.	3.0	31.5
Brown- town	4.4	25.6	Grosse Pte. Woods	11.2	35.5	River Rouge	0.1	14.3
Canton	6.0	16.3	Ham- tramck	0	4.0	Riverview	0.45	28.0
Dearborn	7.8	16.4	Harper Woods	28.6	24.7	Rockwood	6.6	4.1
Dearborn Heights	5.4	23.7	Highland Park	0	6.2	Romulus	3.8	10.5
Detroit	7.9	2.7	Huron Twp.	6.6	22.7	Southgate	10.6	15.4
Ecorse	*	*	Inkster	0.2	15.2	Sumpter Twp.	1.0	2.5
Flat Rock	13.7	15.3	Lincoln Park	0	13.1	Taylor	0.7	11.1
Garden City			Livonia	13.8	39.7	Trenton	1.7	26.1
Gibraltar	0	15.2	Melvindale	7.5	16.0	Van Buren Twp.	12.7	14.1
Grosse Ile	11.8		Northville	15.9	22.7	Wayne	1.6	13.7
Grosse Pte.	7.9	23.2	Northville Twp.	10.7	18.2	Westland	0.4	15.8
Grosse Pte. Farms	7.5	34.6	Plymouth	20.9	17.7	Wood- haven	12.9	15.4
* informa- tion not available						Wyandotte	4.3	17.5

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

Ammunition

Only buy the amount of ammunition you know you will use. Disposing of ammunition in your regular trash poses a grave danger to solid waste handlers. Contact your community police department to see if they will accept ammunition. If not, call the local State Police (check phone book for your area) or the Wayne County Sheriff's office at 313-224-2222.

Antifreeze/Automotive Fluids

Antifreeze contains a very hazardous chemical, ethylene glycol, that should not be disposed in trash, sewers, or drains. This chemical tastes and smells sweet, making it attractive to children and pets—store it out of their reach!

Antifreeze does not go bad. Make sure to use up the whole bottle before you buy another one.

Some full service gas stations will take antifreeze for recycling. Check with the service station that you frequent. The following facilities also accept antifreeze for disposal. Call for specific guidelines and hours of operation.

Environmental Quality Co., 2000 E. Ferry, Detroit 313-923-2240

This facility's services are free to residents of Detroit.

Residents of other communities may be charged.

Fast Lane, 5881 Canton Center Road, Canton Twp. 734-451-9722

SQS Environmental Recycling Group—13040 Merriman, Livonia
734-437-9650



Appliances

Usable Appliances: Many service organizations throughout Wayne County or metropolitan Detroit area accept appliances in working order for reuse. A few suggestions are listed below; call for specific guidelines. Also, see listings for Thrift Stores/Charities on page 26.

Unusable Appliances: Appliances that cannot be repaired often have components that can be recycled. By weight, the typical washer, dryer, stove, and refrigerator consists of 75% steel which is 100% recyclable. Contact your community's DPW to find out if a pick-up or drop-off program for unwanted appliances is available. For a listing on Freon removal, see pg. 20.

Habitat For Humanity ReStore, 12630 Greenfield, Detroit 313-653-4890

Facility is run by Habitat For Humanity; Donations are tax deductible.

John R. Appliances 248-541-8696

Accepts working, used appliances.

Purple Heart, 987 Manufacturer's Dr., Westland 734-728-4560

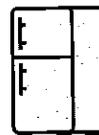
Also accepts light appliances (i.e. blenders, toasters, etc.). Call to schedule pickup.

Ray's Appliance Repair 313-382-6546

Accepts used appliances at certain times; please call first

St. Vincent DePaul 313-277-8383

Please call first.



Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

Art Supplies

The following non-profit organizations accept a variety of unique materials from businesses and individuals for creative re-use by crafters, artists, teachers, and children. Items accepted include, but are not limited to, various art supplies including paints, industrial scraps, ribbons, brushes, stickers, coffee cans with lids, wine corks, baby food jars, etc. You can also contact local schools, pre-schools, and day-care facilities to see if they accept items. *Please call first if you have questions on what is accepted.*

Arts & Scraps, 16135 Harper, Detroit 313-640-4411
Scrap Box, 581 State Circle, Ann Arbor 734-994-4420



Asbestos

If doing remodeling or demolition projects that involve asbestos, contact an area landfill (list on pg. 21) to find out special requirements. Homeowners may remove asbestos from their own residences, but precautions need to be taken and the waste must go to a licensed disposal site. Go to www.cpsc.gov/epsepub/pubs/453.html for information about safe removal of asbestos.

Baby Supplies

Consider buying baby supplies at resale shops or donating supplies to charitable organizations.

Baby Baby, 153 E. Main, Northville 248-347-2229

Once Upon a Child, 5804 N. Sheldon, Canton Twp. 734-459-6669

Once Upon a Child, 19147 West Rd., Woodhaven 734-676-5700

Also, See list of Thrift Stores on page 26.

Also, many communities offer Mom-to-Mom sales. Check listings on the website www.mom2momlist.com

Batteries-Automotive

Car batteries contain lead and sulfuric acid, and are prohibited for disposal in landfills or incinerators. Local battery recyclers can recycle the lead, sulfuric acid, and plastic casing. When you buy a new battery at a service station, ask them to recycle the old one.



Auto Zone facilities (check your phone book for locations)

Batteries Plus, 41600 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth 734-254-9815

Fast Lane, 5881 Canton Center Road, Canton Twp. 734-451-9722

Battery Solutions, 38680 Michigan Ave., Wayne 734-467-9110

Murray's Discount Auto Stores (check your phone book for locations)

Pep Boys, 28210 Eight Mile Rd., Farmington Hills 248-476-5210

Batteries—Household

The facilities listed below will accept household batteries for proper disposal and recycling. Check with your community to see if they accept batteries as part of your recycling program or at your annual household hazardous waste collection.

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

Batteries Plus, 41600 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth 734-254-9815
Battery Solutions, 38680 Michigan Ave., Wayne 734-467-9110
CWCSA, (for residents of Dearborn Heights, Garden City, Inkster, Wayne, and Westland only). Contact 734-722-9980 for drop-off locations.
Environmental Quality, 2000 E. Ferry St., Detroit 313-923-2240
Home Depot Stores, accept all rechargeable batteries for recycling. Contact area stores for details

Bicycles

Back Alley Bikes, a program of Detroit Summer, refurbishes working bicycles for local kids who wouldn't normally have them. Bikes that don't work are taken apart and artwork is created with the pieces. Bring your bikes to their Cass Avenue location, just north of Comerica Park. **Please call first.** 313-879-5073



Books

Share books and magazines with friends. If you are interested in paperbacks or best sellers, find a book trading club to join.

Many organizations will happily take your books for reuse. Most libraries and many non-profit organizations will accept used books. Another option is to sell your books to a used bookstore, who often pay a small amount for old books or give points toward any books you purchase from them.

Another Look Books, 22263 Goddard Rd., Taylor 734-374-5665
John K. King Books, 901 W. Lafayette, Detroit 313-961-0622
John K. King Books, 22524 Woodward Ave., Ferndale 248-548-9050
Paperbacks & Things, 8044 N. Wayne Rd., Westland 734-522-8018
Read It Again Books, 39733 Grand River Ave., Novi 248-474-6066
Second Story Used Books, 17920 10 Mile Rd., Eastpointe 586-773-6440



If the books are ultimately unwanted, you can take them for recycling to:
Great Lakes Recycling, 30615 Groesbeck, Roseville 866-464-5746
Royal Oak Waste Paper and Metal, 414 East Hudson Ave, Royal Oak, 248-541-4020

Building Materials

If you have items that might be useful to someone else, visit available freecycling websites (www.freecycle.org) or check out the following list.

Architectural Salvage Warehouse of Detroit, 4885 15th St., Detroit 313-515-0399 *Architectural antiques, salvage, and reuse.*
Habitat for Humanity ReStore, 12630 Greenfield, Detroit, 313-653-4890
The Habitat for Humanity ReStore sells surplus new and used building materials and home items at 50-90% less than retail prices. All items sold at the ReStore are donated. Proceeds from the ReStore support Habitat for Humanity in building new, decent, affordable homes. Check out www.habitatdetroit.org



Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

Recycle Ann Arbor-Reuse Center, 2420 S. Industrial, Ann Arbor
734-662-6288, www.recycleannarbor.org

Odom Re-use Company, 5555 Brentwood Ave., Grawn, MI 231-276-6330,
www.odomreuse.com You can donate, trade-in, sell, post, or buy reusable
building supplies. Odom will pick up items within a 25 mile radius, or up to
250 miles for large commercial or institutional jobs, like high schools.

Clothing & Shoes

See *Thrift Stores* list on page 26.



Construction Waste/Bricks & Concrete

If you have items that might be useful to someone else visit available
freecycling websites (www.freecycle.org) or check out the following list. These
items may also be taken to area landfills (see list on page 21).

Angelo's Crushed Concrete, 15150 Oakland, Highland Park

313-869-5550 *Concrete is accepted for \$10/pick-up truck*

Detroit Recycled Concrete Co., 14294 Meyers, Detroit 313-934-7677

Concrete is accepted for \$5/load regardless of amount

Michigan Crushed Concrete, 25012 Plymouth Rd., Redford 313-534-1500

Novi Crushed Concrete, 46900 W. Twelve Mile, Novi 248-305-6020

Clean broken concrete from all dump trucks accepted at no charge

Cooking Oil/Grease (Fats, Oils, & Grease)

Do not pour fat, oil or grease (FOG) down drains or garbage disposals! FOG
build-up from sewers increases maintenance costs for everyone in the sewer
system. FOG can create sewer overflows. Keep our environment clean and
avoid unnecessary maintenance costs by keeping FOG out of our sewers.

Follow these tips:

- Pour or scrape greasy or oily food waste into a container or jar.
- Allow grease to cool or freeze in the container before throwing it in the trash.
- Mix liquid vegetable oil with an absorbent material such as cat litter or coffee grounds in a sealable container before throwing it in the trash.
- Keep drains clean by pouring 1/2 cup baking soda down the drain followed by 1/2 cup vinegar. Wait 10-15 minutes and then rinse with hot water

Many area restaurants will allow residents to use their grease collection units.

Contact your local restaurant first. Otherwise, contact:

A&A Grease Services, 2061 19th St., Wyandotte 734-285-1940

Darling International, 3350 Greenfield, Melvindale 313-928-7400

Evergreen Grease Service, Canton 866-519-9802

Kelly's Rendering Service, 1679 Michigan Blvd., Lincoln Park 313-389-7870

Dry Cleaning Supplies

Many dry cleaners in the area will take back used hangers and plastic bags for
recycling. Check your area phone book for local dry cleaners.

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

Electronics & Computers

Many electronic items are repairable and reusable. Even if you need to get a better stereo system, someone would probably be more than thrilled to take your old equipment. Place an ad, donate to a charitable organization, or offer it on available freecycle websites (www.freecycle.org).

Many municipalities are realizing the problems associated with the disposal of electronics and are stepping up to the plate to help their residents. Check with your community to find out if electronics are accepted at your annual Household Hazardous Waste collection. Also, check with the companies listed below for recycling; *always call first to see if there is a charge.*

TIP: You are responsible for removing all personal information from your computer's hard drive. Check stores for "scrubbing" software.

Best Buy Stores, accept electronic equipment for small fee which is then refunded to customer with Best Buy gift cards.

Classic Computer Recovery, Inc., 32400 Ford, Garden City 734-293-5857

Comprenew, 629 Ionia Ave. SW, Grand Rapids 616-451-4400

Provides drop off center, or you can ship units to them marked "residential donation."

Costco Stores, provide an electronics trade-in and recycle program. Contact store for terms.

Dell Corporation, 800-915-3355, www.dell.com/recycle

Provides free recycling for all Dell components.

Goodwill Industries, 3111 Grand River Ave., Detroit 313-964-3900

Great Lakes Electronic Corporation, 12600 Greenfield Detroit
313-838-7000

Great Lakes Recycling, 30615 Groesbeck, Roseville 866-464-5746

Habitat for Humanity Restore, 12630 Greenfield, Detroit
313-653-4890, *Computers must be in working order*

Office Depot Stores, accept electronic equipment for recycling for small fee.

Recycle Ann Arbor, 2420 S. Industrial, Ann Arbor 734-222-7880

Recycles toner cartridges, computers & components.

Accepts reusable equipment.

Staples Office Stores, accept computer equipment for recycling for small fee.

SQS Environmental, 13040 Merriman, Livonia 734-437-9650

The Ryan Correctional Facility in Detroit will pick up computers, monitors, fax machines, printers, etc. free of charge if you have a whole pallet and it is shrink wrapped. The facility de-manufactures the equipment for reuse by schools. Contact 313-368-3200 ext. 1600.

For information on recycling CD's and DVD's, contact Green Disk at 800-305-Disk.

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

Eyeglasses

The Lions Clubs International, which has been collecting and recycling used eyeglasses for more than 60 years, works with many local optical centers for the collection of used glasses including, lenses, frames, and sunglasses. Check the phone book for a participating optical center near you.



Fire Extinguishers

The best way to dispose of old extinguishers is to turn them in to the retailer when buying a replacement unit. For retailers, check the phone book under *Fire Protection Equipment—Repairing and Servicing*. Completely discharged fire extinguishers may be disposed of in your regular trash.

Fluorescent Light Bulbs/Compact Fluorescent Lights

Fluorescent light bulbs contain mercury and are considered hazardous (see more information about mercury on page 7).

Most fluorescent light bulbs, including the compact spiral bulbs, will be accepted at your community's annual household hazardous waste day. For more options contact the companies listed below.

Battery Solutions Inc., 38680 Michigan Ave., Wayne 734-467-9110

Chemical Analytics, 29959 Beverly, Romulus 734-326-9400

Home Depot Stores, Accept compact spiral bulbs at all stores

SQS Environmental, 13040 Merriman, Livonia 734-437-9650

Freon

Because Freon (CFC-12) and other chlorofluorocarbons deplete the ozone layer when allowed to escape into the atmosphere, they were phased out of production in 1995. Appliances such as air conditioners, refrigerators, and dehumidifiers that contain freon must have the freon removed by a professional service prior to disposal. Contact your municipality regarding this requirement prior to placing such items on the curb. The following companies remove freon.

AAA Service Network, 248-437-3243

Air-Care of Livonia, 30870 Schoolcraft, Livonia 734-425-0074

Golden Refrigerant, 12901 Newburgh, Livonia 800-292-6911

Phil's Services, 800-559-1411

Service Appliance Inc., 877-650-0522

Furniture

There are many organizations that accept used furniture for donation. See *Thrift Stores* listing on page 26.

Greeting Cards

The following facilities will accept greeting cards for reuse in craft projects.



Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

Arts & Scraps, 16135 Harper, Detroit 313-640-4411
Keith Bovenchen School, 12345 Frazho, Warren 586-757-7880
Scrap Box, 581 State Circle, Ann Arbor 734-994-4420

Helium Tanks

Larry's Welding Supply, 514 Hilton, Ferndale 248-548-0440
will accept empty helium tanks to swap. Call first!



Inkjet & Laser Cartridges

All **US Post Offices** provide prepaid mailing envelopes for used inkjet cartridges. The cartridges are sent for recycling. Check your local post office for details.

Toxic chemicals in toner cartridges can pose health and environmental problems if disposed of in a solid waste landfill. The following businesses offer toner cartridge recycling services.

All-Tech Business Products, 260 Airport Industrial Dr., Ypsilanti
734-482-0640

Laser Cartridge Reconditioning, 1081 Nash, Ypsilanti 734-482-1945

Laser Solutions, 715 W. Ellsworth Rd., Ann Arbor 734-662-6667

Nationwide Laser Technologies, Farmington Hills 248-488-0155

Office Depot, Check phonebook for stores in your area.

Recycle Ann Arbor, 2420 S. Industrial, Ann Arbor 734-662-6288

Staples, Check phonebook for stores in your area.

Landfills

Wayne County has four Type II or Municipal Solid Waste landfills. Wayne County Department of Public Services' Land Resource Management Division inspects them once per week to assure that they meet County and State standards. Additionally, there is a landfill available in Washtenaw County. These facilities accept waste from residents for a fee. Please call first if you have questions.

Carleton Farms, 28800 Clark Rd., Sumpter Twp. 734-654-3615

Riverview Land Preserve, 20455 Grange, Riverview 734-281-4263

Sauk Trail Hills, 5011 S. Lilley Rd., Canton Twp. 734-397-2791

Veolia Center, 10690 Six Mile, Salem Twp. 248-349-7230

Woodland Meadows, 5900 Hannan Rd., Van Buren Twp. 734-326-0993

Medical Waste/Pharmaceuticals

Sharps: The Wayne County DOE encourages safe disposal of sharps. Sharps include syringes, needles, and lancets. You can help prevent injury, illness, and pollution by following some simple steps when you dispose of the sharp objects and contaminated materials you use in administering health care in your home. Place needles, syringes, lancets, and other sharp objects in a hard plastic or metal container with a screw-on or tightly secured



Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

lid. Many containers found in the household, such as liquid laundry detergent bottles or metal coffee cans, will do, or you may purchase containers specifically designed for the disposal of medical waste sharps. To dispose, you may choose one of the following methods: 1.) Place them in a proper sharps container and bring to a local Household Hazardous Waste Collection; 2.) Check www.safeneedledisposal.org for recommendations & links including mail-back programs; 3.) Contact a Medical Waste Disposal Service. A list is available at www.michigan.gov/deqwaste (select "Medical Waste"); 4.) As a last resort, reinforce the lid with heavy-duty tape, label "Not Recyclable" and place container in your regular trash. **Do not put sharp objects in any container you plan to recycle or return to a store, and do not use glass or clear plastic containers.** We also recommend that soiled bandages, disposable sheets, and medical gloves be placed in securely fastened plastic bags.

Medical Equipment: Some types of medical supplies can be reused. These include walkers, canes, wheel chairs, and crutches. The organizations listed below accept medical supplies for redistribution.

American Cancer Society 800-227-2345

Medical Loan Closet-Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Ypsilanti

734-482-7121, *Provides a loan service for reusable medical equipment. Will accept used items such as wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and shower chairs.*

Prescription Drugs: The new Federal prescription drug disposal guidelines are designed to reduce the diversion of prescription drugs, while also protecting the environment. These guidelines urge Americans to:

- **DO NOT FLUSH!**
- Take unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs out of their original containers;
- Mix the prescription drugs with an undesirable substance, like used coffee grounds, cat litter, or old latex paint and put them in impermeable, non-descript containers, such as empty cans or sealable bags, further ensuring that the drugs are not diverted or accidentally ingested by children or pets;
- Throw these containers in the trash;
- Contact your local pharmacy to see if they have a take-back program in place for unused, unneeded, or expired prescription drugs.

Mercury

Please see page 7 for specific information on the dangers of mercury in your home. The following locations will accept mercury-containing items for recycling. Always call first.

Battery Solutions, 38680 Michigan Ave., Wayne 734-467-9110

Chemical Analytics, 29959 Beverly Rd., Romulus 734-326-9400

Environmental Quality, 2000 E. Ferry, Detroit 313-923-2240

SQS Environmental, 13040 Merriman, Livonia 734-437-9650



Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

Metals

Metals are perhaps the most recycled commodity throughout the world. Most of the communities in Wayne County collect some sort of metal in their recycling program. Larger metal items, such as aluminum siding, tools, lawn mowers, refrigerators, and cars contain a variety of recyclable metals. Check in the "**Scrap Metal**" section of the yellow pages for listings of businesses or organizations that may take or buy it from you.

Great Lakes Recycling, 30615 Groesbeck Roseville 586-779-1310

NPR Recycling, 30880 Smith Rd., Romulus 734-721-0197

Royal Oak Waste Paper and Metal, 414 East Hudson Ave, Royal Oak
248-541-4020

Taylor Recycling, 8767 Holland Rd., Taylor 313-291-7410

Motor Oil

Used motor oil contains toxic impurities such as lead and cadmium, and can pose serious threats to our environment if improperly disposed. If oil is poured onto the ground or down the sewer, toxic substances could eventually end up in area lakes and rivers.

Therefore, it is of great importance that used motor oil be properly disposed. Used motor oil can be easily recycled at many local gas and service stations. It has been shown that recycled motor oil performs as well as new oil during vehicle operation. When a service station changes your oil, it recycles the old oil. When changing your own oil, place it into a sturdy, sealed, clear container (such as a milk jug), and deliver it to one of the facilities listed below for recycling, or contact your city/township DPW to see if they will accept it.

Motor oil can be taken for recycling at any **Mobile** service facility, **Murray's Discount Auto Parts** stores, **Advanced Auto Parts**, or **Auto Zone**, or **Uncle Ed's Auto Shop** stations. The following facilities also accept used motor oil:

Pacific Oil Resources Inc., 44141 Yost Road, Belleville 734-397-1120

Buck's Oil Co., 30110 Beverly Rd., Romulus 734-728-3280

Packing Materials

Avoid non-recyclable packing materials. Choose biodegradable packaging made from corn starch or use newspaper or shredded office paper whenever possible. You can even use real popcorn which can then be composted when you're finished.

Many packing stores and other organizations will accept your used packing materials for reuse. You can also save the material for your own reuse.

The following locations will accept some types of packaging materials for reuse or recycling. Call for specific guidelines.

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

Dart Container, 500 Hogsback Rd., Mason 517-676-3800

Handle With Care Packaging, 22122 Ford, Dearborn 313-563-3100

Mail Express, 1756 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor 734-747-7900

John's Pack and Ship, 1610 Jackson Ave., Ann Arbor 734-665-2664

Mail Boxes, Etc. (check phone book for locations)

FCR, 20000 W. Eight Mile, Southfield 248-208-2270

Veolia Center, 10835 Five Mile, Northville Twp. 248-349-4444



Paint

Buy only as much as you need to complete the job. Leftover paint in good condition can be shared or can be donated to organizations (see list below). For paint that cannot be shared or donated, consider the following disposal guidelines.

Latex paint is only a disposal problem while in its liquid form. Once dried out, it can be safely disposed of with your regular trash. Sawdust or cat litter can be added to speed up the drying process.

Oil based paints and paint thinners contain solvents that are flammable and evaporate quickly, creating fumes that can be harmful. Many paints contain heavy metals such as cadmium, and oil paints can contain lead. These materials can pose grave threats to human health and the environment if disposed of improperly.

To Donate: Contact the following

Habitat for Humanity ReStore, 12630 Greenfield, Detroit 313-653-4890

Recycle Ann Arbor-Reuse Center, 2420 S. Industrial, Ann Arbor
734-662-6288

To Dispose: See HHW information on page 6.

Paper/Cardboard

The following is a list of private paper brokers that service the Tri-County area. Each broker provides a different level of service. Some provide pick-up service and/or drop-off locations. We recommend that you shop for one that best suits your needs. Also, contact your city/township DPW for information on drop-off centers they may offer.



FCR, 8 Mile & Evergreen, Southfield 248-208-2270

Great Lakes Recycling, 30615 Groesbeck Roseville 586-779-1310

Iron Mountain Secure Shredding, 7277 Haggerty, Canton 877-737-4123

NPR Recycling, 30880 Smith Rd., Romulus 734-721-0197

Recycle Max, Detroit 313-864-2222

Royal Oak Waste Paper and Metal, 414 East Hudson Ave, Royal Oak
248-541-4020

Taylor Recycling, 8767 Holland Rd., Taylor 313-291-7410

Veolia Center, 10835 Five Mile, Salem Twp. 248-349-4444

Waste Management, 6333 Lynch Road, Detroit 800-796-9696

Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

Plastic Grocery Bags

Whenever possible, bring your own reusable bag or reuse plastic grocery bags to help reduce waste. Finding a recycler that accepts old plastic grocery bags from residents is not easy. Check with area schools and churches to see if they collect them. Otherwise, you may take them to area **Wal-Mart and Kroger** stores for recycling. Contact the following company for large quantities:

Cleantech Inc., 500 Dunham St., Dundee 734-529-2475

Great Lakes Recycling, 30615 Groesbeck, Roseville 866-464-5746

Propane Tanks

Check the yellow pages for companies that refill tanks. If you must dispose, contact the facilities listed below. A \$5 to \$15 fee may be charged; call first.

AGA Gas, 40393 Grand River, Novi 248-478-0600

Livonia True Value Hardware, 33533 Five Mile Rd., Livonia 734-422-1155

Plymouth Equipment Rental Inc., 41889 Ford Rd., Canton Twp.
734-981-0240

Progressive Lift Truck, 33900 Nine Mile, Farmington 248-477-0650

Township Hardware, 25880 Five Mile, Redford 313-533-0020

True Value Town & Country, 27740 Ford Rd., Garden City 734-422-2750

Wright's Hardware, 29150 W. Five Mile Rd., Livonia 734-422-2210

RV Dump Stations

Protect the environment by disposing of your recreational vehicle waste properly. **DO NOT DUMP!** The following facilities in the area accept RV waste.

A&S RV Center Inc., 2375 Opdyke, Auburn Hills 248-373-5811

Please call for hours.

Detroit Wastewater Treatment Plant, 9300 West Jefferson, Detroit
313-297-0275, *Free of charge; open 24 hours.*

Feisters RV, 37401 Ford Road, Westland 734-721-2400

Walt Michael's RV Center, 44700 I-94 Service Drive, Belleville
734-697-2500

When out of the area, please find a proper disposal area. For a further listing of RV dump sites throughout the State of Michigan, go to www.rvdumps.com/mi



Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

Sewage/Septic System Waste

Go to www.michigan.gov/deq and select "Water" "Surface Water" "Septage" for a list of licensed septage waste haulers and for links on proper management of septic tanks. Be sure to pump your tank every 3-5 years. For further questions, call the Wayne County Health Department, Environmental Health Division at 734-727-7400.

Smoke Detectors

Because smoke detectors contain radioactive materials, they are considered Household Hazardous Waste. Contact your community to see if they are accepted at your local HHW collection. The best thing to do is to send them back to the manufacturer, in the original box if possible.

Contact the following manufacturers for instructions

First Alert: 800-323-9005

Gentex Corp.: 616-772-1800

Honeywell: 763-954-5204

Nighthawk Systems: 800-880-6788

Radio Shack: Check for location nearest you.

Sears: Contact your local store

System Sensor: 630-377-6580 (x3825)

Triad Safety Systems: 308-236-7062



Thrift Stores, Resale Stores & Charities

Check the white pages to contact charities for guidelines on donations. These charities accept donations of goods: **Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, Purple Heart, Salvation Army, St. Vincent DePaul Society, & Vietnam Veterans of America.** Also, check the yellow pages under **Thrift Stores** or **Resale shops** for listings in your area.

Tires

Some tire dealers will accept old tires to be recycled. Policies may change, so please call first. Check the yellow pages in your area for additional listings.

Ariel Automotive, 33014 Grand River, Farmington 248-477-0670

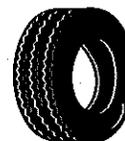
March Tire, 5757 Sheldon Road, Canton Twp. 734-454-0440

Sears Auto Centers, Check for location nearest you

Silver Lining Recycling, 3776 11th St., Wyandotte 734-324-4800

Waddle's Tire Service, 20156 Sibley Rd., Brownstown. Twp.
734-283-1644

Wyoming Tire Service, 15011 Wyoming, Detroit 313-491-5730



Reuse/Recycling/Disposal

Video Tapes

Video tapes can be reused or recycled.

Arts & Scraps, 16135 Harper, Detroit 313-640-4411, *Accepts video tapes for use in creative art projects for area students.*

Cleantech Inc., 500 Dunham St., Dundee 734-529-2475

EcoMedia, 5429 E. LaPalma Ave., Anaheim Hills, CA 92807

800-959-5156 x6882, *Audio and video tapes accepted for a fee.*

Recycle Ann Arbor, 2420 S. Industrial, Ann Arbor 734-662-6288

Yard Clippings

As of March 1995, yard clippings have been banned for disposal in landfills in Michigan. "**Yard Clippings**" means leaves, grass clippings, vegetable or other garden debris, shrubbery, or brush or tree trimmings, less than 4 feet in length and 2 inches in diameter, that can be converted to compost humus.

Yard clippings do not include stumps, agricultural wastes, animal waste, roots, sewage sludge, or garbage.

The composting, or natural breakdown, of yard clippings is recommended.

Most communities in Wayne County have curbside collection of yard clippings, which are then taken to area compost facilities.

Detroit picks up yard waste from residents monthly. To find out your pickup day in Detroit, call 313-224-2215. For information regarding programs in your communities, contact your city or township DPW offices.



Following is a list of area compost facilities and some information on how to compost in your own backyard!

WAYNE COUNTY

Carleton Farms—Republic Waste Services, 28800 Clark Road, Sumpter Twp., 734-654-3615

Taylor Compost—City of Taylor, 16300 Racho Road, Taylor, 734-284-7197

Northville Compost Yard—City of Northville, 650 Doheny, Northville, 248-349-1300

MONROE COUNTY

Jack's Lawn Service, Inc.—Jack Sturn, 5550 W. Dunbar, Monroe

Regulated Resource Recovery—Nick Straub, 200 Matlin Road, Carleton (Ash Township)

MACOMB COUNTY

King of the Winds—Dolores Michaels, 21600 Quinn Road, Clinton Twp.

Pine Tree Acres—Waste Management, 36600 29 Mile Road, Lenox Township

OAKLAND COUNTY

Eagle Valley Transfer—Waste Management, Silverbell Road, Orion Twp.

Wright Way Clean-Up, 1586 Valley Dr., Highland



ST. CLAIR COUNTY

Indian Summer Recycling—Bob Brooks & Fred Thompson,
5877 Bethuy Rd., Casco

WASHTENAW COUNTY

Veolia Center—10599 W. Five Mile Road, Salem Twp., 248-349-7230

HOME COMPOSTING



What Should be Composted?

Anything organic or once alive will compost. Whether a specific organic should be composted depends on whether you are able and willing to control the potential nuisances, expend the necessary effort or have enough materials. A commercial composting toilet is available, for example, but the composting of human manure is not for everyone! At the other end of the spectrum are the easiest compostables, yard clippings and various food wastes.

In order to compost effectively, it is useful to know and understand the composting recipe listed below:

Generic Composting Recipe

- Mix 1 part Green, 2 parts Brown
- Add Soil (several shovels full; optional)
- Add Water (to make it as wet as a wrung-out sponge)
- Mix

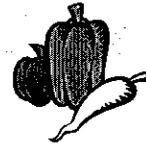
Carbon/ Brown

Autumn Leaves
Straw
Wood Chips
Newspaper



Nitrogen/ Green

Vegetable Scraps
Coffee Grounds
Grass Clippings
Manure



NOTE



There are also some materials that should be avoided: meat or animal products, oils or food cooked with oils, dog or cat feces, glossy paper, charcoal ashes, diseased plants, invasive weeds and seeds, and plants recently treated with pesticides or long-lived chemicals like arsenic.

7 Steps To Better Composting

1. Pick a well-drained spot in your yard to set up compost bin or pile.
2. Gather as much of a variety of compostable ingredients as you can.
3. Chop or grind larger compost ingredients. This will speed up the decomposition process.
4. Build your compost pile in layers.
5. Bury food scraps in the center of the pile so that the neighborhood wildlife aren't tempted to dig in.
6. Turn the pile with a garden fork a couple of times a month (or more frequently if you like) and add water when needed. It takes as little as two weeks or as long as several months to "cook." The compost will be ready when it is dark brown, crumbly and earthy-smelling.
7. Enjoy the fruits of your labor by adding compost to your lawn and/or garden.

Once you have finished compost:

- Use finished compost from the bottom of the bin or pile;
- Cultivate the soil around the plants you wish to enrich with compost;
- Spread the compost in 1-3 inch thick layers around the plants or tree.

Note: Be careful not to allow compost to touch plants or tree bark directly; this may cause harm to plants through decomposition.

When To Compost

Since food waste is generated year-round and yard waste is seasonal, there may be variations in the composting system throughout the year.

- **Spring & Summer:** Leaves (saved from the fall) can be mixed with grass clippings and other yard waste.
- **Fall:** Compost leaves and kitchen scraps, mulch or plant cover crops.
- **Winter:** Indoor vermi-composting and garbage-can composting are useful this time of year. Garbage-can composting uses an actual garbage can for a compost bin. Vermi-composting means using red worms to decompose organic matter.

Uses For Compost

Compost can be used for a variety of applications. Most often people use it to prepare a plant bed for the following growing season, amend the soil of an established garden, make compost tea to use on houseplants, or rake into the lawn to add nutrients back to the soil.

When compost goes rotten—what's the problem?

Foul Odor: The reason could be that there is not enough air, or too much moisture in the pile. You can solve this problem by turning the pile and adding dry material if the pile is too wet.

Warm and damp only in the middle: The reason could be that the pile is too small. Solve this problem by adding more materials.

Pile is damp but won't heat up: The reason for this might be lack of nitrogen or not enough air. To solve this problem, add grass clippings or other nitrogen sources and turn the pile.



Become a Master Composter and learn the benefits of Composting, Yard Waste Reduction, and Healthy Lawn and Gardening.

Wayne County periodically offers a Master Composter Course and/or composting workshops. For information on registering for these, contact the Wayne County Resource Recovery Coordinator at 734-326-3936.

Requirements For Becoming a Master Composter

- Attend Five Classes
- Successfully complete a Final Exam
- Complete 10 Hours of public outreach volunteer work (after completing the course)
- Have Fun!



Healthy Lawn Care Tips

Stormwater runoff from home lawns contributes to the pollution of the area rivers and lakes. Problems are created when lawns are “overfed” with too much fertilizer and herbicide, when watering is excessive, and when grass is maintained on steep slopes or near the water’s edge. Maintain a green, river-safe lawn by following the healthy lawn practices outlined below.

Mow Grass High

Leave 3 inches on the grass blade after cutting. Tall grass promotes root growth and shades out weeds. Let short clips fall back into the lawn, recycling nitrogen in a natural fashion.



Select Earth-Friendly Fertilizers

Select slow-release fertilizers which gradually contribute nitrogen to the grass roots. Slow-release fertilizers protect lakes and streams, promote and protect steady grass growth, protect microbial life in the soil, and do not burn grass. The Healthy Lawn and Garden Technical Advisory Committee for Wayne and Oakland Counties recommends slow-release fertilizers with 50% or more of the nitrogen in slow-release form. For additional water quality protections, select a fertilizer with no (or very low) phosphorus.

Don't guess...Soil Test

A soil test indicates nutrient levels already in the soil—a first step in determining how much and what type of fertilizer is needed for the plants you are trying to grow. You may purchase the MSU soil nutrient tests through Wayne County MSU Extension at 313-833-3412.

Nitrogen quantities recommended in the soil test can be reduced by 25% or more if the lawn is in partial shade, if soils already have 5% or more organic matter content, and/or if clippings are left on the lawn.

Sweep Up Fertilizer From Paved Surfaces

Fertilizer left on sidewalks and driveways can easily wash into storm drains, rivers, and lakes. If possible, use a drop spreader, not a rotary spreader. Sweep fertilizer from sidewalks back onto the lawn.

Measure Your Lawn Before Purchasing Fertilizer

Measure the lawn area to be covered then purchase only what you need. Remember, different types of grasses need different amounts of nitrogen to keep them healthy. Over the growing season, Kentucky bluegrass typically requires 4 or more pounds of nitrogen (N) per 1000 square feet, while fescues, ryegrasses, and grass mixtures require less nitrogen.



Leave A “No-Fertilizer” Zone Near Lakes And Rivers

Water quality experts in Michigan and other Midwest states recommend a “no fertilizer” riparian buffer zone with a width of 25 feet or more. Instead of lawn grass, consider native wildflowers, grasses, sedges, and/or shrubs which trap soil and other pollutants.

Avoid Weed-and-Feed Combination Products

Combination fertilizer and weed control products often add unnecessary herbicides to the landscape. A better approach is to identify the weed of concern and selectively spot treat the weed(s). Many people find that a thick, healthy lawn combined with a modest amount of hand weeding, completely eliminates the need for herbicide.

Use Sifted Compost as a Top Dressing

Spread 1/2 inch of compost over an established lawn. Rake compost into the lawn, leaving a portion of the grass blade exposed to sunlight and air. Compost adds microorganisms, nutrients, and organic matter to help build soil.

Do Not Fertilize Before May

Lawns usually do not need fertilizer in April, especially if they have been fertilized the previous fall. Fertilizer in the early spring stimulates rapid, lush growth and increases dangers from disease and pests.

Look for the Earth-Friendly Fertilizer sticker at participating retailers. You can find a list of the retailers at www.rougeriver.com



Examples of Earth-Friendly Fertilizers

With 50% or more of nitrogen in slow-release form.

- Lesco Professional Turf 32-0-10**
- Safer Lawn Restorer 10-2-6**
- Safer Natural Turf 8-1-1**
- Scotts Organic Choice Lawn Food 11-2-2**
- Soil Science 5-0-7**
- Sustain (Lesco product) 18-1-8**
- Turf Nurture 15-2-7**
- Clean Green Soy Fertilizer 7-0-0**
- Corn Gluten pellets 9-0-0**
- Fertrell Lawn Fertilizer 9-1-4 or 8-1-8**
- Ringer Lawn Restore 10-2-6**

River Friendly Practices...

Seven Simple Steps to Clean Water



1. Help keep pollution out of storm drains

Storm drains lead to our lakes and streams. So, any oil, pet waste, leaves, or dirty water from washing your car that enters a storm drain gets into our lakes and streams. With almost 5 million people living in Southeast Michigan, we all need to be aware of what goes in our storm drains.

Remember, only rain in the drain!

2. Fertilize sparingly and carefully

Storm drains in our streets and yards empty into our lakes and streams. So, when we fertilize our lawn we could also be fertilizing our lakes and streams. While fertilizer is good for our lawn, it's bad for our water. Fertilizer in our lakes and streams causes algae to grow. Algae can form large blooms and use oxygen that fish need to survive. With 1.5 million homes in Southeast Michigan, all of us need to be aware of the cumulative effects of our lawn care practices.

What can you do? Use fertilizer low in phosphorus, select a slow-release fertilizer where at least half of the nitrogen is "water insoluble" (check the ingredients on the label), keep fertilizer away from lakes, streams, and storm drains, and sweep excess fertilizer back onto your lawn.

3. Carefully store and dispose of household cleaners, chemicals, and oil

Antifreeze, household cleaners, gasoline, pesticides, oil paints, solvents, and motor oil are just some of the common household products that enter our storm drains. You can help keep these out of our lakes and streams...instead of putting these items in the trash, down the storm drain, or on the ground, take them to a local hazardous waste center or collection day.



4. Clean up after your pet

Most of us pick up after our pets to be a good neighbor and keep our yard clean. But there's another important reason. Pet waste contains bacteria that is harmful to us and our water. Leaving it on the sidewalk or lawn means harmful bacteria will be transported into the storm drains and then into our lakes and streams. So what can you do to help? Simple. Whether on a walk or in your yard, **dispose of your pet's waste promptly in the toilet or trash.**



Keep this guide for future reference!

For further information on anything presented in this Guide, please contact the Wayne County Resource Recovery Coordinator at 734-326-3936.

