

How to get rid of it guide



Introduction

This guide provides a general overview of waste disposal for residents. It includes information on recycling, waste reduction and reuse, organics recycling, backyard composting and disposing of yard waste, hazardous waste, medicines and sharps.

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Recycling

Recycling is an easy action you can take to support your community and protect the environment. Recycling creates jobs and reduces the amount of natural resources needed to make new materials.

Materials you can recycle at home include:

Paper

- Mail, office and school papers
- Magazines and catalogs
- Newspapers
- Phones books



Boxes:

- Cardboard
- Cracker boxes
- Shoe boxes, gift boxes and electronic boxes
- Boxes from toothpaste, medications and other toiletries

Cartons

- Milk and cream cartons
- Juice boxes
- Soup cartons



Glass

- Food and beverage bottles and jars such as hot sauce or soy sauce



Metal

- Food and beverage cans



Plastic

- Bottles and jugs
- Water, soda and juice bottles
- Milk and juice jugs
- Ketchup and salad dressing bottles
- Dishwashing liquid bottles and detergent jugs
- Shampoo, soap and lotion bottles



Cups and containers:

- Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups
- Disposable cups and bowls
- Margarine, cottage cheese, and other containers
- Produce, deli and take out containers

Don't recycle: plastic bags, film, and wrap • plastic foam (Styrofoam™) • food waste • paper cups and plates • glass dishes, drinking glasses, window glass, and ceramics • garbage • containers that held hazardous products.

Recycling clothing and linens

(non-reusable)



Bring to a drop-off site

Clothes and textiles that can't be reused or donated can be recycled at Hennepin County Drop-Off Facilities.

Reminder: If your used clothes can be reused, give them away, sell or donate them first.

You can bring clothing, linens and other textiles not suitable for reuse, including:

- Torn or stained clothing
- Shoes and accessories
- Blankets, comforters, quilts, sheets, mattress covers (no pads, no pillows)
- Curtains
- Towels
- Table cloths
- Fabric (2 ft by 1 ft or larger)

Note: Items must be clean, dry, and bagged in plastic bags.

Reduce and reuse



Reduce the amount of stuff you use by reusing the things you already have or buying reused products. Check out Hennepin County's Choose to Reuse website to find donation opportunities and local thrift and second-hand stores. For more information, visit hennepin.us/choosetoreuse or call 612-348-3777.



Receive free, guided assistance in fixing your broken household appliances, clothing, electronics and more at a Hennepin County Fix-it Clinic. For more information, visit hennepin.us/fixitclinic or call 612-348-9195.

Organics recycling

About 30 percent of what we throw away is organics, including food scraps and food-soiled paper products. In organics recycling programs, waste is recycled into valuable compost used in landscaping and road construction projects.

Several cities throughout the county offer curbside pickup or drop-off options for organics recycling. Organics are also accepted at the Hennepin County Drop-off Facilities in Bloomington and Brooklyn Park. To find organics recycling options near you, contact your city recycling coordinator or waste hauler or visit hennepin.us/organics

Materials accepted:

All food

- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, fish and bones
- Dairy products
- Eggs and egg shells
- Pasta, beans and rice
- Bread and cereal
- Nuts and shells



Certified compostable products

- Compostable paper and plastic cups, plates, bowls, utensils and containers



Look for the term “compostable” or the BPI logo on certified products.



Food-soiled paper

- Pizza boxes from delivery
- Napkins and paper towels
- Paper egg cartons



Other compostable household items

- Coffee grounds and filters
- Facial tissues
- Cotton balls and swabs with paper stems
- Houseplants and flowers
- Tea bags
- Wooden chopsticks, popsicle sticks and toothpicks



Not accepted: Yard waste, diapers and sanitary products, animal and pet waste, litter or bedding, cleaning or baby wipes, grease or oil, Styrofoam™, dryer lint and dryer sheets, recyclable items (cartons, glass, metal, paper, plastic), frozen food boxes, microwave popcorn bags, gum, products labeled “biodegradable”

Backyard composting



Some food and yard waste can be composted at home in a backyard compost bin. Backyard composting recycles your food and yard waste into nutrient-rich compost that you can use in your yard and garden.

Materials that can be added to your compost bin include:

- Vegetable and fruit scraps
- Plant trimmings
- Grass and leaves
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Tea leaves and tea bags
- Egg shells
- Nut shells

Do not put meat, dairy, fats, oils and compostable products in your backyard compost as the compost pile does not reach high enough temperatures to break down these materials. Learn more at hennepin.us/composting.

Yard waste



Yard waste, such as grass clippings, leaves and branches, is a valuable resource that can add nutrients back into your yard or be recycled into compost. It is illegal to put this kind of waste in your household garbage.

Options for managing yard waste:

- Compost yard waste and fruit and vegetable scraps in a backyard compost bin.
- Ask your recycling hauler if they offer curbside pickup for yard waste.
- Drop off yard waste at a compost site near you.
- Leave grass clippings on your lawn. Don't rake leaves into the street.
- Pick up pet waste.

Find a list of yard waste drop-off sites at hennepin.us/yardwaste or call 612-348-3777.

Household hazardous waste



Bring to a drop-off site

Some products we have in our homes contain hazardous materials that can harm our health or the environment if not disposed of safely. The following household hazardous waste items are accepted at Hennepin County Drop-off Facilities. There may be other disposal options for some items.

Hazardous waste includes:

Automotive materials

- Antifreeze
- Brake and transmission fluid
- Fuel and oil
- Lead acid batteries



Household, lawn and garden products

- Batteries
- Cleaning products
- Drain cleaner
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Paints, stains and thinners
- Pesticides
- Thermostats and thermometers (that contain mercury)



Personal care products

- Hair spray
- Nail polish remover
- Perfume

Electronics

- Cameras
- DVD players
- Computers
- Game systems
- Printers
- Telephones
- Televisions
- Radios and music players
- Speakers



Tires

Appliances

- Air conditioners
- Microwaves
- Ovens
- Refrigerators
- Washers and dryers
- Water heaters



Fees




Fees apply to some items, including: tires (\$3 each), TVs, computer monitors and laptops (\$10 each), appliances (\$15 each) and mattresses and boxsprings (\$20 each, only accepted at Brooklyn Park location).

Reduce hazardous waste

Become a label reader

Reading the label on household products can tell you how hazardous a product is. Look for signal words on labels and choose the least hazardous product.

Less hazardous



More hazardous

Signal Word	Hazard Level
Caution	mild/moderate hazard
Warning	moderate hazard
Danger	extremely flammable, corrosive or highly toxic
Poison	highly toxic

Safe storage

Store products in original containers, making sure all lids and caps are tightly closed. Keep them out of reach of children and animals.

Disposal options

- Dispose of hazardous waste year-round at Hennepin County's drop-off facilities in Brooklyn Park and Bloomington.
- Bring hazardous waste to a community collection event. Find an event near you at hennepin.us/collectionevents.
- Some hardware stores and electronics retailers accept certain hazardous wastes, including electronics and fluorescent light bulbs.
- Find other disposal options for household hazardous waste at hennepin.us/greendisposalguide or call 612-348-3777.

Medicine disposal



Unwanted or unused medicines from residents should be brought to a Hennepin County medicine drop box for safe and proper disposal.

All types of medicines from households, including prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, supplements and pet medicines are accepted.

Find more information and medicine disposal at hennepin.us/medicine.

Household needles and sharps disposal



Sharps include hypodermic needles, pen needles, intravenous needles, used epi-pens, lancets and syringes. Use one of the following options to dispose of used household needles and sharps. Never place containers with used needles or sharps in a recycling bin.

- Check if your healthcare provider has a collection program.
- Destroy at home. Search options for devices and containers with mechanisms that can bend, break, incinerate (destroy with high heat) or shear needles and sharps at home.
- Mail-back programs. Stericycle, Inc., Sharps, Inc., GRP Medical Services and MedPro Disposal offer needles and sharps mail-back programs.
- Hennepin County Drop-off Facilities accept sharps from households only. Store needles and sharps in a rigid, puncture-resistant, plastic container with a screw-on lid and label the container, "Do not recycle: Household sharps". Do NOT use a glass container.

Find more information at hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide/items/needles-sharps.



Hennepin County Drop-off Facilities

Facility hours

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday . . . 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Wednesday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays

Open to residents of Hennepin, Anoka, Carver,
Dakota, Ramsey and Washington Counties

What to bring:

- Proof of residency, such as a driver's license or utility bill
- Payment, if applicable – cash, check or credit card

For the most current facility information go to hennepin.us/dropoffs or call 612-348-3777.



Brooklyn Park

Brooklyn Park Transfer Station and Recycling Center

Full and self service areas
8100 Jefferson Highway
Brooklyn Park, 55445



Bloomington

South Hennepin Recycling and Problem Waste Drop-off Center

Full service only
1400 W 96th St.
Bloomington, 55431

Hennepin County
Environment and Energy
hennepin.us/dropoffs
environment@hennepin.us
612-348-3777

