

Charmaine Johnson  
Rusk County Recycling  
715-532-2167

### **Rusk County Cleansweep Dates Set**

The future of Cleansweep didn't look so bright when the entire program was initially removed from the Governor's Budget. But several concerned citizens wrote letters and attended public hearings and the program was partially restored. This means that residents and businesses in Rusk County will have a safe place to dispose of household hazardous waste. In addition to hazardous waste, the following items will also be collected: tires, electronics, scrap metal and appliances, car batteries, mercury thermometers and switches, fluorescent bulbs and ballasts, oil filters, cell phones and printer cartridges, and rechargeable batteries.

Rusk County's scheduled collections for 2009 will be on Friday, August 14th at the Hawkins Village Park from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., and at the Big Bend Town Hall from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Saturday collection for Rusk County will take place on August 15th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Rusk County Highway Shop in Ladysmith.

Prescription medications *will* be collected at the Saturday collection only. Household pharmaceuticals that will be accepted include prescription *and* over-the-counter medications such as: pills, capsules, ointments, liquids, sprays, creams, inhalers, vials, and drops. Please note that radioactive or chemotherapy medications will NOT be accepted. Also, we cannot accept sharps, syringes, IV bags or tubing. Please contact your health provider for disposal options for those materials. ***Please leave the medications in their original containers so that they can be identified.*** If you have privacy concerns, simply blacken out your personal information on the container – please leave the drug name on the bottle so it can be properly inventoried. We don't need your name or other personal information. Special thanks to Marshfield Clinic and the Rusk County Sheriff's Department who is sponsoring a pharmacist to sort the medications and a Drug Enforcement Officer to be present during the pharmaceutical collection. Also thanks to the businesses and organizations that donated money towards this collection.

The Tire Recycling program provides an opportunity for Rusk County residents to dispose of their discarded tires for a low fee at convenient collection sites. This program provides an outlet for waste tires and assembles large amounts of waste tires sufficient to be loaded on semi-trailers and transported to facilities where the tires are converted to tire derived fuel (TDF) and made into a high quality crumb rubber that is used in horse arenas, playgrounds and landscaping. It is estimated that in Wisconsin five million used tires are discarded each year. Waste tires present a health hazard and are fertile breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other insects. Large stockpiles of waste tires pose a fire hazard.

Tire Recycling will take place at the following recycling sites: Hawkins, Big Bend, Rusk County Highway Shop and Thornapple. Please call the Recycling Department for dates and times. Fees for tires are \$3.00 for tires under 14 inches, \$5.00 for tires 15 inches to 20 inches, and \$10.00 for tires 21 inches and larger. Government and business prices are available per pound if they have empty and loaded weight.

Please contact Charmaine Johnson at Rusk County Recycling at 532-2167 for information about additional Cleansweep collections and tire recycling or visit [www.ruskcounty.org/services/recycling.asp](http://www.ruskcounty.org/services/recycling.asp). *If you are in doubt whether a product is hazardous waste, please call NWRPC at 715-635-2197.*

These events are proudly sponsored by Northwest Regional Planning Commission, Rusk County Recycling, Ladysmith Area Safety and Wellness Council, 5R Processors, Damage Inc., and Bee Line Tire Recycling LLC.