



# Rusk County Recycling

2015 May / June Newsletter

## Special points of interest:

- Cleansweep Dates Set
- Pharmaceutical Take Back
- Risks of Outdoor Burning
- Medication & Sharp Disposal Options
- Business Spotlight
- Large Event Recycling

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## Annual Cleansweep June 19 & 20

Homeowners, renters, farmers, rural property owners, and businesses in Rusk County can dispose of unwanted chemicals, pesticides or other hazardous waste at three locations in Rusk County. Visit [website](#) for flyer or stop by office.

While this collection is mainly for hazardous waste, we will also be accepting universal waste such as lead acid batteries, fluorescent bulbs, smoke detectors, and oil filters at all 3 events. On Saturday we will also be accepting tires, pharmaceuticals and sharps. Many items are for free but there is a charge for some items.

A lot of items that are commonly found in your garage, under the kitchen sink or in the bathroom are hazardous and should be disposed of at Cleansweep. If an item is Toxic, Flammable, Corrosive or Reactive it is considered hazardous waste. If you

are in doubt whether an item is hazardous or not, call the Recycling Dept. at 715-532-2167.

Ever wonder where our hazardous waste goes after Cleansweep? Once it is sorted it goes to WRR where the Flammables are processed into a fuel blend that is used at Cement Kilns as a fuel source, Corrosives are sent to a facility that neutralizes them, Toxics and Oxidizers are sent to a facility that incinerates them, Aerosols are sent to a facility that collects the liquids out of the cans and send the liquids into a fuel blend, and Mercury is sent to a facility that collects and purifies the mercury from the containers the mercury was in and sends this to the Dept. of Energy.

These Cleansweep collections are funded by grants awarded by WI DATCP along with county levy funds and are operated

by NWRPC with assistance by Rusk County Recycling, Lady-smith Area Safety and Wellness Council, Auburndale Tire Recycling, Ltd., Junk Yard Jed Salvage Yard LLC, Paul's Appliance Disposal and First Choice Computer Recycling. There will be a donation can at each site for those that wish to contribute towards the Cleansweep program.



## Prescription Drug Take Back Event May 16 for Residents

On Saturday, May 16 there will be a pharmaceutical collection at the Grant Town Hall located at W8494 CTH P from 10 am to 2 pm where you can safely dispose of all unwanted, unneeded or expired medications. Bring your prescription and over-the-counter medications, ointments, patches, non-aerosol sprays, creams, vials and pet

medications. Participants may dispose of solid, non-liquid medication(s) by removing the medication from its container and disposing of it directly into a disposal box or into a clear sealable plastic bag. Blister packages are acceptable without the medications being removed. Liquids, creams and sprays must be in their original packaging.

**DO NOT BRING:** Illegal drugs, needles/sharps, inhalers, aerosol cans, bio-hazardous materials, mercury thermometers, personal care products (shampoo, soaps, lotions, sunscreens, etc.) or household hazardous waste (paint, pesticides, oil, gas). This event is sponsored by the WI DOJ and hosted by the Rusk County Sheriff's Department.



**A 200-plus acre wildland fire in Juneau County required the evacuation of 44 homes in April.**

## Is Outdoor Burning Worth the Risk?

Though it is legal to burn some yard waste in certain areas, the WI DNR cautions that debris burning is the number one cause of wildfires in Wisconsin, causing about 30 percent of the state's wildfires each year. "Open burning of any material produces a variety of air pollutants. Burning plastics or treated or painted wood can release carcinogens such as arsenic, benzene and formaldehyde into the air," said Brad Wolbert, DNR recycling and solid waste section chief. "Children, older adults and people with cardiac

disease and respiratory ailments, such as asthma, are generally more sensitive to smoke from burning garbage. Burning anything can affect your health, your neighbors' health and the environment." Burning household trash in Wisconsin is illegal. A study by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency found that 15 households burning trash each day emits the same amount of cancer-causing dioxin and furan emissions as a 200-ton-per-day municipal waste incinerator that uses high-efficiency emissions

control technology. It is also illegal to burn recyclable materials such as glass, plastic, metal containers and clean paper, as well as agricultural and horticultural plastics such as silage film, haylage bags, bale wrap, woven tarps and nursery pots and trays. If these materials cannot be recycled, they should go to a landfill. Composting and recycling are the preferred alternatives to burning - search "[open burning](#)" on the DNR website [dnr.wi.gov](#) for more info. and alternatives.

## Safe Latex Paint Disposal



Latex paint is NOT considered hazardous waste as it is a water-based product, but it is a liquid waste that must be properly disposed of. Dumped illegally, it can plug septic fields, overload sewage treatment plants, and create environmental messes on the grounds. Here are some options to consider:

⇒ Donate your latex paint that is in good condition to non-profit agencies civic organizations such as

Habitat for Humanity or to your neighbor.

⇒ Open can lids and expose the paint to sun and warm temperatures. This works best in the summer and with small amounts of leftover paint. Place the can in the trash after the paint has hardened.

⇒ Purchase a commercial paint hardener and follow the label directions. Once

the paint has hardened, place the can in the trash.

⇒ Line a box with ticker sheet plastic. Pour the pint in to the box and add an absorbing agent such as kitty litter, vermiculite, or sawdust and stir frequently until the paint hardens. Toss box in the trash once the mixture is dry.

Remember that empty, brush-wiped metal cans can be recycled; don't toss them out!



**Large quantities of tires can be weighed and pay price per ton.**

## Tire Recycling June 20th

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.

Tires will be collected from 8 am to Noon at the Rusk County Highway Shop Fees for tires include: \$1 for tires 12" and under; \$2.50 for tires 13 to 15 inches; and \$5 for tires 15 to 19 inches. Those that bring tires with rims, large quantities,

or tires 20 inches and greater will need to be weighed and will be charged \$170/ton (\$.09/pound). Government and Business fees are \$170/ton. Businesses will also be charged tax.

Tires are taken to Auburndale Tire Recycling where they will be made into tire derived fuel and made into a high quality crumb rubber.



## Don't Flush Unwanted Medications

Individuals add pharmaceuticals to the environment through excretion, bathing, and disposal of unwanted medications in sewers and trash. Why is medicine disposal a concern?

There are 3 main hazards: 1) Possible poisoning from accidental ingestion, 2) Illegal use or theft and 3) Contamination of water resources.

DO NOT flush medications down the sink, place in the trash, or give or sell to others.

There are many safe options for Rusk County residents to

utilize year round for safe medication disposal. 24 hours a day there is a drop box inside the entrance to the Sheriff's Dept. where you can place your unwanted medication in a collection container. Twice a year the DOJ has a Take-Back program. Also there is a pharmaceutical collection during Cleansweep. In just 4 hours last year at Cleansweep we collected 77.6 pounds of medications!

Because sewage treatment plants are not designed to deal

with drugs, these chemicals can be released into streams, lakes and groundwater and affect fish and other aquatic wildlife.

You might imagine that any substance safe enough for humans and pets to ingest as medication can't cause environmental harm. But that may not be the case. Effects on aquatic life are a major concern. If our medicines are reaching streams, rivers, and lakes, organisms living in these habitats may be continuously exposed to these drugs.



**A medication collection container is located at the entrance to the Sheriff's Dept. in the Courthouse where you can dispose of meds 24 hours a day!**

## Safe Sharps Disposal

To reduce public health risks, the state adopted rules in 1994 requiring everyone in Wisconsin, even individuals at home, to manage sharps safely.

"Sharps" are needles, syringes, and finger-prick lancets used outside the setting of hospitals and doctor's offices. They are NOT recyclable and should not be placed in a recycling bin. Sharps are the number one contaminant of recycling and pose a health risk to garbage

haulers and workers in recycling facilities who might be accidentally stuck by them.

You can safely dispose of sharps by purchasing a container at the Rusk County Hospital Lab or Marshfield Clinic Pharmacy which also includes disposal. Other stores sell sharps containers but do not offer disposal.

Sharps are accepted for FREE at the annual Cleansweep col-

lection which will be Saturday, June 20 from 8 am to Noon at the Rusk County Highway Dept. Sharps must be placed by owner into provided containers. We will NOT accept full sharps containers. Sharps from use on animals are also accepted at this event.



**It is illegal to put sharps in the trash or with recyclables.**

## Spotlight on Business Recycling

WI's recycling requirements apply to everyone in the state, at all locations. This includes schools, public places, businesses, special events, homes and apartments. It is a challenge to find recycling containers away from home.

Congratulations to Kwik Trip in Ladysmith for adding recycling bins at their location as part of the Kwik Trip Recycling Program. There are pop bottle recycling containers by the gas

pumps and also a large recycling container next to the store entrance. Next time you get gas or groceries, please utilize these containers and tell the staff how much you appreciate them.

With the switch to single-sort recycling, businesses no longer need to provide separate recycling dumpsters for cardboard and commingled. Now it can all be placed in the same recycling dumpster.



Andrea, Store Manager, states that the bins are being well used by customers.

## RUSK COUNTY RECYCLING

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Visit our website to learn  
more!



### Rusk County Responsible Unit

The mission of the Rusk County Responsible Unit is to promote recycling, composting, and resource recovery through the administration of an effective recycling program. Members of the Rusk County Responsible Unit include 21 townships, 6 villages and 1 city. There are 11 residential recycling sites throughout the county and 5 curbside locations.

## RECYCLING BINS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Festivals – Sporting Events – Fairs – Picnics – Reunions - Parades

When you're away from home, don't forget to recycle. The Rusk County Recycling Department has a Bin Loan Program for your large events whether it be a wedding, parade, festival or sporting event. WI law states events need to provide recycling for:

- Aluminum and steel cans
- Plastic containers #1 & #2
- Glass Bottles & Jars
- Newspapers & Mixed paper
- Corrugated Cardboard

This can all be done in a Clearstream Recycling Bin. Just call the Recycling Dept. to reserve your bins, pick them up, use them at your event, recycle the contents, and return the bins to the office. It's that easy!



### New "Works of Art" Bins

A new addition are bins that have been made into works of art by Toadally Artsy Kids. These bins will give your large event the artistic touch. They are larger to haul so keep that in mind when you're picking them up. These would be great for indoor large events.

### Event Recycling just got easier with the Clear Stream CycleMax Bin!

- ◆ Very visible with clear bag & blue lid transport
- ◆ Easy to use, set up & transport
- ◆ Reduces contamination; captures 95-99% of recyclables
- ◆ Sturdy
- ◆ Place bin next to trash can for best results

# Recycle on the go!