

REVIEW OF WISCONSIN LANDFILL BANS

The Wisconsin [recycling law](#) bans the landfilling or incineration of certain recyclable or compostable materials. These bans went into effect in several stages. Here's the complete list of items that SHOULD NOT be put in the landfill.

Banned in 1991

- Lead acid batteries
- Major Appliances including air conditioners, clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, stoves, ovens, dehumidifiers, furnaces, boilers, water heaters and microwave ovens (unless the capacitor has been removed)
- Waste Oil

Banned in 1993

- Yard waste, including grass clippings, leaves, yard and garden debris and brush under 6 inches in diameter

Banned in 1995

- Aluminum containers
- Bi-metal containers (containers made from a combination of steel and aluminum)
- Corrugated cardboard or other containerboard
- Glass containers
- Magazines and other materials printed on similar paper
- Newspaper and other materials printed on newsprint
- Office paper
- Plastic containers #1 and #2
- Plastic containers #3 through #7
- Steel containers
- Waste tires (except when incinerated with energy recovery)



Banned in 2010

- Electronics, including computers, televisions, desktop printers, computer peripherals, DVD players, digital video recorders, VCRs, fax machines and (cell phones. For more information, see [E-Cycle Wisconsin covered devices](#).

Banned in 2011

- Oil filters and oil absorbent materials over one gallon. For more information, see [Motor Oil, Oil Filters and Other Automotive Products](#).

Please call the Recycling Dept. at 715-532-2167 if you have questions on how to safely dispose of these items.

Resolutions for a Greener New Year

Avoid Waste: Recycle

For every trash can of waste you put outside for the trash collector, about 70 trash cans of waste are used in order to create that trash. To reduce the amount of waste you produce, buy products in returnable and recyclable containers and recycle as much as you can.

Give Up Plastic & Paper Bags

Neither is a good choice. Twelve million barrels of oil were used to make the 88.5 billion plastic bags consumed in the United States last year. And it takes four times more energy to make paper bags. The best choice is reusable shopping bags made of cotton, nylon or durable, mesh-like plastic. Put a few reusable shopping bags in your car so you have them handy on your next shopping trip.

Stop Buying Bottled Water

Did you know that it takes 26 bottles of water to produce the plastic container for a one-liter bottle of water, and that doing so pollutes 25 liters of groundwater? Use reusable water bottles instead made from materials like stainless steel or aluminum that are not likely to degrade over time. If you choose a plastic water bottle, make sure it is BPA free.

Stop Receiving Unwanted Catalogs

19 billion catalogs are mailed to American consumers. All those catalogs require more than 53 million trees and 56 billion gallons of wastewater to produce -- and many of us don't even know how we got on so many mailing lists! Visit CatalogChoice.org to put a stop to unwanted catalogs. Within 10 weeks, your mailbox will be empty of unwanted catalogs.

Give up Conventional Detergents

Many natural detergents today are made to clean clothes just as effectively in cooler water temperatures. Choose detergents and other laundry products that are plant-based, concentrated and biodegradable.

Give Up Hot Water in the Clothes Washer

Did you know that only 10 percent of the energy used by a typical washing machine powers the motor? About 90 percent of the energy is used to heat the water, and most clothes will come clean in cold water. So switch your washing machine's temperature setting. For heavily soiled clothing, change it from hot to warm, but otherwise try to wash and rinse most of your clothing in cold water.

Give Up the Clothes Dryer

The second biggest household energy user, after the refrigerator, is the clothes dryer. Over drying your clothes can end up costing you money as well. An electric dryer operating an extra 15 minutes a load can cost you up to \$34 a year in wasted energy; a gas dryer, \$21 a year. When using the dryer, clear the lint filter after each load and dry only full loads of clothes. Dry heavy fabrics separately from lighter ones, and don't add wet clothing in the middle of the drying cycle. And remember that hanging clothing outside in the sun and air to dry is the most energy-efficient method -- or use a folding indoor rack all year long.

Check for Leaks in Your Toilet

A leaking toilet can waste anywhere between 30 and 500 gallons of water every day, so any leak should be repaired. To see if your toilet is leaking, put a few drops of food coloring in the toilet tank. If the dye shows up in the toilet bowl after 15 minutes or so, the toilet has a leak. Leaking is usually caused by an old or poorly fitting flapper valve, which can be replaced by any amateur DIY-er!

Give Up Conventional Toilet Paper

Believe it or not, switching to recycled toilet paper can change the world. If every household in the United States bought just one four-pack of 260-sheet recycled bath tissue, instead of the typical tissue made from virgin fiber, it would eliminate 60,600 pounds of chlorine pollution, preserve 356 million gallons of fresh water and save nearly 1 million trees.

Give Up Paper Towels

No matter how you look at it, paper towels create waste. During your next trip to the grocery store, buy some reusable microfiber towels, which grip dirt and dust like a magnet, even when they get wet. When you are finished with them, toss the towels in the wash and reuse them again and again. They are even great for countertops and mirrors. When you absolutely have to use disposable towels, look for recycled products. If every household in the United States replaced just one roll of virgin fiber paper towels (70 sheets) with 100 percent recycled ones, we could save 544,000 trees.

Run a Fully Loaded Dishwasher

If you have dishwasher, use it. Running a fully loaded dishwasher -- without pre-rinsing the dishes -- can use a third less water than washing the dishes by hand, saving up to 10 to 20 gallons of water a day. Simply scrape large pieces of food off your dishes and let the dishwasher handle the rest. And by using the air-dry setting (instead of heat-dry), you will consume half the amount of electricity without spending a dime.

Lower the Temp in Your Fridge

As one of the biggest appliances in your kitchen, the refrigerator is also one of the most power hungry, accounting for 10 to 15 percent of the average home energy bill each month. Set the refrigerator thermostat to maintain a temperature between 38 and 42 degrees (F). This temperature will protect your food from spoiling while saving electricity. Twice a year, clean the condenser coil at the back of your fridge. Condenser coils tend to get dusty, making them less efficient.

Give Up 2 Degrees

By snuggling under a blanket on the couch on a snowy winter night instead of turning up the heat, or enjoying the breeze from a fan in the height of summer instead of turning up the air conditioning, you can save pounds of pollution, as well as some money off your utility bills. Set your thermostat in winter to 68 degrees F (20° C) or less during the daytime and 55 degrees F (13° C) before going to sleep or when you are away for the day. And during the summer, set thermostats to 78 degrees F (26° C) or more.

Give Up Dry Cleaning

Until recently, almost all dry cleaners used a cancer-causing chemical called perchloroethylene, also known as Perc or TCE. Traces of this toxic chemical remain on your clothes after dry cleaning and will evaporate into the air in your car or home. If you have to use a traditional dry cleaner, take your dry cleaning out of the plastic and air it outside or near a window before hanging it in your closet. To avoid the need for dry cleaning at all, make customer care a part of your clothing purchase decisions and choose fabrics that don't require dry cleaning at all.

Stop Wasting Gas

Increase your gas mileage by checking your tire pressure. If every American kept his or her tires properly inflated, we could save 2.8 billion gallons (10.6 billion liters) of gasoline a year -- so inflate the tires on your car or truck and continue to do so once a month or as necessary.

Looking for...



A local crafter is looking for some metal coffee cans with lids to use for an upcoming project. If you have some you would like to donate, please drop them off at the Recycling Dept. They are needed by the end of January. She does NOT need the plastic ones.

The Recycling Dept. no longer sells compost bins. Composting information and diagrams on how to build your own bins is still available.



What type of plastics can I recycle?

Plastic bottles & containers, tubs & lids # 1-7

Do I need to remove the lid?

Yes and no. Plastic bottles should be rinsed and flattened before putting the lid back on. Please do not recycle your bottle lids separately as they will fall through the sorting machine. Plastic container lids can be recycled separately. Lids from glass containers can be thrown away and metal lids from glass containers can be recycled separately. If in doubt, leave it on.

Do I need to flatten my containers?

Yes! Larger items such as milk jugs and cardboard boxes take up a lot of space. Please flatten all larger items as this will save space and money. Site attendants will be checking to see that your items are prepared properly. Due to budget cuts, there isn't money for more dumpsters, so please flatten your items!

**RECYCLING
Q & A**

Did you get new electronics for Christmas? If so, don't forget to recycle your old ones. Call the Recycling Dept. at 715-532-2167 to learn how.