

How to reduce, reuse and  
recycle in Dakota County

# Home Recycling Guide



*Dakota*  
COUNTY



This guide offers useful information, options and tips for how to

*reduce* the amount of waste we generate, *reuse* goods to get the most out of them and *recycle* items when they are no longer useful.

Keep it handy and refer to it when you have questions about reducing, reusing and recycling in Dakota County.

Stay up-to-date on responsible household waste disposal and recycling at [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *Green Guide*.

Recycling or disposal questions? Call 952-891-7557.

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# REDUCE

## REDUCE WASTE BY OPTING OUT OF UNWANTED MAIL YOU RECEIVE



Preapproved credit offers ..... [www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com)

Coupon mailers ..... [www.redplum.com](http://www.redplum.com), search *remove address*  
..... [www.valpak.com](http://www.valpak.com), click *Address Removal* at bottom of page

Money Mailer ..... [listmanagercontact@moneymailer.com](mailto:listmanagercontact@moneymailer.com)

Phone books ..... [www.yellowpagesoptout.com](http://www.yellowpagesoptout.com)

Catalogs ..... [www.catalogchoice.org](http://www.catalogchoice.org)

Former resident mail ..... [www.usps.com/manage](http://www.usps.com/manage)

Get more tips at ..... [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *junk mail*

*Stop  
the junk  
before it  
gets to  
you.*





# REDUCE

## REDUCE FOOD WASTE BY SHOPPING, EATING AND SAVING SMARTER



### Buy smart

- Make a shopping list and stick to it to save money and make fewer shopping trips.
- Five bananas for \$1 is a deal, but only if you eat all five. Many stores offer the sale price even if you buy a lower quantity.
- Shop the bulk bins for grains, nuts and spices so you purchase only the quantity you will use.
- Check your pantry, fridge and freezer before making your grocery list.
- Shop the salad bar for dishes or salads that call for small amounts of different types of vegetables.



### Keep foods fresh longer

- Place ripe avocados in the fridge.
- Keep herbs longer by putting their stems in a glass of water.
- Store flour in the freezer to keep it fresh almost twice as long.
- Wrap leftover cheese loosely in wax paper — not plastic.
- Place a slice of bread in your brown sugar to soften it up.

### Revitalize food you thought was inedible

- Reinvigorate wilted veggies with a quick 5–10-minute soak in ice water.
- Make stale chips and crackers crisp again with a minute or two in a regular or toaster oven.
- Fix salty soups by adding vinegar, lemon juice, brown sugar, water, crushed tomatoes or unsalted broth.
- Remove much of the burned flavor from foods by scooping the unblackened portion into a new pot and covering it with a damp cloth for 10 minutes.
- Puree overcooked vegetables to transform them into soups or sauces.

Get downloadable tools, tips and resources at [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *food waste*.

# REUSE

## SAVE MONEY, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES BY FIXING AND REUSING



### Donate, repurpose and buy used

Extend the life of items you no longer need or want by donating or repurposing them and save money by buying used. A number of donation centers and shops to buy used are located in Dakota County. [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *donate your stuff*.

### Repair your stuff at a Fix-it Clinic

**FIX-IT Clinic**

Get help fixing household items for free at a monthly Dakota County Fix-it Clinic. Residents can bring everything from clothes to jewelry and coffee makers to vacuums for free help with repairs. If you like troubleshooting repairs on broken items or mending clothes, consider volunteering at a Fix-it Clinic. [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *fix-it clinics*.

### Get free products

**The Recycling Zone**

Before buying new products, stop by the Reuse Area at The Recycling Zone to pick up paint, cleaning products, fertilizer and more for free. Products change every day so stop by often. Have extra products you no longer need? Bring them in for others to use. Must be in original container. Residents must be 18 years of age or older.





# RECYCLE

## RECYCLING AT HOME

Place these recyclables in a paper bag or directly in your recycling cart.



### NOT ACCEPTED

- × Plastic bags and wrap
- × Styrofoam™ products
- × Ropes, hoses and chains
- × Batteries
- × Beverage and food pouches
- × Dishes and drinking glasses

- × Plastic straws and utensils
- × Medical sharps
- × Condiment packages
- × Snack bags and wrappers



**No plastic bags in recycling carts**

### Paper

(Staples and window envelope plastic okay)

- Mail, office and school papers
- Magazines and catalogs
- Newspapers and inserts
- Notebooks
- Paper bags
- Phone and unusable paperback books
- Paper towel/toilet paper cores



### Cardboard and boxes

(Flatten)

- Pop and beer cases
- Boxes
  - Cereal, cracker and pasta
  - Shoes, gifts and electronics
  - Toothpaste and medicine
  - Dryer sheets and detergent
  - Tissue
  - Pizza



### Cartons

(Empty, no washing needed)

- Milk, soup, broth and wine cartons
- Juice boxes



### Plastic

(Empty, caps on, labels okay)

- Bottles
  - Water, soda and juice
  - Laundry and dish soap
  - Shampoo, soap and lotion
  - Ketchup and salad dressing
- Milk and juice jugs
- Margarine, cottage cheese and other tubs
- Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups
- Clear produce and deli containers



### Metal cans

(Empty, labels okay)



### Glass Bottles and Jars

(Empty, labels okay)



Find ways to recycle more at [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *recycle at home*.



## CHOOSING A HAULER

- Find a list of licensed haulers for your city and what they accept at [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *choose a hauler*.
- Ask about weekly recycling collection or a free extra bin.

### Know what your hauler accepts

See a full list of what your hauler accepts at [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *recycle at home*.

### Hauler fact

It is illegal for haulers to take items in your recycling cart to a landfill or incinerator. If you suspect your recycling is not being recycled, call Dakota County at 952-891-7557.

# RECYCLE

## BULKY ITEMS DROP-OFF



There are several ways to get rid of bulky items that can't go in your trash or recycling cart. Use one of these options or find alternatives using the online Dakota County Green Guide.

- Donate reusable items — many organizations provide free pick-up service.
- Ask your trash hauler or a junk company for a one-time, large item pick-up.
- Arrange for a temporary dumpster.
- Bring items to your city's next clean-up event or to one of the businesses listed below.

Call for hours and fees.	Appliances	Building fixtures (toilets, etc.)	Building materials	Concrete	Carpet	Electronics	Furniture	Mattresses/ box springs	Scrap metal	Tires	Treated wood
<b>REUSABLE ITEMS</b>											
<b>Bridging</b> 201 W. 87th St., Bloomington 952-888-1105 Pick-up available for a fee.							✓	✓			
<b>Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity ReStore</b> 2700 Minnehaha Ave., Minneapolis 612-588-3820 Pick-up available for a fee.	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓				✓
<b>MATERIALS THAT CAN'T BE REUSED</b>											
<b>AVR, Inc.</b> 15305 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd., Apple Valley 952-432-7132				✓							
<b>Brotex, Inc.</b> 840 Hampden Ave., St. Paul 651-645-5721					✓						
<b>Certified Recycling</b> 14305 Ewing Ave., Burnsville 952-894-1448	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
<b>Freeway Transfer Station</b> 1020 W. Black Dog Rd., Burnsville 952-890-5300	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>J.R.'s Advanced Recyclers</b> 5 items or less: 8980 Jefferson Trail, Inver Grove Heights 651-454-5995 More than 5 items: 10619 Briggs Drive, Inver Grove Heights 651-454-9215	✓					✓			✓		
<b>Randy's Environmental Services</b> 12620 Vincent Ave. S., Burnsville 763-972-3335	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>The Recycling Zone</b> 3365 Dodd Rd., Eagan 651-905-4520						✓			✓	✓	





# RECYCLE

## CHEMICALS, ELECTRONICS & OTHER ITEMS DROP-OFF



Many household items, yard and garden chemicals and hazardous waste are accepted at The Recycling Zone — most items for free.

### ACCEPTED ITEMS

- Batteries
- Chemicals
- Corks
- Electronics  
(fee for TVs and computer monitors)
- Eyeglasses
- Holiday lights and cords
- Home sharps
- Household hazardous waste
- Ink cartridges
- Recyclables
- Scrap metal
- Tires (fee)

See all accepted materials at [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *Recycling Zone* or request a brochure.

### DROP-OFF HOURS

Wednesday: 9 a.m.–8 p.m.  
Thursday: noon–8 p.m.  
Friday: 9 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Saturday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.  
Closed on major holidays.

The Recycling Zone  
3365 Dodd Road, Eagan  
651-905-4520

A driver's license  
is required.



## The Recycling Zone



### NOT ACCEPTED

- × Appliances
- × Carpet
- × Lumber
- × Humidifiers/dehumidifiers
- × Furniture
- × Mattresses
- × Medical
- × Yard waste.

# RECYCLE

## MEDICATIONS DROP-OFF



Safely dispose of medications for free at drop-box locations throughout Dakota County. Do not flush or put medications down the drain or in the trash.

### ACCEPTED ITEMS

- Prescription, over-the-counter and pet medications in any form (pill, liquid, cream, spray, powder)
- Vials
- IV bags
- EpiPens®
- Inhalers
- Patches

*Help keep  
medications  
out of our  
drinking water.*

### NOT ACCEPTED

- × Needles
  - × Syringes
  - × Lancets
  - × Thermometers
- These items are accepted at The Recycling Zone.

### DROP-OFF LOCATIONS 24/7

**Dakota County Law Enforcement Center**, 1580 Highway 55, Hastings  
**Burnsville Police Station**, 100 Civic Center Parkway (available mid-2018)  
**Inver Grove Heights Police Station**, 8150 Barbara Ave.  
**Mendota Heights Police Station**, 1101 Victoria Curve  
**Rosemount Police Station**, 2875 145th St. W.  
**Walgreens**, 15250 Cedar Ave. S., Apple Valley  
**West St. Paul Police Station**, 1616 Humboldt Ave.

### MONDAY–FRIDAY 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

**Apple Valley Police Station**, 7100 147th St. W.  
**Eagan Police Station**, 3830 Pilot Knob Road  
**Farmington Police Station**, 19500 Municipal Drive  
**Lakeville Police Station**, 9237 183rd St. W.  
**South St. Paul Police Station**, 125 Third Ave. N.



# RECYCLE

## CONFIDENTIAL DOCUMENT DROP-OFF



Bring confidential documents to be shredded to one of the drop-off locations below or to a shredding event. Find events at [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *Green Guide*.

Shredded paper in your recycling cart causes problems at sorting facilities. Place shredded paper in a paper bag and bring it to The Recycling Zone in Egan.

## DROP-OFF LOCATIONS — call for hours and fees

### Veteran's Shredding

1800 Cliff Road E., Burnsville  
952-758-2980

### Mail Pack & Ship

14870 Granada Ave., Apple Valley  
952-432-2323

### Randy's Environmental Services

12620 Vincent Ave. S., Burnsville  
763-972-3335

### FedEx Office Print & Ship Centers —

Apple Valley, Burnsville, Egan,  
Lakeville, West St. Paul

**Office Depot/Max** — Apple Valley,  
Egan, Inver Grove Heights

**Staples** — Apple Valley

**The UPS Store** — Apple Valley,  
Burnsville, Egan, Hastings,  
West St. Paul

## PLASTIC BAGS AND WRAP

Bring clean, dry plastic bags or wrap to these locations.

### ACCEPTED

- Retail bags
- Newspaper sleeves
- Dry cleaning bags
- Wrap from household products (paper towels, toilet paper and bottled water)
- Zip-top food storage bags (remove zipper)
- Bubble wrap, deflated air pillows
- Plastic shipping envelopes
- Salt bags (remove handle)

### DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

- Cub Foods
- HyVee
- JCPenney
- Kohl's
- Lowe's
- Lunds & Byerlys
- Target
- Walmart



# RECYCLE

## ORGANICS DROP-OFF

Put your food scraps, non-recyclable paper and certified-compostable products to work.

Bring them to a community collection site for free to turn them into valuable compost.

3 easy steps to drop-off your organics

- 1 Sign up.** Call 952-891-7557 or email [organics@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:organics@co.dakota.mn.us) to get information and a drop-off access code.
- 2 Collect.** A list of acceptable items will be sent to you and is available online.
- 3 Drop off.** Bring bagged organics to a drop-off location.



- **Thompson County Park**  
360 Butler Ave.  
West St. Paul
- **Lebanon Hills Regional Park**  
Holland Lake Trailhead  
1100 Cliff Road  
Egan

Learn more at [www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *organics recycling*.

**Compost at home. See page 14.**



*Turn  
your food  
waste into  
something  
good.*





# RECYCLE

## YARD WASTE



Putting yard, garden and tree waste in the trash is illegal. Use one of these options to get rid of your yard waste.

### Compost at home

Composting at home is easier than you think and you can use it to add nutrients to your soil to reduce the need for fertilizers and pesticides. Buy a bin or build your own.

[www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *composting at home*.

Dakota County residents get an additional \$15 off already discounted compost bins through the Recycling Association of Minnesota during the annual spring sale. Order a bin at [www.recycleminnesota.org](http://www.recycleminnesota.org).

### Individual curbside collection

Contact your waste hauler to schedule a one-time or recurring yard waste pick-up. Your hauler will provide information on how to prepare your yard waste and any associated fees.

### Drop-off locations

Take your yard waste to a compost site. All yard waste must be in certified-compostable bags, paper bags or reusable containers.

	Open	Accepted items		
		Leaves & grass	Trees & shrubs	Sod & soil
<b>B &amp; D Wood Recycling and Composting</b> 6520 280th St. W., Northfield 612-685-3037	Year-round	✓	✓	✓
<b>Gertens</b> 5500 Blaine Ave., Inver Grove Heights 651-209-3511	Year-round	✓	✓	✓
<b>Gertens R.E.S. Facility</b> 805 Yankee Doodle Rd., Eagan 651-209-3511	Seasonal	✓	✓	✓
<b>Hastings Yard Waste/Demo Drop-off Site</b> (Hastings residents only) 425 31st St. E. 651-459-1887	Seasonal	✓	✓	
<b>South St. Paul Compost Site</b> 681 Verderosa Ave., South St. Paul 651-554-3260	Seasonal	✓		✓
<b>The Mulch Store</b> 1030 West Cliff Rd., Burnsville 952-736-1915	Seasonal	✓	✓	✓
<b>The Mulch Store</b> 16454 Blaine Ave. E., Rosemount 651-423-4401	Year-round	✓	✓	✓

## Resources



### Monthly e-news

Get recycling tips, information on recycling events and other environmental news sent to your inbox every month.

[www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *e-news*, choose "Environmental Resources News for Residents."

### Master Recycler/Composter course

Learn how to inspire others to reduce waste, recycle and compost during this 6-week course. Graduates volunteer 30 hours to put their skills to work.

[www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *master recycler*.

### The Recycling Zone Educational Experience

Schedule a free hour-long educational experience at The Recycling Zone for your group to learn the link between a healthy environment and properly managing household hazardous waste and recyclables.

[www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *educational experience* or call 952-891-7557.

### Tour de Trash

Visit a landfill, compost site, recycling facility and The Recycling Zone during our annual Tour de Trash and get a behind-the-scenes look at what happens to your trash and recycling. Open to residents age 16 and older.

[www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *tour de trash*.

### Recycle at Work

Your business may be eligible for up to \$10,000 in funding for programs that help reduce waste, start or improve recycling or organics recycling. No match required. All businesses can order free container labels, download recycling guides and more.

[www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *business recycling*.

### Recycle at School

Get free containers, labels, educational resources and technical assistance to improve recycling and start organics recycling at your public or private school.

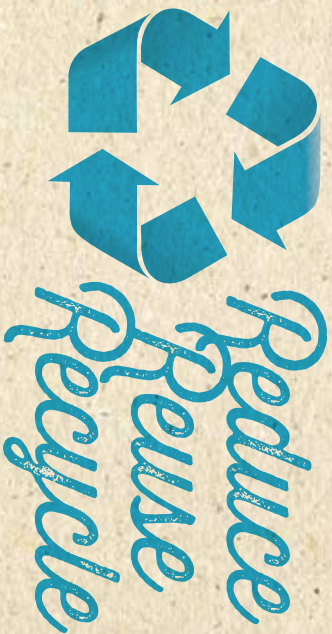
[www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *school recycling*.

### Education kits and speakers

Request free handouts, displays, presentations and activity resources for teachers, students and community groups to raise awareness and teach about a variety of environmental topics.

[www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *environmental education*.





**Know where it goes.**

[www.dakotacounty.us](http://www.dakotacounty.us), search *Green Guide*.

**Recycling or disposal questions?**

Call 952-891-7557.

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*Dakota*  
C O U N T Y

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14955 Galaxie Avenue  
Apple Valley, MN 55124

