

Healthy Rural Living



Use this resource for information and advice on recycling, waste reduction and conservation practices in Dakota County.

Dakota
COUNTY

Recycle right

Recycling saves energy, protects natural resources and supports the economy. Place these recyclables loose in your home recycling cart. Do not use plastic bags. Make sure bottles, jars and containers are empty and dry before recycling. They don't have to be perfect — just free of most residue like food and liquids. Leave caps on containers and flatten boxes.

Recycle these items:

Paper

- Newspaper and inserts
- Magazines and catalogs
- Mail and office papers



Cardboard

- Corrugated cardboard
- Paperboard (e.g., cracker boxes)



Cartons

- Milk and juice cartons
- Soup, broth and wine cartons
- Juice boxes



Metal cans

Aluminum, tin and steel cans



Glass bottles & jars



Plastic bottles, containers & jugs

- Containers numbered 1, 2 or 5
- Soda, juice and water bottles
- Milk and juice jugs
- Margarine, cottage cheese and other tubs and lids
- Laundry detergent bottles and jugs
- Clear berry and produce containers



Keep these OUT of the recycling:



No plastic bags, do not bag recyclables



No batteries or electronics



No tangles, cords, hoses or chains



No food or liquids



No shredded paper



No Styrofoam



No paper cups, plates or napkins



No trash

Recycling Guide

When in doubt, check it out!

Not sure where something goes? Look it up on the online Recycling Guide. Find out where to recycle, donate or get rid of hundreds of household items. Scan the QR code or visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *recycling guide*.



Troubled tires

Storing unwanted tires incorrectly can lead to environmental issues like tire fires and mosquito breeding habitats. Tire fires are difficult to put out, often costly to clean up and release pollutants into our air, land and water.

It is illegal to burn tires or put them in your trash or recycling cart. Here's how to properly recycle old tires:

Pick-Up

- Call for fees.
- **Junk Genius**, 612-444-5865
- **The Junkluggers**, 763-200-6711
- **1-800-Got-Junk**, 1-800-468-5865
- **Ask your hauler**



Drop-Off

- Call ahead for fees and hours.
- **Certified Recycling**, 14305 Ewing Ave., Burnsville 952-894-1448
- **Dakota Area Transfer**, 3358 165th Street E, Rosemount 651-204-1453
- **J.R.'s Advanced Recyclers**, 10619 Briggs Dr., Inver Grove Heights 651-454-9215
- **Lloyd's Construction Service**, 4180 160th St. E., Rosemount 952-746-5832
- **Recycle Minnesota**, 8812 215th St. W., Lakeville 952-469-9806
- **Recycling Zone**, 3365 Dodd Rd., Eagan 952-891-7800
- **Tire retail stores**

Recycling **ZONE**

Take what can't go into your curbside carts to the Recycling Zone in Eagan. The Recycling Zone accepts paints, household electronics, pesticides and more. There is a \$10 fee for TV and computer monitors and a fee for tires based on size. Before your visit, review the drop-off guidelines and email recyclingzone@co.dakota.mn.us with questions about unknown chemicals or large quantities of household hazardous waste.



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.

ADDRESS

3365 Dodd Road, Eagan
952-891-7800

Scan the QR code or visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *recycling zone*.



Battery guide

When it's time to replace a battery, it is important to get rid of the old one safely. The metals like mercury, lead, cadmium or silver can harm our environment if not disposed of properly. Lithium-ion batteries can cause fires if damaged.

Bring your batteries to a drop-off location for recycling. Look up batteries in the online Recycling Guide for more locations.



Single-use batteries

AA, AAA, button, C, D and 9 Volt

\$- Fees may apply

Batteries Plus
Apple Valley, Eagan, West St. Paul

Recycling Zone
Eagan (free)

Preparation:

Tape both ends with clear packing tape. Taping the ends can help prevent fires and clear tape helps staff identify and sort the battery.



Rechargeable batteries

\$- Fees may apply

Batteries Plus
Apple Valley, Eagan, West St. Paul

Certified Recycling
Burnsville

The Home Depot
Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan,
Inver Grove Heights

JR's Advanced Recyclers
Inver Grove Heights

Lowe's
West St. Paul

Recycling Zone
Eagan (free)

Do not put rechargeable batteries in the trash or recycling.

Vehicle batteries

Businesses that sell vehicle batteries are required to accept up to five used batteries per person at one time for free, whether you buy a new battery or not. You can also bring them to the Recycling Zone.



Burning trash is illegal

Today's trash has plastics, metals, dyes and chemicals. When trash is burned in low temperature fires such as in a burn barrel, wood stove or fire pit, it releases toxins that pollute our air, land and water. That is why it is illegal for



homeowners to burn their trash, including cardboard boxes, tires, treated wood and empty pesticide containers. Violators can face fines up to \$1,000 and up to 90 days in jail.

What can you do to manage your waste properly:

- Recycle right.
- Use a trash removal service.
- Take bulky items to a local drop-off site. Find drop-off sites at www.dakotacounty.us, search *recycling guide* or call 952-891-7557.

If you suspect illegal burning, call 911 to leave an anonymous tip.

Pesticide and herbicide disposal

If you no longer need pesticides or herbicides, do not dump these chemicals down the drain or put them in the trash. Instead, get rid of unwanted pesticides and herbicides safely at the Recycling Zone in Eagan.

Residents: Drop off household pesticides at the Recycling Zone. Turn to page 4 for residential drop-off hours during drop-off hours.

Businesses and farmers: In partnership with the Minnesota Waste Pesticide Collection Program, farmers and rural businesses can drop off up to 300 pounds of pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides and avicides for free. First, complete the Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) program

application and staff will contact you to schedule an appointment. To find the application, visit www.dakotacounty.us, search VSQG. For questions, email vsqg@co.dakota.mn.us.



Bring your broken items to a Fix-It Clinic for free repair help

Dakota County residents can get help repairing household items at a Fix-It Clinic. These monthly events help keep items out of landfills and empower people to repair things on their own.

Helpful volunteers will guide you through each step and help you from troubleshooting to a completed repair. Bring up to three items that need fixing or mending such as lamps, vacuum cleaners, electronics and clothes. You must be able to carry items into the clinic, so no overly large items.

The events are free, and you do not need to register to participate. For future dates and more information, visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *fix-it clinic*.

Agricultural film plastic recycling

Bulky plastic film like silage and grain bags, bunker covers and greenhouse film cannot go into your curbside recycling cart. This is because standard recycling facilities are not able to process these materials. To help keep this plastic out of the landfill, local farmers and greenhouses can get their bulky plastic film recycled for free.

Revolution Plastics is one of the largest recyclers of soiled plastics in the U.S. Since 1998, the company has recycled more than 1.5 billion pounds of plastic into reusable bags, trash can liners and stretch wrap. Over the past ten years, more than 126 tons of agricultural film plastic have been collected and recycled from Dakota County farms and greenhouses through this program.

If you're interested in participating in this recycling program, contact John Exner at john.exner@co.dakota.mn.us or 952-891-7112.



Easy steps to compost at home

Composting at home is a great way to cut the amount of food you throw away, and it is easier than you think!

Start composting right in your backyard with three easy steps:

1. **Make or buy a compost bin**
2. **Add yard waste (grass clippings and leaves) and food scraps (no meat, no dairy)**
3. **Occasionally mix it up with a shovel or pitchfork**

Microbes will break down food scraps, grass clippings and leaves into a soil-like material called compost. Compost is rich in plant food, holds more water than regular soil, and

lessens the need for fertilizers and weed killers. Using finished compost can improve your soil health.

For more tips and details on composting, visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *composting at home*.



Smart water softening

Hard water contains high levels of minerals like calcium and magnesium which is common in the groundwater that water wells draw from in Dakota County. Water softeners use salt (sodium chloride) to reduce those minerals. Chloride that is discharged to septic systems or water treatment plants can end up in our rivers, lakes and soil and can harm crops, drinking water, aquatic life and wildlife.

Reduce salt use without losing the benefits of soft water:

Use an efficient softener.

Upgrade to a demand-initiated softener—it only runs when needed. Make sure it's sized right for your home.

Soften only what you need.

Focus on hot water lines and appliances. Outdoor faucets don't need softening.

Conserve water. Less water means less softening. Fix leaks, use efficient appliances and avoid unnecessary water use.

Maintain your softener.

Follow the manual and schedule regular checkups to keep it working right.

Salt permanently pollutes. Every bit saved helps protect our land and water.

Financial assistance for well water treatment systems



Private well owners with elevated contaminants in their drinking water are now eligible for financial assistance to address drinking water concerns. The safe drinking water grant provides funding to well owners or renters to:

- Repair or replace a well contaminated with nitrate or bacteria.
- Buy or install a water treatment system for wells contaminated with Arsenic, Manganese, Nitrate, Coliform bacteria and Lead.

Not sure whether you need a treatment system for your drinking water? Request a free private well test kit to learn about the quality of your drinking water. Test kits are available to all private well owners and will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis while funding is available.

For more information, go to www.dakotacounty.us and search *safe drinking water grant*.

Test your well water

Protect your health. Test your well water for:

Coliform Bacteria

Every year

Nitrate

Every year

Arsenic

At least once

Lead

At least once

Manganese

At least once

Call 952-891-7000 or visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *water test kit*.





Native Prairie Restoration Program

Planting native prairie plants can improve soil health, trap carbon and promote infiltration of water and require fewer inputs and labor over time compared to regular grass. They also provide food and habitat for birds, pollinators and other wildlife.

Project funding and technical assistance is available through the Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District's Native Prairie Restoration Program. Landowners can receive cost-share funding for up to 85 percent of total project costs for the installation or enhancement of native prairie vegetation.

For more information, visit www.dakotaswcd.org, click *services, land & water* or contact swcd@co.dakota.mn.us, 651-480-7777.

Reshape your lawn

The Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District has two programs that can help residents bring color and water savings to their yard. The Landscaping for Clean Water program offers free classes on the importance of raingardens, native gardens and shoreline habitat restorations. These efforts can beautify a yard while improving water quality, benefiting pollinators and protecting shorelines.

The Lawns Re-Imagined program shows residents how "lawnning differently" will transform traditional lawns into low-maintenance, water-efficient fine fescue lawns that are visually appealing and meet city ordinance requirements.

To learn more, visit www.dakotaswcd.org, click *classes* or contact swcd@co.dakota.mn.us or 651-480-7777.



Septic system savvy

Many homes in rural Dakota County use septic systems to treat and get rid of household wastewater. These systems use soil and natural bacteria to clean the water by removing harmful pathogens and other pollutants. Once treated, the water safely returns to the natural groundwater system.

Septic systems are specially designed and installed by licensed professionals to fit each home and property. But once installed, it's the homeowner's job to keep the system working properly through regular care and maintenance.

Tips for taking care of your septic system:

Use water wisely. Too much water at once can overwhelm the system and cause it to fail early.

Avoid flushing harmful chemicals. Cleaners, paints and oils can kill the helpful bacteria that break down waste.

Skip septic tank additives. These products are often unnecessary and may harm your system.

Pump and inspect your tank regularly. This helps prevent clogs, bad smells and expensive repairs. Most systems should be pumped every one to three years.

Take care of pumps and filters. Keeping them in good shape helps move and treat waste efficiently.

Protect your drain field. Don't park or build over it and keep it free of trees and deep roots to allow proper drainage.

For more information on septic systems, visit www.dakotacounty.us, search *septic systems*.



2026 native tree sale

Dakota County residents can purchase high-quality bare root seedlings at a low cost from the Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District. Trees can be used for urban and rural conservation purposes such as windbreaks, living fences, reforestation,

erosion control and food and cover for wildlife.

The tree species are native to Minnesota including conifers, deciduous trees and shrubs.

To be notified of the sale, visit www.dakotaswcd.org, click *tree sale* or contact swcd@co.dakota.mn.us, 651-480-7777.





Agricultural conservation practices on rented land

Using conservation practices on farmland benefits soil health and water quality and ensures the long-term success of your land. If you lease your land to be farmed, start the conversation with your renter. The Dakota County Conservation Toolkit provides resources to both landowners and renters to learn how to include conservation practices in leased farmland.

To view the digital Conservation Toolkit, go to www.dakotacounty.us and search *ACRE*.

For more information, contact the Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District at swcd@co.dakota.mn.us or 651-480-7777.

Monthly e-news

Sign up for Dakota County's e-news service and get environmental tips delivered to your inbox and be the first to know about recycling and water events. Visit www.dakotacounty.us, search e-news, choose Environmental News for Residents.



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