

# MRF TURF

## Fall 2023

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Manitowoc County Recycling Center & Compost Sites



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### TIRE COLLECTION ENDS OCTOBER 31ST

The Recycling Center offers a seasonal tire collection service. It runs from April through October every year. During this time, residents and businesses can bring their tires in to be recycled for a fee. Participants often ask why it is only a seasonal collection. The pricing for our tire recycling service is based on the cost of having the large accumulation of tires transported and processed at a reputable tire recycling facility. The cost is based on the weight of the tires shipped, any water collected in the tires can be shaken off as they are loaded. However, during cold weather, water freezes inside the tires and does not come out easily; this adds significantly to the weight and the processing cost. Luckily, there are not a lot of people who want to bring tires in during the winter.

### Fees and Guidelines

- \$5.85—per car tire or smaller (5 tires or less).
- \$7.75—per standard truck tire (5 tires or less).
- 19 cents per pound (\$380 per ton) for:
  - Quantities of 6 or more tires
  - Semi tires
  - Tires on rims
- 24 cents per pound (\$480 per ton) for off road tires including:
  - Agricultural equipment tires
  - Mining equipment tires
  - Mixed loads containing off road tires
- Stop in the Recycling Center Main Office **before** dropping off tires.
- Bring your waste tires to the Manitowoc County Recycling Center during normal office hours.
- Collection employees reserve the right to judge, based on tire size, and quantity, if a customer is charged on a per tire basis or by tire weight.
- Tire loads should not be contaminated with gravel, mud, brush, plastic, wood or any other non-tire materials. Loads with excessive contamination may be refused or charged a higher rate at the discretion of the Recycling Center.
- Residents and businesses with dump truck load or larger quantities of tires must call the Recycling Center before coming.
- For more information call the Recycling Center at 920-683-4333 or visit [Recycling.manitowocountywi.gov](http://Recycling.manitowocountywi.gov).

### Location & Hours:

3000 Basswood Rd  
Manitowoc

Monday—Friday  
7am—4pm  
Saturday  
8am—Noon

### Tires Accepted:

Car  
Truck  
Semi  
Tractor  
Motorcycle  
ATV  
Bicycle

**\*Rubber products that are not tires are not accepted.**



### Mission Statement

To provide materials recycling and recovery services to the citizens of Manitowoc County and to keep the public informed about recycling issues.



**Manitowoc County Recycling Center & Compost Sites**

3000 Basswood Road, Manitowoc WI

920-683-4333

[Recycling.manitowocountywi.gov](http://Recycling.manitowocountywi.gov)



## WHERE DOES OUR RECYCLED PLASTIC GO?

We are often asked where the plastics we recycle end up going and if it even makes sense to recycle them. The short answer is that they go to the highest bidder and Wisconsin communities are required to recycle them. As with many things, the long answer is more detailed than most people expect.

Note that this is for the Manitowoc County Recycling Center, other recycling centers, in other communities, are set up differently, funded differently, and may plan to process more low value material or handle higher contamination rates.

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is able to recycle about 97% of the incoming material. There is not one single destination or one single end product for the plastics we collect. When we process plastics, they are sorted and baled into 3 types: #1 PET bottles/jars, #2 HDPE-Natural (not colored/dyed) bottles/jars, and #2 HDPE-Colored bottles/jars. These types, or grades, have bale specifications regarding prohibited items, the amount of contamination, bale size, bale density, and even the type of bale strapping used. This is a standard set out by ISRI ([Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries](#)), it helps buyers know what they are getting. Some buyers have mill specifications, which are modifications of the ISRI specs tailored for their own operations, and may specify how long and where the bales were stored, or adjust for certain types of common contaminants, truck loading patterns, or overall shipment weights.

Once we have a truckload quantity of a particular type of baled plastic, we offer it for sale to a list of buyers that we have vetted for financial and environmental responsibility. They bid on the material and we sell the truckload to the highest bidder. The high bidders tend to be closer and involved in the manufacture of new products (instead of just brokering loads to their own set of buyers). The end user of the plastics will further sort and process their purchase to meet their needs. Most of the plastics we collect move within a 3-4 state region with many going to companies involved with bottle to bottle recycling, medical and retail packaging, storm-water drainage pipe, or carpeting. While we do business with multiple plastic buyers, and some specialize in certain grades, an example of one of our regulars is [Tabb Packaging Solutions](#).

The markets for different plastic grades are much like the stock market, they can have periods of volatility and can fluctuate with supply and demand. For some commonly recycled plastic grades, prices are typically high enough so that it makes economic sense to recycle them, and that has been the case for decades. That is one of the reasons the State of Wisconsin has a landfill ban on certain recyclables, including #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jars (see [WI DNR Landfill Banned Items](#)). Approximately 25-35% of our annual program revenue stream can come from plastic sales, depending on market conditions.

The other 3% of materials that we receive is what we consider residual contamination, or our residual rate, it is the trash and non-acceptable items that we sort out of the recycling stream. This is often non-bottle containers, plastic bags and films, bottles with lots of liquid or food in them, or bottles that once contained oils or pesticides. This material is sent to the landfill. Recycling Centers in Wisconsin report their residual rate to the WI DNR and many track it on a quarterly basis. Our program had a residual rate of 2.9% last quarter, and it has varied from 1.5% to 3.7% with an average of 3%. Our program has a low residual rate because we only accept materials banned from landfill disposal and because the haulers and municipal drop off sites that use our facility have taken steps to bring us relatively clean material. This helps us keep costs low, run the program efficiently, keep workers safe, and avoid tip fees for recycling loads. This is why it is important to follow the guidelines and feedback of your curbside service provider, or the attendants at your municipalities drop off site, they are trying to keep the material they help collect free of plastic garbage and other contamination.



**Main baler ejecting #1 PET bales**



**#1 PET bale load staged for shipment**



**#2 HDPE Natural bale load staged for shipment**



**#2 HDPE Colored bale load staged for shipment**

## CONTRACTOR COMPOST PERMIT REQUIRED

The Manitowoc County Compost Sites require all contractors and businesses using the compost site to obtain a permit before using the site. The permits are free and are intended to ensure that the sites are not being abused by some of the most frequent users. Permittees are required to identify their fleet, verify that they understand our guidelines, and will ensure their staff and subcontractors are adequately trained.



Since implementing the permit system we have noticed a significant improvement. We appreciate those contractors who respect the compost sites and we are working to identify the ones who are unaware of the requirement or think it does not apply to them for some reason.

For more information on obtaining a compost contractor permit visit the compost section on our [website](#) or stop in the Recycling Center Main Office.

## Frequent issues with contractors have included dumping:

- stumps
- soil and gravel
- landscape block and concrete
- shredded plastics in lawn trimmings
- job site garbage mixed in loads
- lumber and construction debris
- logs greater than 6" inch diameter
- branches longer than 5 feet
- materials in the wrong pile
- non-residential materials without paying tip-fee.

## COMPOST SITE UPDATE

Beginning November 16 the Basswood Road and Woodland Drive Compost Sites will have new operating hours. The Basswood Compost Site will be open Monday-Friday, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm and Saturday from 8:00 am until noon. **Beginning November 16, the Woodland Compost Site will be closed until April 2024.**

Beginning November 4, the Recycling Center Main Office will be closed on Saturdays and will reopen on Saturdays beginning April 2024.

Both the Basswood Road and Woodland Drive Compost Sites are available for drop off of acceptable

yard materials during the posted hours. When using the compost sites drive slow and watch for traffic. It is advisable to avoid using the compost sites during or after heavy rains since they can easily become rutted and slippery. Do not use the compost sites outside of the posted hours.

**Accepted Items:** Grass, leaves, flowers, plants, pumpkins, fruits, vegetables, garden waste, yard clippings, brush, branches (not more than 6 inches in diameter or longer than 5 feet), clean woodchips, clean saw dust, and natural holiday trees.

**Unacceptable Items:** **ASHES, plant pots, seedling trays, bags, plant tags, or anything plastic, stumps, animal waste, sod with soil, topsoil or dirt, rocks, gravel, lumber, garbage, large branches greater than 6 inches in diameter or longer than 5 feet, or non-residential materials without paying the tip-fee.**

Loads may be subject to inspection by Recycling Center staff. Illegal dumping is subject to fine per Manitowoc Code Section 6.17. Placing unaccepted items in an otherwise designated recycling container or pile is considered illegal dumping and is subject to fine. The sites are monitored by video surveillance. If you have questions about a particular material, call 683-4333 and ask.

**Starting November 16...**

### BASSWOOD COMPOST SITE

3000 Basswood Rd, Manitowoc  
Mon-Fri 7am-4pm  
Sat 8am-Noon

### WOODLAND COMPOST SITE

4191 Woodland Dr, Two Rivers  
**CLOSED November 16 through March 31**

## COMPOST PRODUCTS

Mulch and compost products are available at the Recycling Center Main Office during the posted office hours. Purchases must be made before loading. Note that the office hours are different than the drop off site hours. Loading is generally available Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 3:30pm. Call 920-683-4333 for more info.

### RECYCLING CENTER OFFICE

3000 Basswood Rd, Manitowoc  
Mon-Fri 7am-4pm  
Sat 8am-Noon  
*(Office is closed on Saturdays from Nov 1—March 31)*



### SCREENED COMPOST

- 1 bushel: \$3.00
- 1 cubic yard: \$15.00

### NONSCREENED COMPOST

- 1 bushel: \$1.00
- 1 cubic yard: \$3.00

### WOOD MULCH

- 1 bushel: \$1.00
- 1 cubic yard: \$10.00

### SHREDDED LEAF MULCH

- 1 bushel: \$1.00
- 1 cubic yard: \$10.00

### DELIVERY

- Zone 1 (within 10mi) \$40.00
- Zone 2 (over 10mi) \$65.00



ABSOLUTELY NO ASHES

Never dump ASHES off at the compost sites. We do not accept them. Our signs, flyer, and website clearly state that we do not accept them. We have had multiple fires started by people dumping ashes. One of those fires shut the Basswood site down for 2 days. Since we started citing people, the incidence of ash dumping has declined, but it does still occasionally happen.



If you are caught dumping ashes at either compost site, you will receive a \$200 citation, even if you didn't see the signs or look at the guidelines.

Sure, you may have added ashes to your garden at one time, but we do not want them in our compost site for two important reasons. First, even if ashes seem cool they often still contain embers that can start fires, especially after being crushed by vehicle tires during dry conditions. Second, ashes may contain undesirable chemicals from whatever was burned, and we have no way to know if it was clean wood, treated lumber, or worse.

The best thing to do with your ashes is to use them at your property in your garden, or thoroughly douse them in water and let them sit at least a month before sending them to the landfill. If you have curbside pickup service, or use a municipal drop off site, be sure to check their guidelines too; many places do not accept ashes for fire safety reasons.



DRUG DISPOSAL PROGRAM

Participants should remove pills from the original container and put them in a "ziplock" style bag that is quart size or smaller. Pills can be mixed in one bag. Bring the bag to a law enforcement drug drop box. Recycle or dispose of the empty pill bottles and boxes at home. Liquids, creams, and powders stay in their original container with the caps tightened.

Guidelines:

- Accepted drugs include prescriptions, over the counter, pet medications, controlled substances, and supplements.
- Place pills in a "ziplock" style bag that is quart size or less. Liquids, cremes, and powders can stay in the original container with caps tightened.
- Pill bottles and boxes are NOT accepted. Cross out your personal information and dispose of them or recycle them at home.
- Needles, sharps, mercury devices, chemical waste, electronic glucose monitors, non-medical inhalers, and personal care products like shampoo and cosmetics will NOT be accepted.
- Households only. Businesses should call 683-4333 for disposal information.
- Practice safe storage by keeping medications in a secured location.
- Practice reduction by consulting with your physician about your medication needs.
- Never share your prescriptions with another person.

Permanent Dropbox Locations:

Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office: 1025 South 9th St, Manitowoc, 8am-3:30pm M-F

Manitowoc City Police Dept: 910 Jay St, Manitowoc, 7:30am-4:30pm M-F

Two Rivers Police Dept: 1717 East Park St, Two Rivers, 8am-4:30pm M-F

Kiel Police Dept: 619 Paine St, Kiel, 7:30am-3pm M-F

Mishicot Village Hall: 511 E. Main Street, Mishicot, WI, open during Village Hall hours.

Prevent drug abuse, overdose, and help keep our water supply clean!

YES



DROP :

- Unused and/or expired medications
- Over-the-counter medications
- Prescription medications
- Pet medications
- Controlled substances
- Supplements

NO



DO NOT DROP :

- Sharps (needles, syringes, lancets etc.)
- Chemical waste/mercury products
- Electronic glucose monitors
- Non-medical inhalers
- Personal care products (shampoo, etc.)
- Pill bottles or boxes

**AMERICA RECYCLES DAY**

America Recycles Day is a nationally recognized day designed to build awareness of recycling and its benefits, and to encourage people to recycle correctly and buy recycled products. By recycling, you can help reduce emissions of greenhouse gas and water pollution, save energy, supply valuable manufacturing materials, create jobs, and reduce the need for new landfills. People can easily participate by making an effort to learn about the recycling programs in their community. Visit the Manitowoc County Recycling Center website at [Recycling.manitowoccountymi.gov](http://Recycling.manitowoccountymi.gov) to learn more about local recycling and disposal options. Or try [Recyclemorewisconsin.org](http://Recyclemorewisconsin.org) for information on how to recycle right in Wisconsin. If you want to do more, then make an effort to minimize contamination in your recycling bin, buy products that contain recycled content, and purchase products that can be easily recycled in your community. You could even take a recycling pledge on the America Recycles Day website at [Americarecyclesday.org](http://Americarecyclesday.org) to show your support for recycling. Reduction and reuse are also great tools that compliment recycling.



We would like to encourage everyone to review the recycling guidelines for their curbside program or local drop off site. Ours are listed on our website at [Recycling.manitowoccountymi.gov](http://Recycling.manitowoccountymi.gov). Recycling programs can differ depending on the municipality you live in or the curbside hauler providing your service, this can cause confusion about what is acceptable and how to handle it. Make sure you know the common items that should be recycled. Contamination in recycling is a big issue and it often happens when people assume they know what to recycle, when in fact they are overlooking some important details.

Manitowoc County has demonstrated a very proactive approach towards recycling. In the early 90's approximately 58,000 Tons of solid waste per year were landfilled from Manitowoc County. That number has been reduced to about 32,000 Tons per year because of recycling and waste reduction efforts. In 2022 there was 4.64 million pounds of paper and cardboard, and 500,520 pounds of plastic bottles recycled through the local recycling center. Despite these impressive numbers, there is room to improve. For example, the recycling center cleaned out 161,480 pounds of contamination from the local recycling stream last year. Also, numbers taken from the [WDNR statewide waste composition study](http://WDNR.statewide.waste.composition.study) suggest that about 16% of materials going into landfills are commonly recycled materials, like #1 PET bottles/jars (1.7%), office paper (1.4%), corrugated cardboard boxes (3.2%) and other recyclables.

The Manitowoc County Recycling Center would like to thank Manitowoc County residents and businesses for participating in recycling and special collection programs like the Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep, Drug Disposal Program, Waste Tire Collection, Electronics Collection and the Composting Sites. By taking the time to learn about and use these programs, and others, our participants have helped improve our community, environment, and economics. Visit the Recycling Center at [Recycling.manitowoccountymi.gov](http://Recycling.manitowoccountymi.gov) or call 920-683-4333 to learn more about these programs.

This year, we invite you to participate in a tour of the Manitowoc County Recycling Center. Tours are available on November 15 and 16 starting at 1pm. The tour will take about 1hr depending on participants' questions; it will cover the recycling center and associated programs. Please register by calling 920-683-4333 M-F between 7a and 4p. Group size is limited to 12 people each.

**CAN'T WAIT FOR THE CLEAN SWEEP?**

If you have old chemicals and want to get rid of them before our next Hazardous Waste Clean Sweep collection event, you can take them to the Brown County Resource Recovery site. As a non-resident of their area, you will need to pay a fee depending on the type and amount of hazardous materials you bring in. They are only open on designated days of the week. For more information about their program, fees, and guidelines, visit them [online](http://online) or call 920-492-4950.

Typically, Manitowoc County holds a free, one-day, drive through "Clean Sweep" event in mid-May every year. It is free and one day only because it occurs at a temporary location and is partly funded through a grant from WI Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and a donation from Waste Management, Inc., and has a minimal impact on County funding. Plans are underway to hold a 2024 Clean Sweep event.

If you can't wait to get rid of your chemicals, Brown County is a great option and they have a stellar facility. If you can wait and prefer to be frugal, our free, one-day event is a great near-by option. Either program will manage your old chemicals in the safest and most environmentally friendly manner.

**Can't wait to get rid of all your household chemicals?**



RECYCLING DEPOT

The Manitowoc Recycling Center maintains a residential drop off area at the Recycling Center Main Office located at 3000 Basswood Road. It is open Monday-Friday from 7am to 4pm, and Saturday from 8am to noon. This site is intended for use by all county residents. There is no trash or garbage drop off at this location. Contact a local hauler or the Ridgeview Landfill for disposal of trash. Different municipal drop off sites may be more accessible to you depending on the city, township or village you are from.

General Drop Site Guidelines

- Place your recyclables in the bunker or receptacle labeled for that material.
- Remove any plastic bags or strings and take them home with you to place in your trash.
- Do not place nonacceptable items in the bunkers or receptacles.
- Do not place materials outside receptacles on the ground.
- Large loads of cardboard, paper or plastic can be placed on appropriate pile on the tipping floor.
- Use caution driving through the drop site and on the tipping floor.



The recycling and compost areas are monitored for illegal dumping, littering, and other issues. Please follow all posted guidelines.

<p><u>Paper</u> Includes newspapers, junk mail, magazines, computer paper, books with metal or plastic binding removed etc.. Paper should be clean and dry. No paper contaminated with food or oil. No paper coated with foil, plastic or heavy glue. No plastic/foil wrapping paper.</p> 	<p><u>Plastic</u> Check for a neck. <b>We only accept #1 and #2 bottles and jars.</b> Remove the caps, rinse and flatten. No tub shaped containers or bottles that contained oil or pesticide (even if rinsed). No plastic wraps, films, bags, trays, pails, packaging peanuts, Styrofoam, or any other non bottle shaped item. Please do not tie milk jugs together or tie in plastic bags.</p> 
<p><u>Glass Bottles</u> Any color glass bottle or jar can be recycled. Put into designated bunker. Remove lids or caps and rinse. No window glass, mirrors, light bulbs, clay, ceramics, drinking glasses or ovenware.</p> 	<p><u>Cartons</u> Cartons include shelf stable and refrigerated containers for wine, milk, juice, cream, soy milk, soup, and egg substitutes. Drop off cartons with the plastic bottles. They should be emptied and flattened.</p> 
<p><u>Cardboard</u> Should be clean and flattened. No soiled cardboard or cardboard coated with wax, tin, or plastic.</p> 	<p><u>Cans</u> Tin, steel, and aluminum cans. Coated cans, foil, and pie tins are ok. Empty and rinse out food residue.</p> 

**ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER REQUEST**  
Are you interested in receiving current updates recycling programs in Manitowoc County? Join our electronic mailing list to receive our quarterly newsletter. Either call us at 920-683-4333 or email [jonreisenbuechler@manitowoccountywi.gov](mailto:jonreisenbuechler@manitowoccountywi.gov) and request to be added to our email distribution list. The recycling center will not give away or sell your information. You will receive our quarterly newsletter detailing news and information about the recycling center and related events.

**SCRAP METAL DUMPSTER**  
The Recycling Depot now has a scrap metal dumpster available for your convenience. It is for clean scrap metal only, including steel, iron, copper, sheet/cast aluminum, tin, and mixed metals. Please remove excessive non-metal components.

- NO propane (or other) tanks
- NO electronics or appliances
- NO batteries or lamps
- NO garbage, plastic, wood, or rubber
- NO chemicals, gas, oil, or other hazardous wastes.



The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is operated by Ascend Services Inc. Formerly Holiday House of Manitowoc Inc.



The Manitowoc County Recycling Center is a business unit of the Manitowoc County Department of Public Works.

