

The Waste



Paper

The Western Lake Superior Sanitary District

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Reuse Redux



Reusing and repurposing are fantastic ways to score a great deal, gain quality items on a budget, and keep good stuff out of the landfill. The practice of reuse conserves resources and the valuable energy needed to produce and transport new goods.

Social and traditional media is full of “life hacks,” where objects are repurposed to make life easier or more fun. Blogs, photo-sharing sites, and television shows are dedicated to highlighting creative “re-fashion,” furniture overhauls, and whole yard and garden transformations using all upcycled materials. With all of this inspiration, where does one get started?

Let garage sales, consignment shops, thrift stores, and print/online classified services work for you, on both sides of the reuse economy: think first of items that have no utility in your life, and move them out. Donate, sell, or barter rather than tossing in the trash! On the flipside, shop these same stores when it comes time to replace or upgrade



items in your home. Sometimes you'll find a great score as-is, while other times a little elbow grease and flair will go a long ways to creating that one-of-a-kind item you seek.

The Twin Ports are home to many organizations that accept donations of used items for resale (Habitat ReStore, Goodwill, Savers, Salvation Army) or consignment for adult or children's clothing and other great stuff. Craigslist, newspapers, and Facebook-based sales/swap let you scour deals from your own home, or plan a weekend of garage sale-ing. Western Lake Superior Sanitary District offers two free resources for obtaining items—the Materials Recovery Center (MRC) on Rice Lake Road (bulky durable goods like furniture, sporting equipment, building supplies) and the Household Hazardous Waste Facility (products like paints, solvents, adhesives, and more) at 27th Ave W. and the waterfront. Both have reuse programs that prevent waste by offering folks the opportunity to take useful items others have discarded—all for FREE. If you are discarding at the MRC, you might be eligible for a disposal discount if the item can be saved for reuse.

It's easy to play a part in the reuse revolution by buying durable, quality items when new is needed, then shopping used or “shopping” WLSSD's reuse programs to get the job done.

The 3 Rs of the reuse lifestyle—repair, repurpose, and recirculate—may just be your new mantra.

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Recycled paper made with
30% post-consumer waste,
processed chlorine-free and
acid-free



ABLAMMY!

Safe Disposal of Unwanted Ammunition & Explosives



Ammunition doesn't typically "go bad", but sometimes folks find themselves with unwanted or unusable ammunition.

Ammunition includes projectiles for guns, rifles, pistols, other fire arms, including cartridges with firing pins, rim fire cartridges, shotgun shells, gun powder and black powder.

WLSSD's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Facility DOES accept ammunition from residents for free disposal. Please use caution when transporting these items! Keep them away from children and in the original packaging if possible. Common cartridges don't pose a threat when moved, but avoid striking them or placing them in a fire. Gun powder is much more sensitive and should be handled as little as possible. Containers should be sound and sealed. If disposing of a large amount of ammunition, call ahead during regular business hours (218) 722-3336.

Explosives and reactive materials, including dynamite, TNT, blasting caps and loaders, picric acid, and ethers are NOT accepted at the WLSSD HHW Facility. Explosives are very dangerous and should be handled only by trained experts. To safely dispose of explosives, call 911. Area law enforcement agencies are trained to survey the situation and respond when necessary. Don't transport, move or disturb explosives!

Of particular concern at HHW are picric acid and ethers because they become unstable over time. As the chemical dries, crystals may form under the cap and containers may explode when opened. Do not take chances with any suspected explosive materials, call 911 and let the experts take it from there.

TRASH TRIVIA

QUESTION

What are five small appliances that could be recycled for a small fee at the WLSSD Materials Recovery Center?

All correct answers received by 5 pm on Tuesday, November 24th, will be entered into a drawing for a reusable shopping bag kit with recyclable items. Please email your answer to wastepaper@wlssd.com

LAST ISSUE'S ANSWER:

Q. How much does WLSSD spend each year on the wastewater treatment plant's electrical use?

A. Wastewater treatment is an energy-intensive process. Each year, WLSSD spends about \$3 million dollars to clean the region's dirty water.

WLSSD has embarked upon a multi-stage energy project to become more energy self-sufficient in the future—reining in future costs to maintain equitable rates for its municipal and industrial customers.

* Limit one winner per household per year



Questions?

Visit wlssd.com

or call the Hotline at **218-722-0761**



Residential Food Waste Drop Sites



email: gardengreen@wlssd.com

5 Convenient Locations

WLSSD's 27th Ave W Yard Waste Site during regular facility hours. The bin moves to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility in winter months (hours on page 4). Obtain free bags from staff.

Marshall Hardware (parking lot at 4415 E Superior St). Bags for sale in store.

WLSSD's Materials Recovery Center at Rice Lake and Ridgeview Roads during regular facility hours (hours on page 4). Obtain free bags from staff.

Chester Creek Cafe (1902 E 8th St). Obtain free bags inside the cafe.

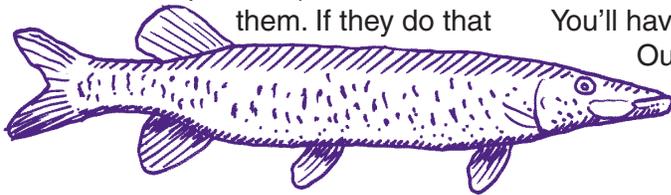
Willard Munger Inn (7408 Grand Ave). Obtain free bags from Inn staff.

Microbeads Mean Macro Problems

Tiny plastic beads are in a lot of consumer products—from acne scrubs to toothpaste—to help clean skin and teeth clean. But those beads are proving to be an environmental problem.

Tiny plastic beads, or microbeads, aren't toxic in and of themselves. The problem is that wastewater treatment plants aren't designed to remove all the beads. So they pass right through our treatment plants and into rivers and lakes.

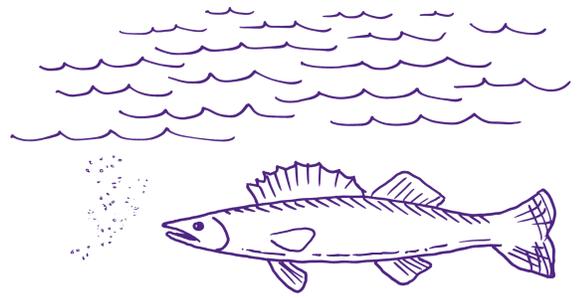
Beads look a lot like food (think artificial fish eggs or tiny plastic plankton) and fish eat them. If they do that



enough, they'll pass up real food with real nutrition and will be harmed. The little plastic beads also soak up toxins that may be passed on through the food chain.

Some states have passed laws banning the ultra-tiny beads, and many others, including Minnesota are considering bans. Laws have been introduced at the federal level, too. You can help fish, our lakes and wastewater treatment plants by looking out for products with the beads and finding suitable replacements.

You'll have to do some label reading. Our fish will thank you for your effort.



Look for these words in the ingredient list of your products: polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), polyethylene terephthalate (PET) or polymethyl methacrylate (PMMA). Some labels will say "microbeads" right up front.

Scientists have documented that microbeads are in our lakes, and are working on studies to determine how much impact they have on fish and other aquatic life. Meanwhile, microbeads fall into the category of products with suitable, non-harmful replacements.



More free paint disposal options

Paint producers have teamed up with local retailers to offer free disposal of unwanted paints, stains and other coatings. Visit the website for current information about participating retailers' hours, locations and important program limitations.

www.paintcare.org

No Curbside Recycling?



Look for recycling information in:

- your township newsletter
- wlssd.com

Convenient recycling drop off centers are located in area townships:

Canosia, Duluth, Fredenberg, Grand Lake, Lakewood, Midway, North Star, Rice Lake & Solway

Separate these items from your trash:

- Plastic (household bottles, tubs, jugs, jars & lids)
- Glass (clear, brown & green)
- Aluminum Cans (food & beverage cans)
- Metal Cans (food & beverage cans)
- Newspapers & Magazines (including glossy inserts)
- Office Paper (letter, copier, notebook or computer paper)
- Boxboard or Pasteboard (cereal, soda & pasta boxes)
- Corrugated Cardboard (clean, free of oil & food)



Western Lake Superior Sanitary District FACILITY HOURS

Watch for NEW Hours to start January 1!
Questions? 218-722-0761 • wlssd.com

LOCATION	FOR DISPOSAL OF	OPERATING HOURS
Yard Waste Compost Site 27th Ave West & Courtland Street 	Grass, leaves, garden debris Free Brush and branches \$8/cu yd Dirt and sod (3 cu yd limit) \$8/cu yd	MID-APRIL THROUGH MID-NOVEMBER Friday, Saturday 9 am - 5 pm Sunday, Monday 9 am - 5 pm Tues, Wed, Thurs Closed
Household Hazardous Waste Facility 27th Ave West & Courtland Street 	Paint products Free Button batteries Free Used oil & filters Free Chemicals & pesticides Free Fluorescent bulbs Free	YEAR-ROUND Thursday 9 am - 5 pm Friday 9 am - 5 pm Saturday 9 am - 5 pm Sun, Mon, Tues, Wed Closed
Materials Recovery Center Corner of Rice Lake & Ridgeway Roads 	Mixed waste \$22/cu yd Sorted, recoverable waste \$10/cu yd Microwaves 1 free per day (\$5 each add'l) Appliances \$5 each Tires 4 free per day (\$3 each add'l) Household Electronics \$15, 9, 7, 2 or Free Recyclables, fluorescent bulbs, metal Free	APRIL - OCTOBER Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs 10 am - 5 pm Friday, Saturday 8 am - 4 pm Sunday Closed NOVEMBER - MARCH Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat 9 am - 3 pm Sunday, Monday Closed

Did you know?

The energy saved by recycling 1 cereal box will power a laptop computer for about 3 hours.

Carlton County Facilities

Transfer Station
1950 Hwy 210, Carlton

Solid/Demolition Waste, Appliances, Electronics, Tires & Brush for a fee from Carlton County Residents

Winter Hours - Nov 1 to Mar 31:
 Mon through Fri 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
 Saturday 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Household Hazardous Waste Facility
1950 Hwy 210, Carlton

Closed until Spring 2016

Carlton County residents can always use the WLSSD HHW Facility

For rural recycling shed locations and hours, visit www.co.carlton.mn.us

Recycling Basics



Tips for better recycling:

- Flatten as many of your containers and boxes as possible to save space and make transporting recyclables more efficient.
- Rinse containers and remove all caps from glass bottles.
- Plastic bags don't belong in recycling bins! Use paper bags to collect recyclables since the bag can be recycled with your mixed paper.
- Be a smart shopper - buy reusable, returnable and recyclable items.

Proper Disposal of Noxious Weeds & Invasive Plants

Several invasive plants have gained a foothold in the northland and are found in our own backyards, parks, and along local streams. Sadly, some are here by invitation. Buckthorn, a once-popular hedge plant, is found growing along brushy property lines and fences in every Duluth neighborhood. A more recent invasive is Japanese knotweed—a broadleaf bamboo-like plant that can grow several inches a day and flowers profusely in the fall.

These invasives crowd out native and other desirable vegetation and are very difficult to manage. Duluth Parks and Recreation Department's Duluth Invaders initiative is combatting these noxious plants through organized volunteer efforts. Citizens should be on the lookout for these invaders. The sooner a patch of invasives is identified, the easier it is to manage to prevent further spread.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) offers instructions on its website for proper control and destruction of invasive and noxious plants.

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/weedcontrol/disposalnoxweed.aspx>

Extreme care must be taken when handling cut vegetation to avoid spread of seeds, fruits and—as with Japanese knotweed, even small pieces of stems that can readily grow into new adult plants. Cut or pull plants and stack. Let dry for several weeks if possible. Compost in place (not in your regular compost pile) or transport to WLSSD for safe composting. Before transporting, branches must be bagged if fruits/seeds are present to avoid further spreading through vegetation that falls from your vehicle. Debag at the yard waste compost site.

WLSSD's highly-managed, high-temperature composting process destroys seeds and breaks down plant tissue into beneficial organic matter; a good resolution to a growing problem.



WLSSD Yard Waste Compost Site

Closes mid-November
(weather permitting)

Reopens late December for Treecycling

Woody brush can be brought to the Materials Recovery Center all year for \$8/yard.



Fall To Do List



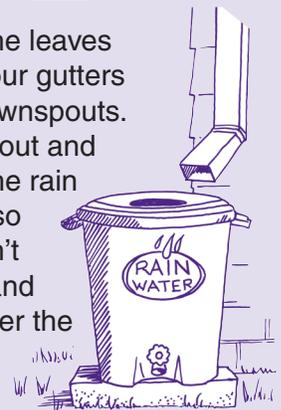
Check the garage for pesticides, paints, solvents and old fuel. Bring the items you won't use anymore to the WLSSD Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Store the rest so they don't freeze.



Still got leaves to spare? Mow over them several times and use the shredded leaves to cover your garden beds and sensitive perennials.



Clear the leaves from your gutters and downspouts. Empty out and store the rain barrel so it doesn't freeze and crack over the winter.



Doing Small Things in a Great Way

Small Appliance Recycling at the MRC

The folks who work at WLSSD's Materials Recovery Center (MRC) are always on the look-out for more ways to reduce the amount of waste items going to the landfill. The latest items eligible for recycling are small appliances.

WLSSD has been recycling major appliances at the MRC (washers, refrigerators, water heaters, chest freezers and more— the big stuff in our homes, plus little microwave ovens) since it opened in 2001. By law, these need to be recycled because of the hazardous materials that are found in them. One microwave oven can be recycled FREE each day a customer visits the MRC; major appliances are just \$5 each.

Small appliances don't contain hazardous materials and so they've just been thrown away in the past. However, these appliances usually contain some materials that have value, like metals and plastics. In recent months, MRC staff piloted a program to recycle small appliances, asking customers to place items like old vacuum cleaners, toaster ovens and electric griddles in a large cardboard shipping box in the electronics recycling building. It's remarkable how many boxes were filled up! MRC staff saw this was a great opportunity to recycle more materials.

Small appliances are now deconstructed and recycled by a contractor, much like major appliances. And since

the small appliances don't contain mercury switches, pressurized Freon® and other hazardous materials, they are simpler and safer to dismantle.

Here is a "starter" list with some of the small appliances that can be recycled:

Vacuum cleaners	Rug cleaners
Electric fans	Stand mixers
Blenders/juicers	Toaster ovens
Electric roasters	Waffle Makers

Customers can drop off small appliances for recycling at the MRC for \$2 each. Recycling small appliances gives residents one more option for end-of-life management and is a step in the right direction— recognizing more of what we used to call waste as valuable resources and keeping them out of the landfill.

Q & A

Q Where can I recycle plastic bags?

A Plastic bags can't be recycled in a curbside recycling cart with bottles, cans and other household recyclable items. But there are places to bring them for recycling—WLSSD's MRC and HHW Facility both accept clean and dry plastic bags for recycling. Area Super One, Cub Foods and Whole Food Coop grocery stores, and several local retail stores also have plastic bag recycling containers.

Determine if the bag is recyclable by pushing your finger into the plastic film and making it stretch. Stretchy plastics, including grocery sacks, frozen veggie bags, and packaging from toilet paper, paper towel and napkins are all recyclable! Cut off string ties, hard plastic handles and zip closures. One big exception: black garbage bags are....garbage.

Q Is it o.k. to donate stained or worn textiles, like sheets, tablecloths and t-shirts, to recyclers or vocational programs like Goodwill Industries? I don't think anyone would buy them resale.

A Sure! Only a portion of donated items make it to the sales floors of resale shops. Recyclers and resale shops sort and inspect textiles and those unsuited for reuse are baled and marketed like any other commodity. Even less-than-perfect wares may be sold for rags or the fibers reprocessed into products as diverse as yarn or insulation. Let the motto "Clean & Dry" be your donation guide: toss oily or moldy textiles into the trash, and recycle the rest.

Have a question? Email your question to wastepaper@wlssd.com or 'Contact Us' at wlssd.com.

The Waste Paper

A newsletter about Solid Waste and Wastewater Treatment in the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District, published twice a year for residents of the WLSSD service area. Comments and questions are welcome at:

wastepaper@wlssd.com
218-722-0761

The WLSSD provides wastewater treatment and solid waste management for a 530 square mile service area in St. Louis and Carlton Counties.



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