



## Wishcycling

Chances are the list of items that you would pretty, pretty, please (with a cherry on top) like to recycle is a mile long, but the harsh reality is that “wishcycling” (the affectionate term for dropping your trash into the recycling in the wild hopes it can actually be recycled), just doesn’t work. Let’s run through a few of the most commonly “wishcycled” items so you can feel better about choosing the trash instead, or better yet, avoiding those products all together.

**Plastic bags and film**—bags clog up the automated recycling process and wreak havoc on the machinery. Hours are spent, sometimes daily, working those bags out of the machinery to keep it running properly. Bags can be recycled at area grocery and retail stores in designated drop-off bins. Avoiding plastic bags is an even better option. Stick reusable bags in your car, your purse, even your jacket pockets. Use them at the grocery store, department stores and the mall to save on waste.

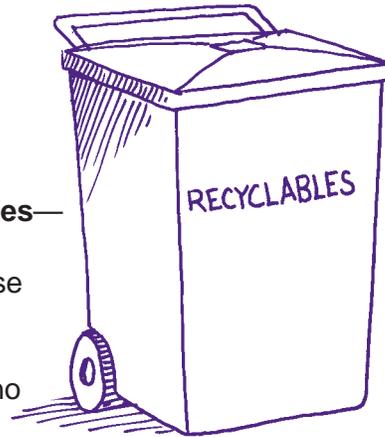
**Styrofoam®**—in order for a product to be recycled, there has to be a buyer on the other end that wants to make something out of it. Unfortunately, the market for Styrofoam®—or any expanded polystyrene actually—is very small and too far away to make it feasible to transport. This means that Styrofoam® has to go in the trash. Your best option is to avoid it in the first place whenever possible. Use your own coffee mug, choose reusable plates, and pack items in newspaper instead of packing peanuts whenever possible.

### Alkaline Batteries—

it’s a hard pill to swallow, but these babies can go in your regular garbage. They no longer contain

hazardous materials that would require them to be disposed of more carefully. Although, they do contain valuable metals, there is not an efficient way to recycle the metal at this time. The best solution is to use rechargeable batteries or toss your alkalines in the trash once they’ve given your remote every last ounce of juice they can muster.

Now that your bubble is totally burst, it’s time to start making new habits. Instead of wishcycling your bags, foam and batteries, find ways to avoid using those products. Keep your recycling bins full of bottles, tubs, jugs, jars, cans, paper, and cardboard; leave the rest to the circular file.



## In This Issue

1 Wishcycling

2 Food “Waste”: The good, the bad and the ugly, Trash Trivia

3 WLSSD @ Your Fingertips, Take it to THE BOX

4 Recycling Info, Facility Hours

5 Grill n’Chill, Spring To Do List

6 Lighten Up, Q&A

## Medicine Cabinet Clean-Out Days!

Friday, July 15

Friday, October 14

9 am - 4 pm  
at WLSSD’s

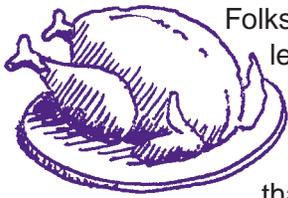
Household Hazardous  
Waste Facility



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

# Food "Waste": The good, the bad and the ugly

Wasted food and food scraps are considered the last frontier in the garbage world. What's good, bad, and ugly about this material? That all depends on where it ends up.



Folks that toss their leftovers in the trash think of food scraps as the ugly stuff that makes their

kitchen garbage can stink. Climate scientists know that decomposing food in landfills releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas—that's bad. It's also bad that lots of still edible food is wasted—tossed because it's past its due date or the serving size was too big, or that economy size bag of bananas was a great buy but there's no way a family of three could ever eat all those.

Lots of energy and resources (water, soil nutrients, and labor) go into growing and transporting food to consumers. These resources are wasted when food is not eaten or recycled.



Wait—food waste can be recycled? Yes, through composting! Now we're talking good, and the term food "waste" becomes a misnomer. When

mixed with yard waste, food scraps provide the nitrogen needed to make great compost. As the compost microbes break down complex molecules in food and yard waste, energy stored in those materials is released as heat. That's also good, because high temperatures kill weed seeds and pathogens in a well-managed compost process. Good compost improves soil to grow more food. Closing the loop is good, too.

So, stick with the good. Shop thoughtfully for food, prepare only what your family can eat, compost food scraps in your own backyard or use one of WLSSD's free food scrap drop sites.

Our newest drop site will be opening this spring at Lake Superior College. Be on the lookout for more information. Our other drop sites are listed just below.



## Residential Food Waste Drop Sites



email: [gardengreen@wlssd.com](mailto:gardengreen@wlssd.com)

### 5 Convenient Locations

WLSSD's 27th Ave W Yard Waste Site - during regular facility hours. Moves to Household Hazardous Waste Facility in winter months (hours on page 4).

WLSSD's Materials Recovery Center at Rice Lake and Ridgeview Roads - during regular facility hours (hours on page 4).

## TRASH TRIVIA

### QUESTION

What should I do with my unwanted propane tank?

All correct answers received by 5 pm on Monday, May 16th will be entered into a drawing for a reusable shopping bag kit with recyclable items\*. Email your answer to [wastepaper@wlssd.com](mailto:wastepaper@wlssd.com)

### LAST ISSUE'S ANSWER:

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

**A.** Customers can drop off small appliances for recycling at the MRC for \$2 each. These are just some of the items:

- vacuum cleaners
- electric fans
- blenders/juicers
- electric roasters
- carpet/rug cleaners
- stand mixers
- toaster ovens
- waffle makers

If you're unsure whether your old or broken small appliance can be recycled or not, ask an MRC attendant when you bring your next load to the MRC.

\* Limit one winner per household each year

Marshall Hardware (parking lot at 4415 E Superior St) - Tuesdays from 6 am - 8 pm. Bags for sale in store.

Willard Munger Inn (7408 Grand Ave) Obtain bags and padlock combination from Inn staff.

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

# WLSSD @ Your Fingertips

New Website & Blog Keep You Informed

WLSSD's new website launched last fall and is your source for all things WLSSD, including hours and facilities, an online disposal guide, and our blog featuring environmental stories and tips. We're excited about the new web site's functionality, including a responsive interface that provides you a great experience no matter how you check us out—on your phone, tablet, or desktop computer.



We examined usage data on our old website and found that overwhelmingly, people visited [wlssd.com](http://wlssd.com) to figure out where/when to take their junk, and they were checking it on their phone en route! The goal of the redesign was to make it easy to find that information (and look good on your tiny screen) but still retain lots of the educational and “deeper” information about wastewater treatment, pollution prevention, and solid waste management.

## Highlights include:

- The hours & facilities page, where all WLSSD facilities are listed along with their hours of operation and items accepted. Links in-text direct users to applicable price pages, and a map function can get you pointed in the right direction.
- A Disposal Guide allows users to type in a specific waste they are dealing with, or simply check a box for a whole category of wastes, and the disposal recommendation will pop up.
- The blog gives the WLSSD communications team a chance to dig a little deeper into how waste reduction and water quality impact the daily lives of our residents. Simply become our “friend” on Facebook and have the delightful snippets delivered to your newsfeed, or visit the blog directly on our website's front page.



## Take it to THE BOX

### Medication Disposal Drop Sites

#### **Duluth Police/St. Louis Co. Sheriff Public Safety Building**

2030 Arlington Avenue, Duluth  
Monday - Friday, 8 am - 6 pm

#### **West Duluth Police Substation**

5830 Grand Avenue, Duluth  
(Entrance is on Roosevelt St.)  
Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4 pm

#### **Hermantown Police Department**

5111 Maple Grove Road, Hermantown  
Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm

#### **Proctor Police Department**

100 Pionk Drive, Proctor  
Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm

#### **Carlton County Sheriff's Office**

317 Walnut Avenue, Carlton  
Open all day, every day

#### **Cloquet Police Department**

508 Cloquet Avenue, Cloquet  
Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4 pm

#### **Moose Lake Police Department**

600 Highway 73, Moose Lake  
Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4 pm

## No Curbside Recycling?



Look for recycling information in:

- your township newsletter
- [wlssd.com](http://wlssd.com)

Convenient recycling drop off centers  
in rural areas:

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

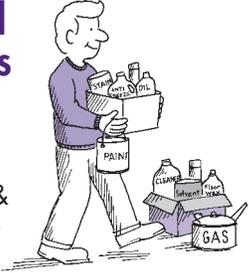
## Recycle these items:

Plastic (most haulers accept rigid containers #1-7)  
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

For Holiday hours or questions:  
WLSSD Hotline 218-722-0761  
or [wlssd.com](http://wlssd.com)

LOCATION	FOR DISPOSAL OF	OPERATING HOURS
<b>Yard Waste Compost Site</b> 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, Sunday 9 am - 4 pm Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs Closed
<b>Household Hazardous Waste Facility</b> 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 - 4 pm Friday 9 am - 4 pm Saturday 9 am - 4 pm Sun, Mon, Tues, Wed Closed
<b>Materials Recovery Center</b> Corner of Rice Lake & Ridgeview 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 Monday thru Saturday 9 am - 4 pm Sunday Closed NOVEMBER - MARCH Tuesday thru Saturday 9 am - 4 pm Sunday, Monday Closed

## 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.

## Carlton County Facilities

### Household Hazardous Waste Facility

1950 Hwy 210, Carlton

Household hazardous waste accepted at no charge from Carlton County Residents

#### Open for the Season May 3:

Tuesday 8:30 am - 3:00 pm  
Saturday 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

#### Transfer Station

1950 Hwy 210, Carlton

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

#### Summer Hours - Apr 1 to Oct 31:

Mon thru Saturday 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

For rural recycling shed locations and hours, visit [www.co.carlton.mn.us](http://www.co.carlton.mn.us)

# Grill n' Chill

Answers for all your **B-B-[Disposal]-Questions**

Grilling season is here and area grill masters are readying the tools of their trade: the grill, the fuel and, of course, the food.

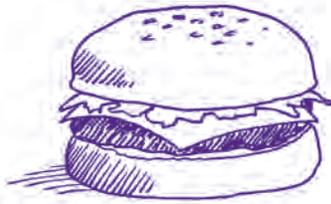
If you're looking to upgrade to a new unit this year but your old grill is still a winner, put it up for sale or gift it to a fellow fire-fiend. Unwanted, unusable grills can be recycled for free as scrap metal at WLSSD's Materials Recovery Center. Carefully remove all fuel and dispose of it properly before recycling.

Fuels can sometimes pose vexing disposal problems. Ash from charcoal grills should be placed in the trash can when completely cooled. Small propane canisters, 1 lb. or less, can be disposed of in the trash, while larger propane tanks (10-20 lb.) in good condition can be reused over and over again. Refill propane tanks at local retailers; gas stations, hardware stores, and big box chains offer outdoor tank exchange. Unwanted propane tanks are NOT accepted at any WLSSD facilities.

Propane is flammable and can explode. Even if the contents are used up, the tank still contains vapors that make it an explosion hazard. For these reasons, do not attempt to remove the valve, take apart the tank, or throw tanks larger than 1 lb. in the trash. Instead, if you cannot reuse your propane tank, contact a local commercial gas dealer and ask about their tank disposal programs.

Finally, don't forget to compost your food scraps—not that we expect any of that lightly charred goodness to leave your lips in a lurch by going uneaten. Compost vegetative scraps at home, or add in your meaty, bread-y and oily scraps and bring the whole lot to a WLSSD Food Scrap Drop Site (locations on page 2).

Happy grilling, all!



## Spring To Do List



Mulch gardens to keep weeds down and reduce the need for watering. 1 to 3 inches of Garden Green® compost spread on top of the soil makes a great mulch.



Make your own potting bench this spring, using pallets and other FREE supplies from the MRC Reuse Area. You can also try your hand at building a small hot box or even a greenhouse with a variety of lightly used windows from the same place! Check out great ideas like these on Pinterest.



Reduce the number of cleaners stored under the kitchen sink and make your home a healthy home. Deliver the surplus to the WLSSD Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Check [wlssd.com](http://wlssd.com) for non-toxic household cleaner recipes.

### WLSSD Yard Waste Compost Site

Open Fri, Sat, Sun  
9 am - 4 pm



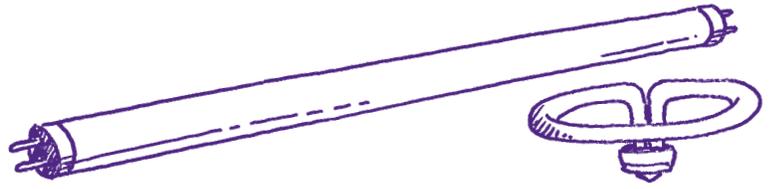
Compost you'll dig™

1 cubic foot bag (~40 lbs)	\$ 5
1 cubic yard bulk	\$22
1 cubic yard bulk loaded	\$30



# Lighten Up

Proper Disposal of Light Bulbs



Our trash is constantly evolving as technologies and habits change, and burned out light bulbs are definitely part of that mix. Different bulb types demand different end-of-life disposal, a task that can seem daunting for consumers. Take heart! We're here to help.

- Incandescent bulbs contain no hazardous materials and can be placed in the trash; this is true of traditional bulbs as well as halogens bulbs.



- Compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) and fluorescent tubes of any size contain mercury and cannot be placed in the trash; recycle them at WLSSD's Household Hazardous Waste Facility or a local retailer offering recycling services.
- LED bulbs contain no hazardous materials and can be placed in the trash.



- Less common, but still important:
- High density discharge (HID) lamps contain mercury and cannot be placed in the trash; recycle them at WLSSD's household Hazardous Waste Facility or a local retailer offering recycling services.

So what's next in light bulb technology? It looks like LED is here for the long haul and is quickly becoming even more efficient, affordable, and attractive; its easy disposal in the trash is a real plus as well!

## Q & A

**Q** What do I do with my alkaline batteries?



**A** Alkaline batteries, also called single-use or primary batteries, are not hazardous and can be placed in the trash.

All other batteries—including lead acid vehicle batteries, small sealed lead acid batteries, and all rechargeable batteries—should be recycled at WLSSD's Household Hazardous Waste Facility or at a local retailer offering recycling services.



**Q** Do I need to do anything special when I use Garden Green® compost on my lawn?

**A** Top dress your lawn with Garden Green® compost to energize your turf. Sprinkle the compost over your lawn and then rake it in. Be sure to water regularly afterward. This is especially important in hot weather, on sunny slopes and for any area in full sun.



Have a question? Email your question to [wastepaper@wlssd.com](mailto:wastepaper@wlssd.com) or mail it to WLSSD Waste Paper, 2626 Courtland Street, Duluth, MN 55806.

## 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](mailto: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.



Western Lake Superior Sanitary District  
2626 Courtland Street  
Duluth, MN 55806-1894  
218-722-3336  
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