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The Waste Not

OUR VISION

To provide Brown County municipal commercial and industrial customers cost-effective and sustainable solid waste management systems with the focus on resource recovery primarily through recycling, repurposing and energy recovery

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Hazardous Waste vs. Material

The terms hazardous waste and hazardous materials are two phrases that appear to be synonymous. But in the waste world they couldn't be more different. Hazardous wastes are defined by the federal Resource Conservation & Recovery Act (RCRA) and enforced federally by the EPA and locally by the DNR. Hazardous wastes are either 'listed' or 'characteristic'. **Listed hazardous wastes** are chemicals from common manufacturing and industrial processes, like solvents used in painting operations. These processes are specifically indexed, or 'listed', in federal regulations. **Characteristic hazardous wastes** are chemicals that demonstrate attributes, or 'characteristics', of being flammable, corrosive, or reactive as defined by the EPA. Also, if wastes contain any of 43 chemicals over predetermined concentrations, those wastes are deemed toxic. Everything else is not hazardous waste but rather hazardous material.


"So then are hazardous materials really... hazardous?"

Yes. Prolonged exposure to hazardous materials is still detrimental to environmental and human health but it is not the imminent danger that hazardous wastes pose to environmental or human health. Some hazardous materials were once considered hazardous waste, but due to readily available infrastructures to manage these materials and their hazards, along with high value of reuse and recycling of these wastes, regulatory management requirements were changed. Those wastes that have reduced management requirements are referred to as **Universal Wastes**. Universal wastes include: lamps/bulbs, batteries, mercury, antifreeze and a few others. (*Hazardous: Waste vs. Material continued on page 3*)



Unacceptable Curbside Recyclables

Lately, there has been an influx in the amount of unacceptable materials at the recycling transfer station. As a reminder, the following is a list of items that cannot go into your curbside recycling bin.

- Plastic Bags (for a list of recycling options, visit plasticfilmrecycling.org, just don't put in your curbside bin)
- Styrofoam (garbage, not recyclable through the Tri-County recycling system)
- Hoses and ropes (not through the Tri-County recycling system, they also cause damage to equipment and take time to remove) 
- Tires (not through curbside recycling, but through the Waste Transfer Station, BrownCountyRecycling.org for details)
- Clothing (not through the Tri-County recycling system, find a local clothing drop box)
- Furniture
- Electronics and other appliances (not in curbside recycling, BrownCountyRecycling.org for recycling options)

When these materials are thrown into your curbside bin for recycling they become contaminated. This contamination can drive up the cost of recycling programs through extra labor, reduced efficiency, and higher disposal cost. This material needs to be sorted out of the recycling and disposed of properly and accordingly.

These items end up in the recycling stream because people are unsure what their local recycler accepts, they would like it to become a curbside recyclable material, or other counties or recyclers recycle those items.

While the *Tri-County Recycling Guide* is directed at residents of Brown, Outagamie and Winnebago Counties, many other counties send their recyclables through the Tri-County system. This means that many residents of Calumet, Door, Kewaunee, Marinette, Oconto, Shawano, and Waupaca Counties can follow the Tri-County recycling guidelines. A copy of the Guide can be found on the Brown County Recycling website - browncountyrecycling.org/media/98015/2016recycleguide_issuu.pdf.

Please know before you throw or call (920) 492-4950 and we will answer all of your recycling questions.

Contribution by: Jon Reisenbuechler, Manitowoc County



Recycle clean, dry plastic bags and film packaging

Include these materials

- Bread Bags
- Napkin, Paper Towel, Bathroom Tissue and Diaper Wrap (packaging)
- Produce Bags
- Newspaper Bags
- Dry Cleaning Bags
- Pallet Wrap or Stretch Wrap
- Grocery Bags
- Food Storage Bags
- Case Wrap (e.g. snacks, beverage cases)
- Retail Bags
- Plastic Air Pillows
- Bags on Clothing

DO NOT include with bags and film

- NO Prewashed Salad Mix Bags
- NO Degradable Bags
- NO Tape
- NO Paper
- NO Silica Packets
- NO Rigid Foam or Peanuts
- NO Candy Bags
- NO Rigid Plastic:
 - Plastic Food Containers
 - Plastic Bottles
 - Hangers

Recycle if Clean & Dry
Store Drop-off
PLASTIC
...and other film packages beyond displayed items IF they have the how2recycle label!

plasticfilmrecycling.org

Hazardous: Waste vs. Material *continued...*

The primary purpose of the Household Hazardous Waste program is to provide a safe disposal outlet for household hazardous waste from Brown County residents. Disposal outlets for additional materials and universal wastes have been developed based on public demand. In order to continue to provide these additional disposal options a small fee is charged.

“A fee? What about my tax dollars!?”

Actually, the Port & Resource Recovery Department is an enterprise fund of the County which means the department is not funded through tax dollars; rather it is funded by user fees when additional services are requested or required. A fee is applied to hazardous materials for proper management and disposal, while also researching and providing cost-effective and environmentally safe waste management options for residents desiring to “do the right thing”. These fees help to support these additional hazardous waste management services.



What Happens to... Smoke Detectors?

The Brown County Hazardous Waste Facility does not accept smoke detectors because we do not have the capability to take radioactive material. So what do you do with your old smoke detectors?

There are two types of smoke detectors: ionization and photoelectric. Ionization smoke detectors contain trace amounts of a radioactive material called Americium 241. These smoke detectors will state “Ionization Smoke Alarm” or “contains radioactive material Americium 241 – 1.0 microcuries” or some variation. This type of smoke detector has a License-Exempt Consumer Product from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission allowing ionizing smoke alarms to be disposed of in the trash. However, many smoke detector manufacturers have smoke detector take back programs for their own models. Photoelectric smoke detectors do not contain any radioactive material and can be disposed of in the garbage as well.



Did You Know?

The Household Hazardous Waste facility is open every Thursday and Saturday. During our Household Hazardous Waste Awareness week most of the people that came to drop off their material did not realize that we are open year-round, but thought that we were just open one week each year.

We are the only hazardous waste facility in northeastern Wisconsin open to residents all year.

Safety Tip—Clearance Height and Width

Prepare the truck for travel

- Driver must know the height and width of their truck. Loaded and Empty.
- Driver must ensure their truck with clear overhead or other fixed objects.
 - If height or width is unknown, ask your fleet or route manager.
- Ensure the forks and arms are in the proper travel position while:
 - Driving to and from the route
 - At the pick-up and disposal locations



Overhead Lines

- Do not get out of a truck, if it comes into contact with overhead lines
 - If a person climbs out of the truck, they may become part of the electrical current and be electrocuted.
 - Stay in the truck until cleared to exit by police, fire or EMS authorities
 - Never touch an overhead line
 - Immediately notify Dispatch of the incident, providing the location

Container Placement

- Evaluate container location for overhead and side hazards
- If a risk is present, immediately report the situation to Dispatch

A Call For Information

If you are a business that does home collections for garbage, furniture items, appliances or electronics please let us know if you would like us to provide callers with your information if they are looking for home pick-ups.

Follow Us

For facts, general information and ideas on how to reduce waste, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest! We post information you want to know several times a week.

If you are interested in reading more about a resource recovery topic online or in our newsletter let us know! We would love to hear from you.

Email us at bc_resource_recovery@co.brown.wi.us with your idea and we will post it or include it in our next newsletter.



Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Department

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