



REDUCE



REUSE



RECYCLE

# WASTE REDUCTION GUIDE

## LINCOLN & LANCASTER COUNTY

*Revised May 2023*



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paper



# QR CODE HOW-TO

The QR codes in this guide will direct you to websites with more information. Point your phone's camera at the codes and links will appear.



## REDUCE

reduced demand for food by growing "victory gardens," conserved fuel by ride sharing, and limited consumption of new goods by repairing broken items.

**Reduce** is the first option in the waste management hierarchy. By reducing consumption of nonessential products, consumers extend the life of natural resources, prevent litter, reduce worldwide shipping of single-use products and decrease materials sent to the landfill.

Waste reduction is not a new concept. During World War II, Americans were encouraged to support the troops through conservation. Americans

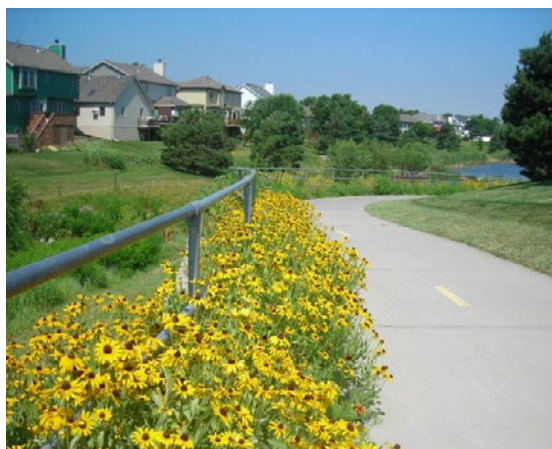
Since then, countries across the world are working to regulate emissions that damage the environment. Locally, our community must prioritize being cleaner, greener and more resilient by following the waste management hierarchy. For more information on how to reduce, reuse and recycle, call the Solid Waste Management Division at 402-441-8215 or visit [recycle.lincoln.ne.gov](http://recycle.lincoln.ne.gov).



### REDUCE WHILE SHOPPING

When shopping, avoid unnecessary packaging by purchasing bulk amounts and not using plastic bags for produce.

## INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT HIERARCHY



## WATER PROTECTION STARTS AT HOME

Not all rain and snow that falls on your property soaks into the ground. **Stormwater runoff is not processed by the City wastewater treatment system and can carry pollutants into nearby waterways.** Those toxic materials include pet waste and lawn chemicals which harm aquatic life and poison groundwater. To protect local water, collect pet waste, avoid chemical lawn treatments and use biodegradable products for outdoor cleaning projects.

### Common water pollutants:

- Litter
- Cigarette butts
- Fertilizers
- Pesticides
- Motor oil
- Sediment



Each day offers an opportunity to reduce waste.



**Consider adding these reusable items to your daily routine:**

- water bottle
- coffee mug
- food container
- utensils
- shopping bag

**Reuse** helps reduce carbon emissions by decreasing the demand to make and ship new items. When purchasing an item, consider the life expectancy of the products being purchased and where they will end up once discarded. Before buying new, try renting or buying used items at thrift and resale shops. Lincoln and Lancaster County have a wide variety of stores to choose from. See the list below for additional ideas.

## REUSE SHOPPING GUIDE

### Clothing, Housewares and Miscellaneous

Blessings and More Thrift Store | 402-450-3577  
Bud's Thrift Shoppe | 402-420-5697  
Cause for Paws | 402-420-5758  
Community Action Partnership | 402-471-4515  
Goodwill | 402-438-2022  
Habitat for Humanity Restore | 402-464-0010  
Home & Closet | 402-474-5407  
OMT! Divine Women's Resale | 402-423-2066  
People's City Mission | 402-475-6888  
Plato's Closet | 402-420-2440  
Play it Again Sports | 402-483-7447  
Ruby Begonias | 402-438-4438  
Salvation Army | 402-466-5052  
St. Louise Gift and Thrift | 402-474-1600  
St. Teresa's Thrift Shop | 402-475-7065  
The Black Market | 402-475-1033  
The Daisy | 402-475-7777  
Twice As Nice | 402-423-0083

### Baby/Children's Clothing

Once Upon a Child | 402-464-4443  
Room 2 Grow | 402-325-0088

### Bicycles

Lincoln Bike Kitchen | 402-915-2453

### Books

A Novel Idea Bookstore | 402-475-8663  
Bluestem Books | 402-435-7120

### Records/CDS

Backtrack Records | 402-464-4567  
CD Warehouse | 402-486-0047  
Lefty's Records | 402-438-0038



# RESOURCES

Households and businesses should check with the firms listed in this guide to ensure proper handling of recycled products. The City has not conducted an environmental audit on any of the firms listed. Fees and restrictions may apply. *Please call before dropping off materials.*

	Appliances	Auto Batteries	Building Material	Button Batteries	Cell Phones	CFLs	Electronics	Eyeglasses	Furniture	Hearing Aids	Motor Oil	Powertool Battery	Rechargeable Batteries	Televisions	Tires	Toner Cartridges
123 System Solutions   <a href="tel:402-464-5556">402-464-5556</a>			✓			✓							✓			
Advance Auto Parts locations		✓								✓						
Akåla Jewelry   <a href="tel:402-488-8217">402-488-8217</a>			✓													
Alter Metal Recycling   <a href="tel:402-476-3306">402-476-3306</a>	✓	✓														
American Recycling   <a href="tel:402-805-4985">402-805-4985</a>		✓	✓	✓		✓					✓	✓	✓			
AutoZone locations		✓								✓						
Batteries Plus Bulbs   <a href="tel:402-423-0244">402-423-0244</a>		✓	✓	✓	✓							✓				
Best Buy   <a href="tel:402-473-2099">402-473-2099</a>	✓		✓	✓		✓						✓	✓			✓
Cartridge World   <a href="tel:402-464-3455">402-464-3455</a>																✓
Central States Reprocessing   <a href="tel:402-470-0007">402-470-0007</a>			✓													
City of Lincoln Transfer Station   <a href="tel:402-441-8104">402-441-8104</a>	✓	✓								✓				✓		
Conner's Architectural Antiques   <a href="tel:402-435-3338">402-435-3338</a>			✓													
Don's New & Used Tires   <a href="tel:402-477-4332">402-477-4332</a>														✓		
Eakes Office Solutions locations																✓
Eyeglass World   <a href="tel:402-484-5535">402-484-5535</a>							✓									
Firestone Complete Auto Care   <a href="tel:402-467-4593">402-467-4593</a>		✓								✓				✓		
Four Brothers Auto Salvage   <a href="tel:402-467-3531">402-467-3531</a>		✓														
Gameroom locations				✓		✓						✓	✓			
Gold Smith Jewelers   <a href="tel:402-421-2253">402-421-2253</a>			✓													
Goodwill locations						✓		✓								
Graham Tire locations		✓								✓				✓		
Habitat for Humanity ReStore   <a href="tel:402-464-0010">402-464-0010</a>	✓		✓			✓		✓								
H.I.S. Auto Care   <a href="tel:402-488-8934">402-488-8934</a>		✓								✓				✓		
Hoffman's Used Appliances   <a href="tel:402-466-6252">402-466-6252</a>	✓									✓						
Home Depot locations					✓						✓					
Interstate All Battery Center   <a href="tel:402-474-1991">402-474-1991</a>		✓	✓							✓	✓	✓				
Jensen Tire & Auto locations		✓								✓				✓		
Kendle's Auto Salvage & Sales   <a href="tel:402-477-9702">402-477-9702</a>		✓														
Lowe's   <a href="tel:402-420-3660">402-420-3660</a>					✓							✓				
Major Appliance   <a href="tel:402-466-1022">402-466-1022</a>	✓															
Menards locations		✓														
NE Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing   <a href="tel:402-471-3593">402-471-3593</a>								✓								





# RECYCLE

## Recycling Contamination

Recycling becomes contaminated when unacceptable materials such as plastic bags, electronics and other non-recyclable materials are placed in the recycling bins. It is also considered contamination when recyclable materials are incorrectly placed in the recycling bin such as food left in containers and recyclables contained in plastic bags.

**Recycling contamination is the primary reason recyclables end up in the landfill and is the biggest threat to a successful recycling program.**

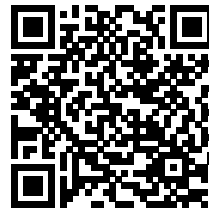
Don't spoil your recycling. When recycling contamination occurs, you risk having the entire bin sent to the landfill. Do not assume your recycling processor is able to sort out all of the recycling contamination. Plastic bags clog recycling equipment and broken glass contaminates cardboard and

other paper being recycled. To know whether an item is recyclable, check the guidelines on the container, call your recycling collector or consult the Solid Waste Management Division at 402-441-8215, [recycle.lincoln.ne.gov](http://recycle.lincoln.ne.gov). **When in doubt, throw it out.**

All Lincoln garbage collectors offer recycling services. Call your collector for more information on curbside recycling.



## WHAT IS RECYCLABLE?



Scan to view public recycling sites

Community recycling standards may differ. Locally acceptable materials include plastics #1-5, aluminum, glass, steel cans, cardboard, paper board and paper (news, office and mixed).

## TOP 5 CONTAMINANTS

### PLASTIC FILMS

Plastic film can only be recycled at participating grocery and retail stores; never in curbside recycling bins.



### GLASS

Some single-stream curbside recycling may not accept glass. If glass breaks in the collection process, it can contaminate cardboard and other paper products. One of the best ways to recycle glass is through public recycling sites.



### FOOD RESIDUE

Recyclables must be clean and dry. Food residue in containers can ruin the entire load of recyclables, causing it to go to the landfill.



### NON-RECYCLABLE PLASTICS

Do not put single-use plastics, such as styrofoam, utensils, toothpaste tubes, wax-layered fast food cups, straws and packaging in recycling container.



### TEXTILES

Textiles can only be recycled at participating designated sites; never in curbside recycling bins.



## COMPOSTING IS RECYCLING

Compost improves the health of soil by improving nutrient content and moisture retention on topsoil. Compost also saves money by reducing the need for fertilizers and pesticides. Local compost sources include:

### EarthFuel Compost

North 48th St.  
Transfer Station:  
5101 North 48th St.  
Lincoln, NE 68504  
402-441-8104

### Prairieland Dairy

13000 Pella Rd.  
Firth, NE 68358  
402-791-2228

### Soil Dynamics

1725 Avenue G  
Omaha, NE 68110 or  
16490 292nd St.,  
Ashland, NE 68003  
(by appointment only)  
402-332-4710 Ext. 3



# HAZTOGO

## LINCOLN'S HAZARDOUS WASTE CENTER

5101 N. 48th St.

***Dropping off hazardous waste is easy for Lincoln and Lancaster County residents.***

Open 9 a.m.-1 p.m. every Wednesday and the third Saturday of the month, no appointment necessary.

**Extended Hours!** Wednesdays in May – July, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.



Visit [HazToGo.com](http://HazToGo.com) or  
call 402-441-8021

**NEBRASKA**  
DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY



### SAFE HOMES FOR SENIORS

This free service is for people who are older or with disabilities who want to manage household hazardous waste and toxic chemicals. Safe Homes for Seniors will assess, identify, sort, remove and recycle or dispose of unwanted hazardous waste safely.

Call 402-441-7030 to schedule an assessment.



### DISPOSAL SUGGESTIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED AT HAZTOGO

**Latex paint** - Can be dried out and thrown in your household trash. One-quarter gallon or less will air dry with the lid off on warm days. For larger amounts, mix cat litter, sawdust or paint hardener, available at most hardware stores, into leftover paint to increase drying speed.

**Medications** - Do not keep leftover medications – instead, learn how to dispose of them the right way by calling 1-800-222-1222 or visit [leftovermeds.com](http://leftovermeds.com) to find a participating pharmacy for disposal today.

**Foam packaging** - Cannot be recycled in Lincoln. We recommend reusing packaging if possible, or recycling at Plastilite, (4930 Battlefield Drive, Omaha, NE), 402-453-7500.

Use this to find hazardous products in your home. Check whether you plan to use it up, store it safely or take to HAZTOGO–Lincoln's Hazardous Waste Center.



Healthy Homes Checklist	Use it up	Store it safely	HAZTOGO LINCOLN'S HAZARDOUS WASTE CENTER
<b>Kitchen</b>			
Degreaser			
Floor Cleaner			
Oven cleaner			
<b>Bathroom and Laundry Room</b>			
Bleach			
Disinfectant			
Drain cleaner			
Spot remover			
Upholstery cleaner			
<b>Craft/Hobby Areas and Garage</b>			
Adhesive			
Brake fluid			
Furniture stripper			
Insecticide			
Mercury			
Mixed fuels			
Oil-based paint			
Old gasoline			
Paint thinner			
Pool chemicals			
Rodenticide			
Thermostat			
Varnish			
Weed killer			

Visit us at [HAZTOGO.com](http://HAZTOGO.com)

**Sharps/Needles** - Place needles in a leak-proof, puncture-resistant container, secure the lid (i.e., with duct tape) and label "Infectious Waste" before placing in the trash.

**Electronic devices** - These devices contain toxic substances that are not permitted in the landfill, such as lead, mercury, beryllium and cadmium. For example, tube televisions contain an average of 6 pounds of lead each. See pages 4-5 for recycling options.

Last year, over **100,000 pounds of hazardous waste was diverted** from the environment. Keep it up!



# PREVENT LITTER & ILLEGAL DUMPING



Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County Beautiful (KLLCB) maintains a clean, healthy and safe community by organizing residents for litter reduction activities. Follow KLLCB on Facebook (@KLLCB) for waste reduction and recycling tips or call 402-441-8035 for more information on the following programs:



Visit KLLCB  
website

**Volunteerism** - Litter cleanup opportunities for groups and individuals are made possible by providing equipment such as gloves, safety vests, trash reachers, bags and more.

**Grant Funds** - These funds provide incentives and reimbursements to groups and individuals for neighborhood, roadway and park cleanups. Apply on the website.

**Illegal Dumping Cleanup** - Report illegal dumpsites for cleanup to 402-441-8022.

## LANDFILL

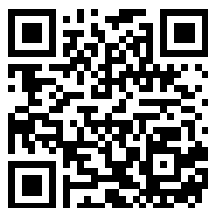
### North 48th Street Solid Waste Management Facility

5101 N. 48th St., 402-441-8104

- Monday through Friday: 6:45 a.m.-4:15 p.m.
- Saturday: 6:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Sunday: 6:45 a.m.-12 p.m.

This location is for small vehicles and trailers only. Access is permitted for any size vehicle containing construction and demolition waste. All waste, except concrete and dirt, must be secured and/or covered. Unloading must be completed by closing time.

Yard and wood waste disposal is limited to small vehicles and trailers only.



Scan for more  
information

### Bluff Road Solid Waste Management Facility

6001 Bluff Road, 402-441-8102

- Monday through Friday: 6:45 a.m.-4:15 p.m.
- Saturday: 6:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Sunday: 6:45 a.m.-12 p.m.

This location is for commercial refuse haulers only. All loads must be covered.

Yard waste, appliances and tires must be separated from other waste and deposited in designated areas. Corrugated cardboard must be removed from the load prior to arrival. From April 1 to December 1, disposal of grass and leaves in the landfill is prohibited by state law.

## CONSCIOUS CONSUMPTION

Consumers have the power to drive the demand for products made from recycled materials. Choosing products like toilet tissue and paper towels made from recycled content is a great way to support recycling. Look for labels on products that specify recycled content. Ask businesses

about their packaging and recycling methods.

For more information on how to use your purchasing power to encourage businesses to use environmentally-responsible practices, call the Solid Waste Management Division at 402-441-8215 or visit [recycle.lincoln.ne.gov](http://recycle.lincoln.ne.gov).