



*throwing it all away!*



*with the*

**3 R's**

***Reduce, Reuse, Recycle***

***A Guide to Managing  
Household Waste***



Area  
Recyclers

# The Waste Pyramid

Recycling is important, but it's only one of the "3 R's" that can help you cut down on the amount of trash you throw away. Follow the pyramid guidelines to effectively manage household waste.

## REDUCE

- ✓ Limit purchases
- ✓ Buy recyclables
- ✓ Avoid extra packaging
- ✓ Avoid hazardous chemicals

## REUSE

- ✓ Buy reuseable goods instead of disposables
- ✓ Sell or donate leftovers

## RECYCLE

- ✓ Curbside Program
- ✓ Public Dropoffs
- ✓ Compost Pile

Concentrate your efforts on the widest parts of the pyramid, and you'll be surprised how little remains to be disposed of through recycling or landfilling.

- Think before you buy, and purchase only what you need.
- Borrow or rent tools, books and other things you'll rarely use.
- Choose products packaged in glass, or in #1 or #2 plastic.
- Buy in bulk, rather than in single-serving packages
- Avoid plastic "bubble" or "blister" packs.
- Read product labels carefully. Choose nonhazardous products whenever possible.
- Dispose of chemicals only as directed.
- Call 1-877-HAZCHEM for an appointment to dispose of chemicals.

- Use tableware that can be washed and used again, instead of disposable plates and cups.
- Buy rechargeable batteries.
- Launder cloth diapers, or use a diaper service, instead of tossing disposable ones.
- Offer unwanted paint, cleansers, etc. to neighbors, or call 1-877-HAZCHEM to donate these items to the Swap Shop.
- Give old clothing, furniture and appliances to charities.
- Have a yard sale.

- Learn how your curbside recycling program operates (see guidelines on the following pages) and participate regularly, OR
- Take your recyclables to one of the ten public drop-off containers located throughout Des Moines County.
- Start a compost pile to recycle your vegetable peels, lawn clippings, etc. Use the compost to enrich your soil! (*Your local library or extension service can offer advice on starting and maintaining a compost bin.*)

# Remember to sort and se

YES

## MIXED PAPER

- ✓ Unwanted mail
- ✓ Phone books
- ✓ Magazines
- ✓ Office and school paper
- ✓ Catalogs
- ✓ Paperback books
- ✓ Tape, staples and envelopes with metal clasps are ok
- ✓ Colored paper, folders, and window envelopes are ok

NO

- ✗ No waxed or plastic coated paper
- ✗ No paper foil (cigarette packs, gum wrappers, etc.)
- ✗ No cellophane (thin, crisp, transparent papers)
- ✗ No tissue or gift wrap
- ✗ No paper cups, plates, egg cartons or napkins
- ✗ No construction paper

YES

## NEWSPAPER

- ✓ Newspaper and brown paper bags
- ✓ Including all inserts
- ✓ Bundle or place in brown paper bag or other container

YES

## PLASTIC

- ✓ Containers with #1 or #2 on the bottom
  - Food & beverages
  - Detergent
  - Health & beauty items
- ✓ Rinse
- ✓ Remove lids and metal rings
- ✓ Labels are ok

NO

- ✗ Pesticide, herbicide, oil or antifreeze containers (even if they have a #1 or #2)
- ✗ Plastic wrap
- ✗ Plastic bags
- ✗ Plastic with numbers 3-7
- ✗ Toys

NO

- ✗ Do not add other paper



# Separate your recyclables!

## CARDBOARD



You must set out at least one green bin from the Area Recyclers program

Additional plastic containers or paper sacks can be set out with the Area Recyclers bin if needed.

The illustration at left is a sample set-out. You may set out your materials according to your needs, as long as a green Area Recyclers bin is used and materials are separated.

**YES**

## CARDBOARD

- ✓ Corrugated cardboard packaging
- ✓ Flatten and tie in bundles
- ✓ Remove styrofoam and other packing materials
- ✓ Tape and staples are ok

**NO**

- ✗ No pizza boxes
- ✗ No lightweight cardboard (cereal, pop & beer boxes, etc.)

**YES**

## METAL

- ✓ All cans, including ends, lids and rings
- ✓ Aluminum foil
- ✓ TV dinner trays
- ✓ Pie tins
- ✓ Rinse clean
- ✓ Remove labels

**YES**

## GLASS

- ✓ All clear, green and brown glass bottles and jars (curbside & Area Recyclers drop-off only)
- ✓ Labels are okay
- ✓ Remove lids and rinse clean

**NO**

- ✗ Do not break
- ✗ No light bulbs
- ✗ No crystal
- ✗ No ceramics
- ✗ No white glass
- ✗ No cups/dishes
- ✗ No window glass
- ✗ No mirror glass
- ✗ No colored glass in county drop-offs

**NO**

- ✗ No aerosol spray cans
- ✗ No batteries
- ✗ No paint cans
- ✗ No scrap metal
- ✗ No aluminum siding

# Curbside Recycling

➤ A green bin from the Area Recyclers program must be used. That bin is the cue our drivers look for to determine where to stop for pickups.



➤ If you have more recyclables than will fit into your green bin, you may set them out in plastic containers, cardboard boxes or paper or plastic sacks next to the Area Recyclers bin.

➤ Burlington and West Burlington residents can purchase their bins at Area Recyclers, 1818 West Burlington Avenue, Burlington. Residents of other towns should contact their city hall for information on how to get their bins.

➤ County residents can take their recycling to one of the drop-off containers listed on the back of this brochure.

# Program Guidelines

- Recycling is picked up every other week. Call 753-8126 or 800-216-8126 to request a pickup calendar for your community.
- Materials must be separated according to the categories listed on pages 4 and 5 of this brochure.
- Recycling should be placed in front of your house at the curb, regardless of where your garbage is picked up.
- Recycling must be set out no later than 7:30 a.m. to insure pickup.
- To learn more about our recycling program and other services provided by the Des Moines County Regional Solid Waste Commission, visit our website at [www.wastewrap.org](http://www.wastewrap.org).



## Communities Served By Area Recyclers

Burlington	Mt. Union
Danville	New London
Des Moines County*	Rome
Mediapolis	Salem
Middletown	West Burlington
Morning Sun	Westwood
Mt. Pleasant	Winfield

- \* Curbside recycling pickup is not available to county residents. They may take their recyclables to the public drop-off sites listed on the back page.

# Public Drop-off Containers\*

- Area Recyclers, 1818 W. Burlington Ave., Burlington
- Bennett & Roth Trucking, Madison Road, Burlington
- Hagerla's Trading Post, Beaverdale Road, West Burlington
- Danville Fire Station
- Pleasant Grove at Secondary Road Shop
- Yarmouth at Secondary Road Shop
- Mediapolis behind the Iowa Buffalo Co.
- Kingston at the Co-op
- Sperry
- Flint Hills Golf Course



\*Public drop-offs accept the same materials as the curbside recycling program (see pages 4 and 5), with the following exception: ONLY the Area Recyclers drop-off accepts green, brown, and clear glass. All other drop-offs accept clear glass only.

**For more information, call 753-8126  
or 1-800-216-8126  
or visit us at [www.wastewrap.org](http://www.wastewrap.org)**

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