A comprehensive guide of what and where to recycle

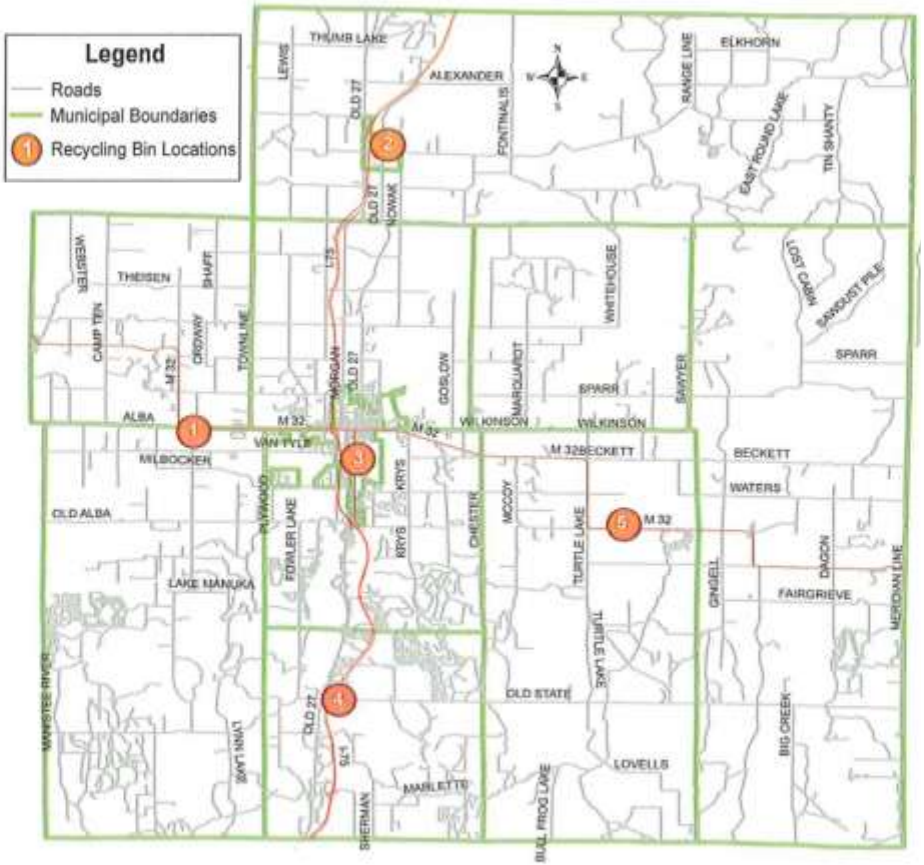
Otsego County Recycling

This resource is made possible through:

Otsego County
ESTABLISHED 1875 MICHIGAN

Otsego Conservation District

Otsego County Recycling Drop-off Locations



1. **Otsego Recycling West:** 71 Hayes Tower Road, Gaylord, 550 feet south of the M-32 and Hayes Tower Road intersection, just south of Hayes Township Hall
2. **Otsego Recycling North:** 621 Garfield Street, Vanderbilt, Northeast of the Vanderbilt Village Hall and the intersection of Garfield Street and Elm Street
3. **Otsego Recycling Central:** 931 S. Otsego Avenue, Gaylord, near Merchandise Outlet and Jay's Sporting Goods
4. **Otsego Recycling South:** 247 Old State Road, Gaylord, across from the Otsego Lake Township Cemetery near Waters, a half-mile east of the intersection of Old 27 South and Old State Road
5. **Otsego Recycling East:** 2932 Rock Road, Johannesburg, at the Charlton-Chester -Dover Transfer Station near the corner of M-32 East and Rock Road

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For more information,
visit www.otsegocd.org
or contact the Otsego Conservation District
at (989) 732-4021

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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

The purpose of the Otsego County Recycling Guide is to provide resources and information to the residents of Otsego County to help manage solid waste through reduction, reuse, and recycling. It is made possible through the Otsego County Recycling Millage and the Otsego Conservation District.

For more information about recycling and household hazardous waste disposal please visit www.otsegocd.org/recycling.html or contact the Otsego Conservation District office at (989) 732-4021

The Three Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

REDUCE: Produce less trash overall. Try reusable food containers instead of plastic bags. Use dishcloths or hand towels instead of paper towel. Avoid single-use products. Choose products with less packaging, or packaging that can be recycled.

REUSE: Find new ways to reuse items. Be creative! Plastic grocery bags make great household trash bags. Cut up old bedding or t-shirts to use as rags for cleaning. Donate gently used clothing and household items to a resale store.

RECYCLE: Drop off your clean, recyclable items at one of five convenient sites in Otsego County! Recycled items are collected and sorted, then processed to make new materials. Look for the "post-consumer recycled content" label to see if products you buy are made from recycled materials.

Recycle Smart!

Manufacturers want access to recycled materials, but aren't able to use the materials if people don't recycle right. Anything going in the recycling bin must be **CLEAN** and **DRY**.

Otsego County's Recycling Drop-off Program

Single-stream recycling: everything goes in the same bin!

Recycle these items and remember to clean them first:

- Aerosol cans - must be empty
- Aseptic cartons - packaging for liquids foods like soup
- Metal & Aluminum - cans, foils, trays
- Cardboard, flattened and dry
- Cartons - milk, juice, soy, drink boxes.
- Freezer paperboard - ice cream and frozen food containers
- Glass containers - all colors
- Scrap metal - must fit in container
- Pizza boxes - cut out greasy parts
- Paper - newspaper, office paper, magazines, phone books, brown paper bags
- Plastic containers - all types, even unmarked, clamshell containers
- Bulky plastic & toys - kids toys, garden plastics, baskets, pail, buckets. Break down to fit in the bins.
- Plastic Film - grocery and bread bags, kitchen shrink wrap, Visqueen.
- Styrofoam - egg cartons, packaging
- Marine shrink wrap
- Bubble wrap & air pillow packing materials

Recycling Bin Drop-off Locations

1. **Otsego Recycling West:** 71 Hayes Tower Road, Gaylord, 550 feet south of the M-32 and Hayes Tower Road intersection, just south of Hayes Township Hall
2. **Otsego Recycling North:** 621 Garfield Street, Vanderbilt, Northeast of the Vanderbilt Village Hall and the intersection of Garfield and Elm Street
3. **Otsego Recycling Central:** 931 S. Otsego Avenue, Gaylord, near Merchandise Outlet and Jay's Sporting Goods
4. **Otsego Recycling South:** 247 Old State Road, Gaylord across from the Otsego Lake Township Cemetery, half-mile east of the intersection of Old 27 South and Old State Road
5. **Otsego Recycling East:** 2932 Rock Road, Johannesburg, at the Charlton-Chester-Dover Transfer Station near the corner of M-32 East and Rock Road

Items are accepted 24/7.
For a map showing bin locations, see inside back cover of this guide.

Items that cannot be recycled at drop-off

Some items are dangerous to transport or handle.
Remember, real people sort your recycling!

- Batteries of all types
- CDs and DVDs
- Chain, hoses, rope, wire and tarps, can shut down the entire sorting facility after wrapping around and clogging the metering machine
- Diapers, dirty or clean
- Fluids are not accepted at any time
- Styrofoam packing peanuts
- Glass windows, mirrors, cooking pans and TV/ computer monitor glass
- Light bulbs, fluorescent, tubes, CFLs, LEDs or any type of lightbulb
- Hazardous waste and solvents
- Medications
- Paint, latex and oil paints and stains
- Sharps
- Dishes

Wishful Recycling: *When in doubt, throw it out.*

Wishful recycling or tossing items in the recycling bin that you hope are recyclable or think should be, could be contaminating inbound streams of recyclable materials and causing tons (literally, tons) of recycled items to be sent to landfills instead of being recycled. It truly does more harm than good.

Not sure if it's recyclable?

www.otsegocd.org/recycling.html
or call (989) 732-4021

Otsego COUNTY
ESTABLISHED 1875 MICHIGAN

OTSEGO CONSERVATION DISTRICT

OTSEGO COUNTY

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL & ELECTRONICS RECYCLING DAY

Program made possible by Otsego County Recycling Millage and EGLE grants

Saturday, July 8, 2023

9AM to 2PM

Otsego County Road Commission

669 W. McCoy Rd

Gaylord, MI 49735

FREE For Otsego County Residents & Landowners

ACCEPTED ITEMS:

- Adhesives
- Aerosol cans
- Propane cylinders
- Fire extinguishers
- Smoke detectors
- Batteries
- Ammonia
- Antifreeze
- Fertilizers
- Herbicides & pesticides
- Oil-based paints & stains
- Paint thinners
- Wood strippers
- Household cleaners & solvents
- Household/automotive lubricants
- Motor oil and gasoline
- Pool & spa chemicals
- Medications, vitamins, supplements
- Lightbulbs & fluorescent tubes
- Transmission/brake fluids
- Nail polish, nail polish remover
- Mercury, thermometers
- PCB-containing lamp ballasts
- Asbestos-contaminated materials
- Inks & printer cartridges

NOT ACCEPTED:

- Latex paint (see page 6)
- Weapons, ammunition
- Asphalt or shingles
- Radioactive waste
- Insulation cylinders
- Building materials
- Construction debris
- General trash

OTSEGO COUNTY

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL & ELECTRONICS RECYCLING DAY

Program made possible by Otsego County Recycling Millage and EGLE grants

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING
TVs—$5

ACCEPTED FOR FREE:

- Desktop and laptop computers
- Tablets and computer monitors
- Desktop printers and scanners
- Fax machines
- Computer keyboards and mice
- Gaming consoles
- DVD players and VCRs
- Cell phones

NOT ACCEPTED:

- Microwaves
- Air conditioners
- Toasters
- Coffee makers
- Mixers
- Vacuums
- Lamps
- Irons
- Blow dryers

FREE TIRE RECYCLING

Passenger vehicle, semi, tractor, and ORV tires accepted.
Must be smaller than 4' tall and 12" wide.
Limit 15 tires per household.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Many items can be recycled for free in Otsego County. Please refer to this booklet.
- Please do not mix liquids. Keep them in their original container if possible.
- Please stay in your vehicle upon arrival. Our contractors will unload materials from your vehicle.

Why recycle electronics?

Electronics like cell phones and laptops contain toxic chemicals like lead, mercury, and arsenic. These materials can leach into the soil from landfills, negatively impacting agriculture, water quality, and public health. They also contain valuable materials that can be reused such as iron, copper, aluminum, and gold.

OTSEGO COUNTY

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL & ELECTRONICS RECYCLING DAY

Program made possible by Otsego County Recycling Millage and EGLE grants

Hazardous Waste Disposal for Businesses - $50 plus $1/pound

We can collect hazardous waste from businesses that meet the definition of a Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) of hazardous waste:

- Produce less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month
- Never accumulate more than 2,220 pounds of hazardous waste at a time

Materials will be accepted Friday, July 7, 2023 by appointment only.

Please call (989)732-4021 by July 5 to schedule an appointment.

How to Dispose of Latex Paint

Latex paint is less toxic than oil-based paint, and is water-soluble, so it's okay to rinse brushes and wash your hands at the sink, but don't pour paint down the drain. Instead, try these options:

- Recycle it: take it to the Emmet County Recycling Drop-off Center
- Dry it up: add kitty litter, sawdust, or shredded paper to the paint can and stir until all the liquid is absorbed. After it dries, throw the paint can (with lid off) away with your regular garbage.
- Donate it: ask friends or neighbors if they need paint for a small project. Local schools, art, and theatre groups sometimes need free paint for projects and sets.
- Store it: save leftover paint for future touch-ups. Wipe excess paint off the rim, and place a piece of plastic wrap between the lid and the rim to ensure an airtight seal. Store in a cool, dry place, off the floor.

For more information on Household Hazardous Waste Disposal & Electronics Recycling Day, please contact

Otsego Conservation District

Phone: (989) 732-4021

Web: www.otsegocd.org

Facebook: facebook.com/otsegocd

800 Livingston Blvd., Ste. 4A, Gaylord, MI 49735

OTSEGO CONSERVATION DISTRICT

RECYCLING & HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL LOCATIONS

AEROSOLS & AEROSOL CANS

Otsego County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day
For information on upcoming dates and accepted items see page 4 of this guide, check the county website or contact the conservation district
County website: www.otsegocountymi.gov/212/Recycling-Information
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)

ANTIFREEZE

Advance Auto Parts
Address: 111 N. Ohio Avenue**,** Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-4566
Website: https://stores.advanceautoparts.com/mi/gaylord/
Note: Antifreeze cannot be mixed with oil or gas.
Limit of 5 gallons per visit

Otsego County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day
For information on upcoming dates and accepted items see page 4 of this guide, check the county website or contact the conservation district
County website: www.otsegocountymi.gov/212/Recycling-Information
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)

APPLIANCES

A & L Iron and Metal Company
Address: 2000 Milbocker Rd., Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-5900
Website: www.alironandmetal.com
Items: Freezers, refrigerators, A/C units (must be tagged as freon free by a certified technician); Metal gas grills, lawnmowers and other yard equipment (must be emptied of all liquids)

American Waste/GFL Environmental
Address: 10164 M-32, Elmira, MI 49730
Phone: (231) 547-2162
Website: https://gflenv.com/elmira-hauling/
Note: Freezers, refrigerators, A/C units, dehumidifiers must be tagged as freon free by a certified technician. Call for pricing

APPLIANCES Continued

East Jordan Auto Parts
Address: 824 Maple St., East Jordan, MI 49727
Phone: (231) 536-2322
Website: www.ejautoparts.com
Items: All appliances (Anything metallic– cords/cooper, brass, aluminum products)
Note: There is NO charge for freon removal. Please remove any glass or plastic shelving and drawers before dropping off

Emmet County Recycling Drop-off Center
Address: 7363 Pleasantview Rd., Harbor Springs, MI
Phone: (231) 348-0640
Website: www.emmetrecycling.org
Items: Large and small appliances made of metal.
Note: Please throw away removable parts not made of metal - glass carafes, microwave turntables, etc. Small appliances are free to drop off if metal. $5 handling fee per item for large appliances. Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, and dehumidifiers must be tagged as freon free by a certified technician. Additional fee of $15 for items up to 36" in diameter and $35 for items over 36" if not tagged.

Goodwill Industries

Address: 1517 W. Main, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 705-1747
Website: www.goodwillnmi.org
Items: Small, working appliances and electronics; flat screen TVs and computer monitors.
No microwaves, bulky old TVs, or large appliances such as ovens, refrigerators, washers, dryers, no toner printers or laptops

Great Lakes Energy & Presque Isle Energy
Phone: (888) 485-2537 Extension: 8957
Website: https://www.gtlakes.com/energy-wise/
Notes: Details to come, check out the website (refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners or dehumidifiers)

Otsego County Habitat ReStore
Address: 526 Edelweiss Village Pkwy., Gaylord, MI 49735 (near Lowe's)
Phone: (989) 731-4506
Website: http://otsegohabitat.org Click on "ReStore"
Items: Smaller microwaves, small appliances and large appliances that are white, almond, black, and stainless steal. Must be clean, in working order and less than 15 years old. No green or gold appliances. Call for more details

AUTOMOBILES & AUTOMOBILE PARTS

East Jordan Auto Parts
Address: 824 Maple St., East Jordan, MI 49727
Phone: (231) 536-2322
Website: www.ejautoparts.com
Items: Auto bodies and metal scrap parts, snowmobiles, small propane tanks, scrap cars

Goodwill Industries
Address: 1517 W. Main, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 705-1747
Website: www.goodwillnmi.org
Items: Donations of cars, trucks, vans, motorcycles, RVs, boats and snowmobiles on trailers. For items that are not titled, registration must be provided. Can be working or not working. Call for details

BATTERIES (CAR)

Advance Auto Parts
Address: 111 N. Ohio Avenue**,** Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-4566
Note: Receive $10.00 for each car battery turned in for recycling, up to 5

Auto Value Gaylord
Address: 1789 S. Otsego Avenue, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-2365

AutoZone
Address: 409 S. Otsego Avenue, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 731-4898
Note: Receive $10.00 for each car battery turned in for recycling, up to 5 batteries a day

East Jordan Auto Parts
Address: 824 Maple St., East Jordan, MI 49727
Phone: (231) 536-2322
Website: www.ejautoparts.com

Emmet County Recycling Drop-off Center
Address: 7363 Pleasantview Rd, Harbor Springs, MI
Phone: (231) 348-0640
Website: www.emmetrecycling.org

Walmart Tire & Lube Express
Address: 950 Edelweiss Village Parkway, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-5280
Note: Only one car battery per visit

BATTERIES (HOUSEHOLD)

Auto Value Gaylord
Address: 1789 S. Otsego Avenue, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-2365
Items: AAA, AA, C, D, 9V batteries

Comprenew
Phone: (616) 451-4400
Batteries: $1.00 per pound
Note: Call for more details and to set up a pick up
Other fees may apply

Emmet County Recycling Drop-off Center
Address: 7363 Pleasantview Rd., Harbor Springs, MI
Phone: (231) 348-0640
Website: www.emmetrecycling.org

Home Depot
Address: 1381 W. Main Street, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 705-8471
Items: Rechargeable batteries for power tools

Lowe's
Address: 600 Edelweiss Village Parkway, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 705-3920
Items: Rechargeable batteries for power tools, tractors, lawnmowers

Otsego County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day
For information on upcoming dates and accepted items see page 4 of this guide, check the county website or contact the conservation district
County website: www.otsegocountymi.gov/212/Recycling-Information
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)

BUBBLE WRAP & AIR PILLOW PACKING MATERIALS

Otsego County Recycling Drop-off Program
See page 2 or inside back cover of this guide for bin locations
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)
Website: www.otsegocd.org/recycling.html
Note: For materials accepted and item preparation guidelines, please see pages 2 and 3 of this guide, contact the Otsego Conservation District or visit the website above

CARDBOARD

Otsego County Recycling Drop-off Program
See page 2 or inside back cover of this guide for bin locations
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)
Website: www.otsegocd.org/recycling.html
Note: For materials accepted and item preparation guidelines, please see pages 2 and 3 of this guide, contact the Otsego Conservation District or visit the website above

CELL PHONES

Otsego County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal and Electronics Recycling Day
For information on upcoming dates and accepted items see page 4 of this guide, check the county website or contact the conservation district
County website: www.otsegocountymi.gov/212/Recycling-Information
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)

Emmet County Recycling Drop-off Center
Address: 7363 Pleasantview Rd., Harbor Springs, MI
Phone: (231) 348-0640
Website: www.emmetrecycling.org

Gaylord Community Funeral Home
850 North Center Avenue
P.O. Box 249, Gaylord, Michigan 49734
Phone: (989) 732-2230
Website: www.gaylordfuneralhome.com

Goodwill Industries
Address: 1517 W. Main, Gaylord, MI 49735
(Walmart Plaza in front of Lowe's)
Phone: (989) 705-1747
Website: www.goodwillnmi.org
Details: Donated cell phones in working or non-working order

CHEMICALS & CLEANING PRODUCTS

Otsego County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day
For information on dates and accepted items see page 4 of this guide, check the county website or contact the Conservation District
County website: www.otsegocountymi.gov/212/Recycling-Information
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)

COMPUTERS & PRINTERS

Comprenew
Phone: (616) 451-4400
Website: www.comprenew.org
Items: Batteries, LCD/Plasma flat screen monitors and TVs, printers/scanners/copiers, CRT devices, all items containing refrigerants, all other electronics
Note: Call for prices and pick up fees may apply

Goodwill Industries
Address: 1361 Pineview Dr., Gaylord, MI 49735 (near Lowe's)
Phone: (989) 705-1747
Website: www.goodwillnmi.org
Items: Goodwill Industries recycles the following items in any condition: All computer equipment including desktop computers, laptops, flat screen monitors, printers, scanners, hard drives (external or internal), keyboards, mice, speakers, cords and cables & software. (No ink or toner cartridges, no bulky old monitors)

Otsego County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal and Electronics Recycling Day
For information on electronics recycling see pages 4-6
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)
Website: www.otsegocd.org/recycling.html
Notes: No computers or printers in recycling bins

Natural Home Remedies:
Less Toxic Alternatives to Common Household Cleaners

Many brand-name cleaners used in households today contain toxic or hazardous chemicals. There are less toxic alternatives that can be used. These solutions are typically more cost-effective.

PURPOSE	LESS TOXIC ALTERNATIVE
All-purpose cleaner	Mix 1/2 cup vinegar + 1/4 cup baking soda (or 2 teaspoons borax) into 1/2 gallon of water
Bathroom mold	Mix one part hydrogen peroxide with 2 parts water in spray bottle; wait 1 hour before rinsing
Bleach	Borax
Car battery corrosion	Baking soda and water
Carpet stains	Club soda
Coffee and tea stains	Moist salt; for coffee makers add 2 cups water and 1/4 cup vinegar and bring to a boil, rinse with water and wipe clean
Dishwasher soap	Mix equal parts of borax and washing soda
Disinfectant	Mix 2 teaspoons borax, 4 tablespoons vinegar and 3 cups hot water
Drain cleaner	1/2 cup baking soda down drain and add 1/2 cup vinegar wait 15 minutes and flush with warm water
Fertilizer	Compost and vermicomposting
Furniture polish	1 tablespoon lemon oil in 1 pint mineral oil
Garbage disposal	Ground lemon
Grease removal	Borax on damp cloth
Ink spot remover	Cold water and 1 tablespoon cream of tartar and 1 tablespoon lemon
Laundry detergent	Mix 1 cup Ivory soap, 1/2 cup washing soda and 1/2 cup borax. Use 1 Tbsp. for light loads; 2 Tbsp. for heavy loads.
Oil and grease spots	For small spills on the garage floor, add baking soda and scrub with wet brush
Oven cleaner	2 tablespoons liquid soap and 2 tablespoons borax and warm water
Pet odor remover	Cider vinegar
Rust removal	Lemon juice, salt and sunlight
Window cleaner	Mix 2 teaspoons of white vinegar with 1 liter warm water

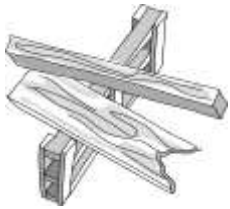
Please visit this website for more tips and alternatives:
https://learn.eartheasy.com/guides/non-toxic-home-cleaning/

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

American Waste/GFL Environmental
Address: 10164 M-32, Elmira, MI 49730
Phone: (989) 732-4243
Items: Wood only– all quantities, $29/cubic yard
Call ahead for information on drop-off times, fees, and additional details

Emmet County Recycling Drop-off Center
Address: 7363 Pleasantview Rd., Harbor Springs, MI
Phone: (231) 348-0640
Website: www.emmetrecycling.org
Items: terracotta, stone, rocks, porcelain fixtures, mortar material, concrete (with rebar is okay), ceramic, bricks, asphalt. Fee is $14/cubic yard. Remove seats, faucets, etc. from fixtures. NO materials with lead paint, asbestos, window pane glass, drywall/sheetrock, tar paper, or asphalt shingles.
Wood: logs and pallets, fee $10/cubic yard. Treated wood, finished (painted/stained) wood, plywood, and particle board are not recyclable but can be dropped off for a fee of $30/cubic yard plus fuel surcharge. Items accepted seasonally from April 1 to November 1.

Otsego County Habitat ReStore
Address: 526 Edelweiss Village Pkwy., Gaylord, MI 49735 (near Lowe's)
Phone: (989) 731-4506
Website: http://otsegohabitat.org Click on "ReStore"
Items: Cabinets, countertops, sinks, faucets, new flooring, new or like new lighting fixtures and ceiling fans, windows newer in frame (no single pane or storm), doors in good condition, electrical switches, hardware, nails, tools, drills, hammers, saws, garden tools, plumbing items, dimensional lumber 4' or longer, full bundle shingles only, new unopened paint cans, new duct work, etc. Call for more details



ELECTRONICS

Comprenew
Phone: (616) 451-4400
Website: www.comprenew.org
Items: Batteries, LCD/Plasma flat screen monitors and TVs, printers/ scanners/copiers, CRT devices, air conditioners, dehumidifiers, mini fridges, home audio and gaming, ink & toner, uninterruptable power supplies VHS & disk media microwaves, all other electronics
Note: Call for prices and to set up pick up

ELECTRONICS Continued

Emmet County Recycling Drop-off Center
Address: 7363 Pleasantview Rd., Harbor Springs, MI
Phone: (231) 348-0640
Website: www.emmetrecycling.org
Note: Please call for prices and more information

Goodwill Industries
Address: 1517 W. Main, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 705-1747
Website: www.goodwillnmi.org
Items: Electronics in working condition such as CD/DVD players, radios, coffee makers, lawn and garden equipment, telephones, tools, toys, etc. For computer equipment, see Computers & Printers

Otsego County Habitat ReStore
Address: 526 Edelweiss Village Pkwy., Gaylord, MI 49735 (near Lowe's)
Phone: (989) 731-4506
Website: http://otsegohabitat.org Click on "ReStore"
Items: Stereo equipment, small appliances, and flat screen TVs No Computers. No broken electronics.
Call first, depends on available space

Otsego County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal and Electronics Recycling Day
For information on dates and accepted items see pages 4 - 5 of this guide, check the website or contact the Conservation District
Website: www.otsegocd.org/recycling.html
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)

FERTILIZER, PESTICIDES, HAZARDOUS WASTE

County of Otsego Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day
For information on dates and accepted items see page 4 of this guide, check the county website or contact the Conservation District
County website: www.otsegocd.org/recycling.html
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)
Note: Check page 16 for information on fertilizing smart

Fertilize Smart

You probably know that fertilizer allows for a lush green lawn but you may be unaware of how it impacts local watersheds. One of the most problematic water pollutants in Michigan is phosphorus. Phosphorus is a nutrient found in most lawn and garden fertilizers.

What is the issue with phosphorus?

Phosphorus occurs naturally. It becomes a pollutant when human sources add an excess amount to the environment. When fertilizers run off lawns during a rain, the phosphorus is added to surrounding lakes and streams. Excess nutrients in lakes can cause algal blooms which are harmful to aquatic life and humans. Algal blooms are unsightly, often have an unattractive odor, cause fish kills, disruption of lake ecosystem dynamics, and can be harmful to humans. Groundwater pollution is also a concern with fertilizers.

Healthy Lawn Tips

You can still have a green lawn without harming nearby water bodies. These steps can help:

Fertilize

- Use phosphorus-free fertilizers – Most Michigan lawns only need nitrogen as they have enough phosphorus
- Apply once a year – Early fall is best
- Clean up fertilizer on sidewalks and driveways
- Don't fertilize before a heavy rain

Look for the Middle Number

- Fertilizer bags have N-P-K nutrient analysis
- The middle number (P) is the Phosphorus content
- A "0" indicates Phosphorus free

Soil Test

- It is helpful to know the soil on your property including the nutrient content, pH level and organic content to better understand what your lawn needs.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Otsego County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day
For information on dates and accepted items see page 4 of this guide, check the county website or contact the Conservation District
County website: www.otsegocountymi.gov/212/Recycling-Information
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)

GLASS

Emmet County Recycling Drop-off Center and Sites
Drop-off Center Address: 7363 Pleasantview Rd., Harbor Springs, MI
Drop-off Site Addresses: Please see website
Phone: (231) 348-0640
Website: www.emmetrecycling.org
Items: Blue, brown, clear, red and green glass bottles and jars.
Note: No window glass, glass dishes or light bulbs

Otsego County Recycling Drop-off Program
Address: See page 2 or inside back cover of this guide for bin locations
Phone: (989) 732-4021
(Otsego Conservation District)
Website: www.otsegocd.org/recycling.html
For materials accepted and item preparation guidelines, please see pages 2 and 3 of this guide, contact the Otsego Conservation District or visit the website above.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

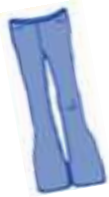
A & L Iron and Metal Company
Address: 2000 Milbocker Rd., Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-5900
Website: www.alironandmetal.com
Metal gas grills, metal appliances

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS Continued

Otsego County Habitat ReStore
Address: 526 Edelweiss Village Pkwy. Gaylord, MI 49735 (near Lowe's)
Phone: (989) 731-4506
Website: http://otsegohabitat.org Click on "ReStore" Items: Smaller microwaves, appliances, mirrors, pictures, bed spreads, pots & pans/ dishes (full sets only), doors, furniture, NO mattresses or box springs. Call for more details

Goodwill Industries
Address: 1517 W. Main, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 705-1747
Website: www.goodwillnmi.org
Items: Clothing, footwear, accessories, toys, sporting goods, games, current & vintage books, records, tapes, CDs, videos, linens, house wares, knickknacks, kitchenware, art/pictures/mirrors, antiques, collectibles, small working tools, small working appliances and electronics, all computer equipment, and quality furniture. No mattresses, TVs, waterbeds, paint, carpet, hazardous materials, building materials or car seats. Goodwill recycles the following items in any condition: All computer equipment including desktop computers, laptops, monitors, printers, scanners, hard drives (external or internal), keyboards, mice, speakers, cords and cables & software. No ink and toner cartridges

Salvation Army Store
909 S. Otsego Avenue, Gaylord MI 49735
Phone: 9989) 448-2395
Items: Clothing, footwear, accessories, toys, sporting goods, games, books, CDs, videos, linens, housewares, knickknacks, kitchenware, art/ pictures/mirrors, antiques/collectibles, small working tools, small working appliances and electronics, all computer equipment and quality furniture. NO water beds, mattresses, bulky TVs (only flat screens), paint carpet, hazardous materials, building materials or car seats



INK CARTRIDGES

You may be able to recycle through the mail at no cost to you, by printing a label from the manufacturer's website. Some include a return shipping bag in the packaging. Also accepted at Otsego County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day.

LIGHT BULBS (FLUORESCENT) & STRANDS OF LIGHTS

Otsego County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day

For information on upcoming dates and accepted items (see page 4 of this guide) check the county website or contact the Conservation District.
County website: www.otsegocountymi.gov/212/Recycling-Information
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)
Items: Fluorescent light bulbs/tubes, compact fluorescent bulbs/CFLs

Emmet County Recycling Drop-off Center

Address: 7363 Pleasantview Rd., Harbor Springs, MI ,49740
Phone: (231) 348-0640
Website: www.emmetrecycling.org
Items: Fluorescent light bulbs/tubes, compact fluorescent bulbs/CFLs
Note: NO broken, incandescent or halogen bulbs. For businesses, please call for rates

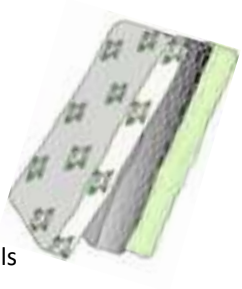
Gaylord City Hall
Address: 305 E. Main, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-4060
Items: Broken/unwanted stands of Christmas lights and appliance cords
Note: Place in the barrel located in the foyer of city hall open 24/7

Great Lakes Energy Service Centers
Address: 10380 Great Lakes Drive, Waters, MI 49797
Phone: (888) GT-LAKES
Items: CFLs/Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (unbroken)
Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m., closed daily 12-12:30 p.m.

Home Depot
Address: 1381 W. Main Street, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 705-8471
Items: CFLs/Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (unbroken), and bagged individually

Lowe's
Address: 600 Edelweiss Parkway, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 705-3920
Items: CFLs/Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (unbroken)

MATTRESSES, BOX SPRINGS & FUTONS



American Waste/GFL Environmental
Address: P.O. Box 1030, Kalkaska, MI 49646
Phone: (989) 732-4243
Items: $35 per twin/single or smaller;
$65 per double/queen/king mattress or box spring
Please fold larger mattresses if possible. Call for details

Emmet County Recycling Drop-off Center
Address: 7363 Pleasantview Rd., Harbor Springs, MI
Phone: (231) 348-0640
Website: www.emmetcounty.org/recyclingguide/
Items: Mattresses, springs and futons. Twin/single or smaller
$12 per piece; double/queen/king $18 per piece

Fast Facts about Mattresses!

- When a mattress is recycled, it is cut open and the layers are separated and organized by type. Metal springs, wood framing, and foam can all be collected and reused in manufacturing.

- More than 75% of a traditional mattress can be recycled into other products, diverting valuable resources from landfills.

- In the United States, more than 50,000 mattresses are discarded every day.

- According to manufacturers, the average lifespan of a mattress is 7 to 10 years. This varies depending on the type of mattress (innerspring, latex, memory foam) and how often it's used. If your mattress is excessively dirty, sagging, or you wake up in pain, it may be time for a replacement.

Source: Mattress Recycling Council

MEDICATION/NEEDLE SHARPS

Gaylord City Police Department at City Hall
Address: 305 E. Main Street, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-1777
Notes : Prescription mediations and drugs can be dropped off at the City Police Lobby from 8am –4:30pm. No liquids or sharps

A Remedy for Residential Drug Disposal

Properly disposing of unused mediations ensures safety and environmental health. In the past, flushing medications down the toilet was the accepted method of disposal. This method works for disposing of drugs in order to keep them from being misused but has negative consequences for our water systems. Wastewater treatment plants are able to screen out a large number of contaminants, but many medications are unable to be filtered out. This means many medications are ending up in our streams and aquatic ecosystems.

In 2000, the U.S. Geological Survey collected water samples from 139 streams in 30 states and identified both organic wastewater contaminants and pharmaceuticals in 80% of the sampled sites.

The topic of pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) in our water has gained national attention and poses a threat to human and environmental health. PPCPs are a broad group of compounds consisting of human and veterinary medicine and consumer products such as fragrances, sunscreens, lotions, cosmetics and house cleaning products. Scientific studies have shown negative health implications for a number of aquatic organisms. The small dose of exposure for humans does not pose immediate concern for human health, but it is important to take steps now to prevent this threat.

DON'T FLUSH

There are safer alternatives for disposing of medications! See above and page 22 for local disposal options.

MEDICATION/NEEDLE SHARPS Continued

Karmanos—Cancer Institute
Address: 918 North Center Ave, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (231) 487-3610
Time & Date: 9 am - 1 pm CALL FOR DATES
Note: THIS PROGRAM MAY BE DISCONTINUED
Sharp drop-offs are for needles only and need to be in approved, hard, impermeable plastic container. For info, call ahead

Otsego County Sheriff's Department, Drug Disposal Program
Address: 124 South Court Street, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 731-7282
Note: Prescription mediations and drugs can be dropped off at the Otsego County Sheriff's Department office any time of the day or night. No sharps.

MERCURY

Otsego County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day
For information on upcoming dates and accepted items see page 4 of this guide, check the county website or contact the conservation district.
County website: www.otsegocountymi.gov/212/Recycling-Information
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)

Preventing Hazardous Mercury Spills

Products containing mercury should be replaced with safer alternatives to avoid exposure and contamination. Mercury is used in many items such as thermometers, barometer, switches, thermostats and fluorescent lamps. These items often have mercury-free or lower-mercury alternatives.

Although it is legal to throw these items in the trash, it is highly recommended that you dispose of them at household hazardous waste collection sites. At high levels, mercury can cause damage to the nervous system and cause convulsions, tremors and inability to walk. Landfills have the ability to leach contaminants into groundwater, so reducing the amount of toxins we place in our waste stream can only help reduce the risk of contamination.

METAL/SCRAP METAL

A & L Iron and Metal Company
Address: 2000 Milbocker Rd., Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-5900
Website: www.alironandmetal.com
Note: Receive money for metal. Call for details

Emmet County Recycling Drop-off Center and Sites
Drop-off Center Address: 7363 Pleasantview Rd., Harbor Springs, MI
Site addresses: Please see website
Phone: (231) 348-0640
Website: www.emmetrecycling.org
Items: Metal cans, foil and trays; aluminum, steel and tin; metal lids are okay. NO aerosol cans or propane tanks. See those categories for disposal information

METAL/SCRAP METAL Continued

St. Mary Cathedral School
Address: 321 North Otsego Avenue, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-5801
Items: Tin and aluminum. Fundraiser for the 8th, 9th and 10th grade class trip. Drop off in large blue dumpster off N. Otsego Avenue, inside the enclosed, fenced-in area. Please remove metal from any bags or boxes

MOTOR OIL

Advance Auto Parts
Address: 111 N. Ohio Avenue**,** Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-4566
Note: No antifreeze mix.
Limit of 5 gallons per visit

Auto Value Gaylord
Address: 1789 S. Otsego Avenue, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-2365
Items: All petroleum based liquids; no antifreeze

AutoZone
Address: 409 S. Otsego Avenue, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 731-4898
Items: Used motor oil, brake and transmission fluids; no antifreeze

Otsego County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day
For information on dates and accepted items see page 4 of this guide, check the county website or contact the Conservation District.
County website: www.otsegocountymi.gov/212/Recycling-Information
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)

Emmet County Recycling Drop-off Center
Address: 7363 Pleasantview Rd., Harbor Springs, MI
Phone: (231) 348-0640
Website: www.emmetcounty.org/recyclingguide
Item: Motor oil, hydraulic fluid, fuel oil, transmission fluid, lube oils, diesel fuel, oil filters. No gas or contaminated oil.
Non-residents a $1 a gallon

Tractor Supply
Address: 1286 S. Otsego Avenue, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 705-1256
Items: Motor oil only

MOTOR OIL Continued

Walmart Tire & Lube Express
Address: 950 Edelweiss Village Parkway, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-5280
Website: www.walmart.com
Items: Motor oil (up to 5 gallons)

Oil is a serious pollutant-- Recycle Used Motor Oil!

An estimated 11 million gallons of used oil are dumped per year in Michigan

When used motor oil is dumped down sewers, in empty lots, in holes in the ground, on weeds or in landfills the result is toxic. Used motor oil contains toxic substances (including lead) produced during engine use. Dumping oil contaminates ground and surface waters therefore impacting aquatic eco-systems and human health.

- One quart of oil will foul the taste of 250,000 gallons of water
- Oil kills small organisms floating on the water's surface. A lack of these organisms also causes those higher up on the food chain to be killed.

One pint of oil can create an acre-sized slick on surface water

Fast Facts about Motor Oil

- Used motor oil and other auto fluids as hazardous waste and require proper disposal by law.
- Every gallon of used motor oil that is improperly discarded can contaminate 1 million gallons of drinking water, according to the EPA.
- Motor oil also never wears out, but rather gets dirty, so it is often recycled and resold.

Source: Earth 911

PAINT

County of Otsego Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day
For more information see pages 4—6 of this guide, check the county website or contact the Conservation District.
County website: www.otsegocountymi.gov/212/Recycling-Information
Phone: (989) 732-4021

PAINT Continued

Emmet County Recycling Drop-off Center
Address: 7363 Pleasantview Rd., Harbor Springs MI
Phone: (231) 348-0640
Web: www.emmetrecycling.org
Items: Latex paint, stains and additives in any words "latex", "acrylic", "water-based", and "clean up with soap and water".
Note: Accepted April 1-Nov. 1. $2.00 per gallon or equivalent. No oil-based paints or stains, polyurethane, varnish, shellac, marine finishes, epoxy finishes & adhesives. Look for words "alkyd," "clean up with paint thinner," and "flammable." These can be brought to Household Chemical Drop-off Days

Otsego County Habitat ReStore
Address: 526 Edelweiss Village Pkwy., Gaylord, MI 49735 (near Lowe's)
Phone: (989) 731-4506
Website: http://otsegohabitat.org Click on "ReStore"
Items: New, unopened paint cans only

PAPER

Otsego County Recycling Drop-off Program
See page 2 or inside back cover of this guide for bin locations
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)
Website: www.otsegocd.org/recycling.html
For accepted materials, item preparation, and separation guidelines, please see pages 2 and 3 of this guide, contact the Otsego Conservation District or visit the website above

PLANT PLASTICS - POTS, TRAYS & SIMILAR PLANT CONTAINERS

Flower Mania
Address: 1110 S. Otsego Ave., Gaylord, MI, 49735 (near Sears)
Phone Number: (989) 983-4562
Items: Plant plastics regardless of where purchased
Note: Accepted seasonally in spring

Otsego County Recycling Drop-off Program
See page 2 or inside back cover of this guide for bin locations
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)
Website: www.otsegocd.org/recycling.html
For accepted materials, item preparation, and separation guidelines, please see page 2 of this guide, contact the Otsego Conservation District or visit the website above

PLASTICS

Otsego County Recycling Drop-off Program
See page 2 or inside back cover of this guide for bin locations
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)
Website: www.otsegocd.org/recycling.html
For accepted materials, item preparation, and separation guidelines, please see pages 2 and 3 of this guide, contact the Otsego Conservation District or visit the website above

PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS & PACKAGING SHRINK WRAP

Otsego County Recycling Drop-off Program
Address: See page 2 or inside back cover of this guide for bin locations
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)
Website: www.otsegocd.org/recycling.html
For accepted materials, item preparation, and separation guidelines, please see pages 2 and 3 of this guide, contact the Otsego Conservation District or visit the website above

PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS & PACKAGING SHRINK WRAP Continued

Emmet County Recycling Drop-off Center and Sites
Drop-off Center Address: 7363 Pleasantview Rd., Harbor Springs, MI
Drop-off site addresses: Please see website
Website: www.emmetrecycling.org
Phone: (231) 348-0640
Items: Grocery bags, bread bags and stretchy plastic bags. Shrink wrap from packaging such as toilet paper, paper towel, water, beverages, etc. Bubble wrap, air pillow packing and plastic envelopes
Note: Clean and dry only. Please place all in one bag and tie closed

Lowe's
Address: 600 Edelweiss Parkway, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 705-3920

Meijer
Address: 250 Meijer Drive, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 731-9600
Website: www.meijer.com

Walmart Supercenter
Address: 950 Edelweiss Village Parkway, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-8090

PROPANE TANKS

A & L Iron and Metal Company
Address: 2000 Milbocker Rd., Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-5900
Website: www.alironandmetal.com
Items: Propane tanks: Must have all valves removed and a hole punctured in the side of the tank

Otsego County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day

For information on upcoming dates and accepted items see page 4 of this guide, check the county website or contact the conservation district
County website: www.otsegocountymi.gov/212/Recycling-Information
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)

PROPANE TANKS continued

East Jordan Auto Parts
Address: 7399 Fair Rd, East Jordan, MI 49727
Phone: (231) 536-2322
Website: www.ejautoparts.com
Note: Bring propane tanks in with valves on and no hole puncture

Disposal of Propane Tanks

Propane gas. You can use it to heat your house, grill up a weekend barbeque, or light a camp stove. Like a lot of other items in and around our homes, propane tanks require special care when it's time to dispose of them.

The Problem: Propane gas is compressed into liquid form and housed in tanks of various sizes. Propane grill tanks weighing 20 pounds are the most common size. You've seen them stacked around someone's outdoor grill — perhaps your own. At some point, those tanks will need to be disposed of responsibly.

Propane tank disposal presents one problem. There may be flammable gas left inside an "empty" tank. That leftover gas renders propane tanks hazardous. Hazardous waste is defined by the EPA as "leftover household products that can catch fire, react, or explode under certain circumstances." This means you cannot throw your tanks in the trash (or recycling bin) when you are through with them. Doing so could harm the people collecting your trash.

Options for disposal:

- Propane Tanks Are Designed for Reuse. Propane grill tanks were designed from the get-go to be refillable. This is how it works for a propane grill tank.
- Buy a propane tank filled with gas from your local hardware, grocery, or drug store. The cost will include a deposit on the tank.
- When your tank appears empty, disconnect it from your grill. (Be sure the gas is shut off.)
- Bring the tank (remember it's not fully emptied so use caution) to a retailer that accepts returns. Many retailers will accept any brand of propane tank for reuse or recycling when you purchase one of theirs.
- When you present your old tank, the deposit will be deducted from the purchase of a new tank.
- You may not even have to exchange your tank. Hardware stores often refill tanks on the premises. Be aware that tanks need to be in reasonably good shape — without a lot of rust or dents — to be eligible for a refill. That's a closed-loop system, as long as your tanks stay in good shape.
- There are also places that will accept propane tanks as scrap metal. Some places may require you to drill a hole in the tank and remove the valve.

What is Radon?

Radon is a gas released by the breakdown of naturally occurring radioactive elements, such as radium and uranium, in soil and rocks. It is colorless and odorless, which makes it impossible to detect without testing. When radium disintegrates in soils it emits radioactive gas that comes through to the surface. Outdoors radon is able to become diluted so it poses little health risk compared to inside a building. Radon can accumulate to high and dangerous levels.

How does radon enter your home?

Radon enters through gaps in suspended floors and around pipes, cracks in floors and walls, construction joints, cavities inside walls and the water supply.

How is radon a health risk?

Long term exposure to elevated radon levels increases risks of lung cancer. Radon is responsible for an estimated 21,000 lung cancer deaths per year according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States

To determine if radon exists in your home contact the local health department or other environmental services in your area for testing procedures.

RADON TESTING

Health Department of Northwest Michigan
Gaylord Office: 95 Livingston Blvd., Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-1794

STYROFOAM/POLYSTYRENE

Otsego County Recycling Drop-off Program
See page 2 or inside back cover of this guide for bin locations
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)
Website: www.otsegocd.org/recycling.html
For accepted materials, item preparation, and guidelines, please see pages 2 and 3 of this guide, contact the Otsego Conservation District or visit the website above. NO packing peanuts!

STYROFOAM/POLYSTYRENE Continued

Pak Mail
Address: 1409 W Main St, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-1558
Website: http://www.pakmailgaylord.com
Note: Takes clean packing peanuts, call before dropping them off

TIRES

American Waste/GFL Environmental
Address: 10164 M-32, Elmira, MI 49730
Phone: (989) 732-4243
Note: Tires may be dropped off at American Waste Monday - Friday from 9am to 5pm Call for pricing information

Bell Tire
Address: 1490 West Main Street, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: 989-217-8347
Note: Call for price of disposal

Otsego County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day
For information on upcoming dates and accepted items see page 4 of this guide, check the county website or contact the Conservation District.
County website: www.otsegocountymi.gov/212/Recycling-Information
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)

Emmet County Recycling Drop-off Center
Address: 7363 Pleasantview Rd., Harbor Springs, MI
Phone: (231) 348-0640
Website: www.emmetrecycling.org
Items: Car, truck, bicycle, tractor (under 4 ft) tires on or off rim.
No off-road tires. Check website for size-based pricing

Johnson Tire Service/Kelly Tires
Address: 502 S. Otsego Ave., Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-6014
Note: $4.00 + fee per passenger tire disposal
Price dependent on tire size.

Meekhof Tire
Address: 1260 M-32 West, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-6258
Note: $4.00 + fee per passenger tire
Price dependent on tire size. Hours: M-F 8-5:30, Sat 8-1pm

TRANSMISSION OIL

Auto Value Gaylord
Address: 1789 S. Otsego Avenue, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-2365
Items: All petroleum based liquids. No antifreeze

AutoZone
Address: 409 S. Otsego Avenue, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 731-4898
Note: Brake and transmission fluid. No antifreeze

Otsego County Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day
For information on dates and accepted items see page 4 of this guide, check the county website or contact the Conservation District.
County website: www.otsegocountymi.gov/212/Recycling-Information
Phone: (989) 732-4021 (Otsego Conservation District)

Fast Facts about Transmission Fluid

Transmission fluid contains components that can be harmful if ingested and detrimental to the environment, such as toxic heavy metals and lead. It requires intentional disposal methods to protect your health and ecosystems.
The Environmental Protection Agency considers transmission fluid (along with motor oil, brake fluid and power steering fluid) waste oil products. All can be recycled into new fluids, or burned to generate energy (which is not really recycling, but is certainly better than dumping it in a landfill).

1. Find a local automotive fluid collection site. Some local waste facilities will accept your used transmission fluid along with other automotive fluids. Check your local government offices to find a household hazardous-waste accepting location near you. Or, see if your local auto parts store will take the fluid from you — most will do so for free because they can make money off what they sell to recycling centers.
2. Drop off old transmission fluid for disposal. There are few waste management groups that will come and pick up old transmission fluid, so you will most likely need to take it in yourself. For safe conveyance, double-check the seal on your storage container to make sure it won't spill in your car or whatever mode of transportation you use.

YARD WASTE & COMPOST

City of Gaylord
Address: Gaylord DPW Yard, 102 E. 7th Street, Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: (989) 732-5475
Items: Leaves, weeds, grass clippings and biodegradable bags and Christmas Trees
Note: City of Gaylord, Bagley Township, and Livingston Township residents only. Material can be dropped off seven days a week in the spring, summer and fall. Composted material can also be picked up at no charge for City of Gaylord residents only

HOME COMPOSTING

What is Composting? Composting is nature's process of recycling decomposed organic materials into a rich, dark brown, crumbly soil known as compost. Anything that was once living will decompose. Basically, backyard composting is an acceleration of the same process nature uses. By composting your organic waste you are returning nutrients back into the soil.

10 Important Reasons To Compost:

1. Yard and food waste make up 30% of the waste stream. Composting helps divert that waste from landfills, waterways and water treatment facilities.
2. Significantly reduce pest problems and use of pesticides.
3. Healthy plants from healthy soil look better, produce better and have a much greater ability to fight off pests and diseases.
4. Adding organic materials to the soil improves moisture retention.
5. Adding decomposed organic material to soil feeds beneficial organisms.
6. Compost amends both sandy and clay soils.
7. Compost provides a balanced, slow–release source of nutrients that helps the soil hold nutrients long enough for plants to use them.
8. Composting saves money. Avoid the cost of buying soil conditioners etc.
9. Feeding your plants well will improve your own diet. Plants grown in depleted soils have a reduced nutrient content.
10. Composting is a valuable tool to educate kids about nature & lifecycles.

Source: www.recycleworks.org

Resources To Get Started:

https://learn.eartheasy.com/guides/composting/
https://www.canr.msu.edu/home_gardening/soils-compost/
http://ccetompkins.org/gardening/composting/compost-resources

Protect yourself and your loved ones from fire and carbon monoxide poisoning in the home with these tips

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas produced from burning fossil fuels is poisonous and can be fatal. Gas appliances like furnaces, water heaters, dryers, and stoves can malfunction and leak carbon monoxide into your home. That's why it's important to have carbon monoxide detectors alert you to high levels of carbon monoxide in the home.

- Like smoke alarms, test monthly and change the batteries yearly.
- **NEVER** use a gas stove to heat your home
- **NEVER** use a portable camp stove or generator indoors

BE SMOKE ALARM SMART!

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes without working smoke alarms.

- Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside bedrooms, and outside sleeping areas on the ceiling or high on the wall.
- Test smoke alarms once a month and change the batteries once a year.
-Consider alarms with strobe lights or bed shakers for those that are deaf or hard of hearing. Combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms are available, as are alarms that send alerts to your cell phone or emergency services.

Never, Ever Put These Things in Recycling Bins

- Sewing needles
- Food or food soiled paper
- Egg shells
- Propane tanks or cylinders
- Aerosol cans that are not empty
- Any type of battery
- Dirty diapers or any type of personal hygiene items.
- Syringes, broken glass, any light bulbs,
- Clothing and shoes
- Bowling balls
- Garden hoses
- Electronics
- Wire
- Wrapping paper, especially flocked or foil
- Paint
- Engine oil
- Transmission oil
- Barometers or thermometers
- Any hazardous waste

Source: EPA

Recycling is truly beneficial for the environment

EPA data shows that recycling conserves energy and natural resources. For example:

- Recycling one ton of office paper can save the energy equivalent of consuming 322 gallons of gasoline.

- Recycling just one ton of aluminum cans conserves more than 152 million Btu, the equivalent of 1,024 gallons of gasoline or 21 barrels of oil consumed.

- Plastic bottles are the most recycled plastic product in the United States as of 2015, according to our most recent report. Recycling just 10 plastic bottles saves enough energy to power a laptop for more than 25 hours.

The most effective way to reduce waste, and the most environmentally preferred strategy, is to not create it in the first place. Remember the 3 Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, to help keep Michigan beautiful for future generations.

My Recycling Notes:

My closest recycling drop-off location is:

I have recycling questions about the following:

(Call 989-732-4021)

IMPORTANT ORGANIZATIONS

Health Department of Northwest Michigan
95 Livingston Blvd.
Gaylord, MI 49735
Phone: 989-732-1794
Fax: 989-732-3285

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy
Gaylord Field Office
2100 West M-32
Gaylord, MI 49735-9282
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