



2026

**REFUSE &
RECYCLING
MANUAL**

**Please save for
future reference!**

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Welcome to the **2026** Refuse & Recycling Procedures Manual

The Solid Waste Division of Watertown's Public Works Department is proud to serve our community by providing reliable curbside garbage, recycling, and yard waste collection. Our mission is to deliver exceptional waste collection, disposal, and environmental services with a strong commitment to safety, professionalism, and environmental stewardship.

Our dedicated team works tirelessly to maintain the cleanliness and sustainability of our city. Through efficient and innovative waste management practices, we aim to protect our natural resources, promote public health, and enhance the well-being of our community. Thank you for your continued support in keeping Watertown clean and green.

We encourage residents to use this manual as a resource to understand refuse, recycling, and yard waste services.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Watertown Regional Landfill is located 3 miles south and 1 mile east of the junction of Highways 212 and 81.

Hours: Monday–Saturday, 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Closed: Sundays and holidays.

Arrive early, as the gate closes promptly at 4:00 p.m.

Contact Information

Landfill Office: (605) 882-6219

Website: www.watertownsd.us/landfill

Address: 45605 175th St. Watertown, SD 57201

WATERTOWN REGIONAL LANDFILL

LANDFILL CELL ACCESS

Access to the Watertown Regional Landfill cell is limited to hydraulic and electric tipping trailers or full-eject vehicles only. Loads which must be hand unloaded will be directed to the public self-haul containers.

Personal Protective Equipment Required

A hard hat and hi-visibility vest or other ANSI approved garment is required when accessing the Landfill cell.

PPE is available for purchase at the landfill

LOAD INSPECTIONS

All loads entering the landfill are subject to inspection to screen out prohibited materials. Individuals who dump any prohibited materials in the landfill are subject to fines, penalties, removal and cleanup costs associated with the incident.

SECURE YOUR LOAD

Incoming loads must be adequately secured to prevent any scattering of waste upon any roadway. The tipping fee rate for loads not adequately secured is double. All loads must be secured, regardless of content, including appliances, trees or branches and concrete, until after they are weighed.

DISPOSAL PROCEDURES

Upon arrival at the landfill, drive up to the stop sign. The attendant will greet you outside your drivers-side window. You will be asked to identify the contents of your load so you can be directed to the correct area(s) for disposal. Once you have weighed in, the attendant will turn the traffic light to green and you may then enter the landfill yard to unload. All loads are to remain secured until after weigh-in. Once unloaded you must drive back onto the scale to weigh-out. After the light changes green, pull over to the cashier window and the fee will be collected. Cash, checks, debit or credit cards are accepted.

A 3.5% user fee will be added for credit/debit card use.

Anyone unloading material in the wrong area will be required to clean up the material and take it to the correct area for disposal. Scavenging is prohibited. Do not remove any items from the landfill site.

PROHIBITED WASTES

The following materials are prohibited at the Watertown Landfill; absolutely no tires, waste oil, hazardous waste, untreated medical waste, liquids, lead acid, dry cell or lithium batteries.

NO LIQUIDS-PAINT

Do not place paint, anti-freeze, garden chemicals or other hazardous liquids in residential garbage.

Paint cans must be empty or the contents must be completely dried. Small quantities of liquid latex (water-based) paint may be mixed with an absorbent floor dry or cat litter and disposed of in the garbage. No oil-based paint.

Items prohibited at the Landfill can be taken to the HHW event in April (see below). Waste oil should be taken to a location that provides waste oil recycling.

APPLIANCES

The Landfill accepts appliances. Appliances containing refrigerant, such as refrigerators freezers and air conditioners, are subject to an environmental processing fee of \$15.00 per appliance, in addition to the tipping fee for removal of refrigerant.

All doors and contents of refrigerators and freezers must be removed before they are brought to the Landfill or they will not be accepted.

NOTE: The annual city wide clean-up is tentatively scheduled for sometime in late April or early May. Dates will be announced in the local media.



The annual free Household Hazardous Waste Event is tentatively scheduled at the Wastewater Treatment Facility on **Saturday, April 25, 2026**. The hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. This is the time for households to dispose of hazardous waste. No commercial disposal allowed. Call the landfill for more information.

If you have any questions, please call the Landfill at (605) 882-6219 before you bring your solid waste load out for disposal.

STAY INFORMED WITH SOLID WASTE DIVISION NOTIFICATIONS



←
Scan me!

Residential customers are encouraged to sign up for notifications from the Watertown Regional Landfill to stay informed about special events, such as City-Wide Clean-Up and the Household Hazardous Waste Event, as well as important updates to collection schedules.

1. Visit www.watertownsd.us/notifyme
2. Enter your email address and click the 'Sign In' button.
3. Click the phone or text icon to subscribe.
4. Click 'Save'.
5. Confirm your email.

HOLIDAY WASTE COLLECTION

Normal collection days, as shown on the color-coded map, are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. **On a Monday holiday, garbage will be collected on the previous Friday. On a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday holiday, garbage will be collected on Friday of the same week.**

HOLIDAY COLLECTION DATES

- **NEW YEAR'S DAY - 2026** - Thursday, January 1, 2026, **collected on:** Friday, January 2
- **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY** - Monday, January 19, **collected on:** Friday, January 16
- **PRESIDENTS' DAY** - Monday, February 16, **collected on:** Friday, February 13
- **MEMORIAL DAY** - Monday, May 25, **collected on:** Friday, May 22
- **LABOR DAY** - Monday, September 7, **collected on:** Friday, September 4
- **COLUMBUS/NATIVE AMERICAN DAY** - Monday, October 12, **collected on:** Friday, October 9
- **VETERAN'S DAY** - Wednesday, November 11, **collected on:** Friday, November 14
- **THANKSGIVING DAY** - Thursday, November 26, **collected on:** Friday, November 27

SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING

We would like to thank the Watertown residents for their continued support of the recycling program. Included in this booklet is the updated recycling schedule for the upcoming year. See the back inside cover to register for delivery of a recycling container.

The tan 95-gallon recycling containers are the property of the City of Watertown and must remain at the assigned address. If you move, do not take the tan 95-gallon recycling container with you. **There is no additional charge on your utility bill for recycling collection.**

RECYCLABLE ITEMS

With SINGLE STREAM recycling, all recycling materials are placed together in the tan 95-gallon recycle container and collected at the same time.

Plastic: Bottles with a mouth smaller than the base (milk jugs, plastic pop bottles, dish soap and shampoo bottles). **Remove all caps and lids and discard them in your garbage. LIDS ARE NOT RECYCLABLE.**

Metal: Aerosol cans, completely empty with caps removed. Aluminum, steel and bi-metal cans, no need to remove labels.

Cardboard: Clean corrugated and non-corrugated (cereal boxes, soda boxes, cracker boxes, etc.). Break down large boxes to prevent plugging the container.

Paper: Newspapers, coupon pages, glossy inserts and fliers, magazines, catalogs, office paper, computer paper and books including phone books.

DO NOT INCLUDE GLASS CONTAINERS.

Do not include neon paper or padded envelopes.

Do not include scrap pie tins, tin foil or paint cans.

Do not include items soiled with food or oil.

Do not include waxed cardboard, milk or egg cartons.

Do not include ice cream buckets, styrofoam cups and butter or yogurt containers.

Do not include hazardous chemical, antifreeze, oil, pesticide, herbicide or fertilizer containers.

FOR EXCESS MATERIALS PLEASE VISIT LOCAL RECYCLING CENTER

Dependable Sanitation Recycling

717 11th St. NW (605) 886-3006

HOUSEHOLD GARBAGE COLLECTION

COLLECTION SCHEDULE

Your garbage and yard waste will be picked up on the same day by separate trucks at different times. The color-coded calendar in this booklet tells you when the recyclable material is collected at your location.

(Please read the section on recycling to familiarize yourself with the recycling program.)

All collection trucks begin their routes at 5:00 a.m., and there is not a set time when they will collect your trash, yard waste and recycling. Residents are urged to place all containers out the night before their collection day to avoid missing the truck. Trucks WILL NOT be rerouted to pick up late containers.

95-GALLON CONTAINERS

Blue (Garbage): The City provides your 95-gallon refuse container for weekly pick up. Additional containers may be provided. Each container will trigger an additional garbage service charge on your Utility billing. No refuse should be above the top of the container or additional fees may be charged. Workers will not pick up additional materials placed around the container. We recommend that garbage be sealed in plastic bags before placing into the garbage container to reduce odors, insects and wind-blown litter.

Tan (Recycle): Also City provided, your 95-gallon recycle container will be serviced alternating weeks the same day as your garbage service. See the enclosed collection calendar to determine your week for service. There is no additional charge on your Utility bill for curbside recycling collection. Residents may request more than one recycling container per residence. Place all recyclables in the tan container. Do not bag items. Residents may request an additional recycle container free of charge at

www.watertownsd.us/container

Green (Yard Waste): These containers are available for on-line purchase only. See www.watertownsd.us/container for current container pricing. The container will be delivered after payment is received (please allow one week for delivery). Residents may purchase more than one container for their yard waste needs. There is no additional charge on your Utility bill for yard waste collection.

Only grass clippings, leaves and garden vegetation are to be placed in the green 95-gallon containers. No wood or branches are allowed in the green containers.

Yard waste does not include branches or wood. Residents may place branches or wood in the BLUE refuse container as long as the lid closes, or bring these materials to the landfill and pay the appropriate tipping fee.

COMPOST - TWO FREE TONS with utility bill showing garbage service.

Collected yard waste material, composted at the landfill, is available to Watertown residents for their personal use. Each resident may receive up to two tons (4,000 pounds) at no charge each year. To receive free compost, the resident needs to provide a current residential utility bill with garbage service. There is a charge for additional material. Due to the homeowners' use of pesticides and herbicides, small amounts may be present in the compost. The City of Watertown makes no expressed or implied claims for this products other than what is contained in the label, available at the Watertown Landfill.

Compost Loading Information

Self-Service: Residents are encouraged to load compost themselves. Please come prepared with appropriate tools and equipment.

Loading Service: A loading service is available for a fee of \$25.00 per resident.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Christmas trees, stripped of all lights and decorations, are picked up for **TWO WEEKS after Christmas on normal collection days.** After this period, Christmas trees will need to be brought to the landfill by the resident, and the appropriate tipping fee will be charged. **Do NOT bag trees.**



Please remember that the 95-gallon container(s) have to be accessible for the automated collection trucks to pick them up. Please do NOT set the container(s) within four feet of a parked car, mail box, another container, a tree or other obstacle.

FAQ'S

What should I do if my collection day falls on a holiday?

Refer to the holiday collection schedule in this manual or sign up for electronic notifications on www.watertownsd.us/notifyme

Can I get an additional container?

Yes, residents may request additional blue (refuse), tan (recycling), or green (yard waste) containers. An additional Blue refuse container will initiate a second garbage service charge on your Utility bill. Additional tan recycling containers may be obtained for no charge. Green yard waste containers need to be purchased. Visit www.watertownsd.us/container

How can I dispose of hazardous waste?

Household hazardous waste, such as paint, batteries, and chemicals, can be safely disposed of at the annual Household Hazardous Waste event. This year's event is scheduled for April 26, 2026.

When is City Wide Clean-up?

Typically held in mid-to-late spring. Event will be announced in the media and online at www.watertownsd.us/notifyme

Can I drop off yard waste or branches at a site other than the landfill?

Yes, during spring and fall, residents can use the 4th Avenue SW Yard Waste Site free of charge with proof of residency. Dates and hours will be announced seasonally.

What is considered a secured load?

A secured load is properly tied down or covered to prevent materials from spilling or blowing off during transport. Unsecured loads will incur double tipping fees (minimum \$30).

What should I do if my container is not emptied on collection day?

Ensure your container was placed out on time, not blocked by vehicles or other obstacles, and that the lid was closed. Trucks will not be rerouted to pick up late containers. If issues persist, call the landfill at 882-6219 for assistance.

LANDFILL RATES

Municipal Solid Waste, Construction & Demolition Material & Contaminated Soil	\$60/ton
Commercial, Out of Service Area	\$76/ton
Yard Waste	No Charge (Residents)
Commercial Yard Waste	\$35/ton
Metal - Appliances	\$35/ton
Tree Waste, Clean Wood	\$35/ton
Electronic Waste	\$35/ton
Asbestos Containing Materials	\$120/ton
Compost	\$20/ton

Mattress or Box Spring Bulky Surcharge	\$15 ea
CFC Containing Appliances Enviro Surcharge	\$15 ea

The above surcharges will be assessed in addition to the applicable per ton tipping fee.

All loads are subject to a minimum charge of \$10.00

Unsecured loads will be assessed double the tipping fee, subject to a minimum charge of \$30.00

2026 RECYCLING COLLECTION CALENDAR

= Recycle A
 = Recycle B
 Recycle A is North of 3rd Ave N, Recycle B is South of 3rd Ave N.
 To determine your collection day for garbage, visit:
www.watertownsd.us/collectionmap

Recycle Route A or B will be collected every other week on the same day as your garbage collection.

January 2026						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
				H	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	H	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
February 2026						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	H	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
March 2026						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				YW
April 2026						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		YW
May 2026						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	H	26	27	28	29	30
June 2026						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	H	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				YW

YW = Yard Waste, Grass and Leaves
(weather dependent)

 = Household Hazardous Waste Event
(Tentatively April 25, 2026)

H = Holiday - On a Monday holiday, garbage will be collected on the **previous** Friday. On a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday holiday, garbage will be collected on Friday of the same week.

July 2026							
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	
			1	2	3	4	YW
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	YW
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	YW
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	YW
26	27	28	29	30	31	1	YW

August 2026							
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	YW
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	YW
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	YW
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	YW
30	31						YW

September 2026							
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	5	YW
6	H	8	9	10	11	12	YW
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	YW
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	YW
27	28	29	30				YW

October 2026							
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	
				1	2	3	YW
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	YW
11	H	13	14	15	16	17	YW
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	YW
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	YW

November 2026							
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	YW
8	9	10	H	12	13	14	YW
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	YW
22	23	24	25	H	27	28	YW
29	30						

December 2026							
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S	
		1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20	21	22	23	24	H	26	
27	28	29	30	31	H	2	

