

DAKOTA VALLEY RECYCLING Environmental Guide 2015



Environmental guide for the cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville and Eagan

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CONTACT US:

www.DakotaValleyRecycling.org

twitter.com/DVRrecycling

Apple Valley or Burnsville:

952.895.4559

Eagan:

651.675.5011

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Great Ways to Reduce Waste

It takes time and money to handle all the waste we throw away. When we reduce the amount of stuff we buy and eventually throw away, we end up with more time, space and money.

- **Hydrate Intelligently:** Invest in a reusable water bottle. In 2012, Americans purchased about 222 disposable water bottles each—that equals about \$100 per person. Plastic bottles are recyclable, but fewer than one in four make it to the recycling bin.
- **Opt Out:** Tired of receiving a new YellowPages every year? Opt-Out of receiving the YellowPages at www.yellowpagesoptout.com or call 1-800-929-3556
- **Bring a Bag:** The average American acquires about 500 shopping bags a year. Bring reusable bags and containers when shopping, traveling, or packing lunches and leftovers.
- **Make Smart Choices:** Choose products that are returnable, reusable, or refillable over single-use items.
- **Buy in Bulk:** Avoid individually wrapped items, snack packs, and single-serve containers. Instead, buy large containers of items or from bulk bins whenever practical. Eliminating disposable packaging and single-serving items in lunches can save families \$250 a year.
- **Compost:** Compost food scraps and yard waste. Food and yard waste accounts for about 11 percent of the garbage thrown away in the Twin Cities metro area. Many types of food scraps, along with leaves and yard trimmings, can be combined in your backyard compost bin. For more information: www.dakotavalleyrecycling.org/backyard-composting
- **Decrease your Junk Mail:** Reduce the amount of unwanted mail you receive. The average American receives more than 40 pounds of junk mail every year. Find ways to reduce catalog delivery, credit card offers and more at RethinkRecycling.com.

Re-Use

Why Should I Donate Unwanted Items?

- Keeps items out of the trash
- Supports local businesses
- Reduces the resources needed to make new products
- Helps many charities raise funds

How About Borrowing and Sharing Items?

Is the storage space in your home overflowing? Many of us wish our basement or garage was less cluttered, more spacious, and more efficient. But when it's time for a new project, sport, or read, we tend to run out and buy tools, sports equipment, and books when we could borrow or share instead.

- Rent tools from your local hardware store or even share tools with your neighbors.
- Ask friends or try a second hand store for used sports equipment.
- When hosting a party, ask guests to bring tables and chairs (even dishes and glasses), or rent from a party rental shop.
- Use your local library for books, movies and more!



Where can I donate and buy used?

When it comes time to clean out your household storage, remember the old adage: one man's trash is another man's treasure. Consider donating what you no longer use to charities:

- Check with your local library; many accept donations of books.
- Charitable organizations take clothing, household goods, and some furniture.
- Some shelters accept used work clothes for clients going on job interviews.
- Unwanted non-perishable food can be donated to a local food shelf.
- Usable cell phones, electronics, and old CDs, DVDs and even VHS tapes can be donated for soldiers or shelters.

For more information on Reuse: www.dakotavalleyrecycling.org/for-residents/reuse-for-residents

What Can Go in my Recycling Bin at Home?

These guidelines apply to residents in Burnsville.

 Paper	 Metal	 Glass	 Plastic
<p>YES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office and school paper Mail and envelopes Newspapers, inserts, magazines and catalogs Phone books Shredded paper (in closed paper bag) Boxes from cereal, crackers, pasta and other dry foods Boxes from toothpaste, medications and other toiletries Cardboard from empty paper towel and toilet paper rolls Boxes from refrigerated food and beverage, including beer and pop cases Cardboard boxes (flattened) <p>NO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper or boxes soiled with food Paper towels, napkins or facial tissues Paper cups or plates Gift wrap or tissue paper 	<p>YES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metal food and beverage cans <p>NO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Containers that held hazardous products, such as paint thinner or automotive fluids Batteries <div data-bbox="534 832 1018 1025">  <p>Cartons</p> </div> <p>YES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milk and juice cartons Juice boxes Soup, broth and wine cartons 	<p>YES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glass beverage bottles and food jars <p>NO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drinking glasses, mugs, dishes, cookware, pottery or vases Window or mirror glass Containers that held hazardous products, such as nail polish or hobby paint Light bulbs 	<p><i>Leave caps & lids on for recycling</i></p> <p>YES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALL plastic bottles ALL gallon and ½ gallon milk, juice and water jugs Margarine, cream cheese and other tubs Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups Disposable plastic cups Plastic deli, fruit and take-out containers Clear plastic packaging from toys and electronics <p>NO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Styrofoam™ plates, cups or packaging PVC pipes Toys or school/office supplies Containers that held hazardous products, such as automotive fluids or pesticides Plastic bags and wrap

Maybe: Depends on your Hauler

Some recycling haulers are collecting more materials. Visit www.dakotavalleyrecycling.org/curbside for an up-to-date list of what items are accepted in your curbside bin. Click on your hauler's logo to see if you can recycle:

Paper: Pizza boxes (NO food residue or grease) • Boxes from frozen food

Metal: Aluminum foil • Aluminum trays or pie tins • Empty aerosol cans • Scrap metal items

The Recycling Zone

651-905-4520

3365 S. Hwy 149 (Dodd Road)
Eagan, MN 55121

www.dakotacounty.us

Search: *The Recycling Zone*



Hours:

Wednesday: 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Thursday: Noon – 8 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Services Offered at The Recycling Zone

The Recycling Zone, run by Dakota County, is your place to get rid of the stuff you can't throw in the trash. For a full list of items that can be disposed of at The Recycling Zone, go to www.dakotacounty.us and search "materials accepted." A valid driver's license is required to bring items to The Recycling Zone.

Household Chemicals & Hazardous Waste Area

Items like paint, cleaners, chemicals, batteries, gasoline, automotive fluids and fluorescent bulbs are accepted for free from households ONLY. Businesses with hazardous waste should contact Dakota County at 952-891-7020 for more information.

Recycling

Bring in items such as glass bottles and jars, plastic bottles/jugs/tubs, metal cans, paper, cardboard, plastic bags, packing peanuts, scrap metal and cooking oil to be recycled for free. Separate recyclables by material type.

Home Sharps

Bring home sharps (needles, syringes, lancets) in a rigid, sealed container with the label "Do not recycle: household sharps." Accepted from residents only.

Electronics Recycling

Items such as computers, laptops, monitors, computer accessories, TVs, VCRs, DVD players and game systems are accepted for free from households ONLY. Small household electronics such as toasters, blenders, coffee makers, hair dryers and vacuum cleaners are also accepted. Remove batteries. Business electronics are collected separately; contact The Recycling Zone for more information.

Not accepted: major appliances, microwaves, humidifiers, dehumidifiers, water heaters, medical waste.

Reuse Area

Products brought in for disposal—such as paint, cleaners, fertilizers and solvents—are available for free to visitors if they are still useable.



Checkout these other services:

- Compost Bin Sales
- Aluminum Can Redemption
- Lead Sinker Exchange
- Mercury Thermometer Exchange