



Holiday Recycling Do's & Don'ts

Putting the wrong items in your recycling bin can cause the entire bin to be discarded or cause damage in the recycling center. Not all items with a recycle symbol on them are able to be recycled here, so follow the [Recycling Guide at MWAtoday.com](https://www.mwaia.com/recycling-guide).

Put in the recycle bin:

- Plain cardboard boxes (flattened)
- Plain paper gift wrap, cards and envelopes (no foil, glitter, etc.)
- Clean glass jars & tin cans
- Clean, heavier plastic containers, such as juice containers or yogurt cups

Put in the trash:

- Disposable plates, cups, straws and silverware
- Aluminum foil or pans
- Any food containers that have oil or food residue on them (pizza boxes, catering containers, etc.)
- Plastic berry/fruit containers
- Coffee cups—even the paper ones
- Styrofoam packaging or containers
- Plastic wrap or packaging material that is not plain paper
- Tissue paper and fancy wrapping paper or cards (foil, glitter, etc.)

Reminders

- Double check that you removed all packaging material from boxes, including Styrofoam or plastic, before putting them in the bin.
- Never put plastic bags in your recycling bin. Plastic wrapping or bags can clog machinery at the recycling center. Instead, recycle clean plastic bags in designated bins at grocery or big box stores.
- Before throwing out a battery, holiday lights or electronics, check the Recycling Guide at [MWAtoday.com](https://www.mwaia.com) for steps to safely dispose of it.

Drop boxes for specialty items

Holiday Lights: Through January 30, you can drop off old or broken strands of lights in the free collection box at Waukee Public Library. LED, classic, plastic, and glass bulbs as well as net, icicle and battery-powered lights are accepted. Keep them loose when you drop them in the collection box. Metro Waste Authority will safely recycle them at their Metro Hazardous Waste Drop-Off.

Cardboard: Extra cardboard from all those boxes can be dropped off in the free bin near Warrior Park, just off 6th Street. Turn toward the cemetery and water tower and look for the bin. Please remove any plastic and Styrofoam. Break down the boxes to flatten them.

Batteries: Lithium-ion batteries are found in computers, phones, toys, e-scooters and more. They can be dangerous and cause fires in garbage cans and landfills. Instead of throwing them in the trash, put them in the free dropbox at City Hall, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. or the Waukee Public Library or Public Works Building during regular hours. You can also bring household batteries (like AA, AAA, 9V and button types), tool batteries and small electronics like phones or tablets. Cords are accepted too.



Seasonal Jobs with Waukee Parks & Recreation, Public Works and more are coming in January. Sign up for alerts at [Waukee.org/Jobs](https://www.waukee.org/jobs).



Holiday Closures, Trash Delays & Christmas Tree Collection

City of Waukee offices will be closed December 24, December 25 and January 1.

Waukee Public Library will be closed Sunday, December 21; Wednesday, December 24; Thursday, December 25; Sunday, December 28; and Thursday, January 1.

There will be **no garbage or recycling pick-up** on Thursday, December 25 or January 1. If your regular pick-up day is Thursday or Friday, it will be delayed by one day those weeks.

Collection days for real Christmas trees are January 5 and January 12, 2026, for City of Waukee/ASI garbage customers. No artificial trees will be collected. Clear off all decorations, including lights and tinsel, before putting your tree on the curb. Do not put the tree in a bag.

Heat Your Home Safely

Keep furnace and appliance vents leading outside clear of debris and snow. Blocked vents can let carbon monoxide (CO), a colorless, odorless, and potentially life-threatening gas, into your home. Early signs of CO poisoning may include dizziness, fatigue, severe headaches, or flu-like symptoms. Install CO alarms in every sleeping area and on each level, including the basement. If a detector sounds or you suspect CO poisoning, leave immediately and call 911. If you notice the smell of natural gas, which has a distinct rotten-egg odor, call the **MidAmerican Energy emergency line at 800-595-5325**. If the odor is strong, leave your home right away and dial 911.

Save the Date for Waukee FamilyFest!

Burn some energy and get to know local businesses at FamilyFest on Saturday, January 17 from 9 a.m. to noon at Lutheran Church of Hope - Waukee at 305 NE Dartmoor Drive. This free family event features inflatables, snacks and games supplied by Waukee Parks & Recreation and local Waukee businesses and organizations. Find more information at [Waukee.org/FamilyFest](https://www.waukee.org/FamilyFest). No registration is needed.

Things to Know When it Snows

Parking Bans: When snow accumulation is forecast for Waukee, the Public Works Department will declare a Snow Emergency Parking Ban. To help the plows safely and efficiently clear the streets, parking is not allowed on public streets when the ban is in effect. Vehicles remaining on City streets are subject to \$25 fines and/or towing.

At Your Home: Property owners are responsible for clearing snow and ice from the sidewalk within 24 hours after a snowfall to keep them safe for people to use. It is unlawful to place, throw or push snow onto City streets from private property, since it can make roadways unsafe or difficult to travel on. Keep garbage and recycling bins in your driveway, not on the street.

If snow covers a fire hydrant, please dig out five feet around the hydrant down to the ground and out to the street, so emergency personnel can get to it. If there is a fire, every minute counts to save lives and homes.

How to Stay Informed: Get emergency alerts via Alert Iowa and the Smart 911 app. Go to [Waukee.org/Connect](https://www.waukee.org/Connect) for the link to sign up for the types of notifications you want. You can also follow the City of Waukee on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/cityofwaukee) or [Nextdoor](https://www.nextdoor.com) to stay updated on snow emergency parking bans.



Garbage collection route schedules change as Waukee grows. The time of day that your trash or recycling is picked up may change, so be sure to have your bins on the curb by 7 a.m. on your collection day.