



# City of Middleton

## Public Works & Recycling News Fall 2023

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## **Report a Concern**

Use our online Request Tracker to report a concern to City staff by visiting the [City's](#) website. Located under the "I Want To..." tab, select "[Report a Concern](#)" and submit your request within the appropriate category, or call the Public Works Department at 608-821-8370 during business hours (Monday -Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM). Please use this service to report non-emergency complaints only.

## **City Notifications**

Subscribe to City News and Notifications to receive email or SMS updates with information pertaining to city meetings, events and more by visiting our [City's](#) website. Also, located under the "I Want To..." tab, select "[Sign Up For Notifications](#)" and begin by entering a valid email address. For specific updates pertaining to individual groups or departments, subscribe to your choice of options within the Notify Me component. For City-wide topics of interest and big-impact announcements, subscribe to the News Flash choice.

## **Brush Collection – Last Collection in OCTOBER**

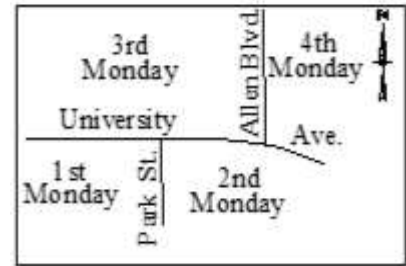
Curbside collection of brush is provided **once a month from April through October**. Brush will NOT be collected from November through March. If you have brush or branches after your last scheduled curbside collection, you may take it to the [MRD Compost Facility](#) at 5211 CTH Q, open April through November.

Please see the [Brush Program](#) web page for the current policy, as well as a complete description of rules and an alternative to curbside collection.

### **Brush Collection Rules:**

- Volume is limited to one truckload per month (~ 7 cubic yards).
- Place brush in front of your home on the grass terrace area near the street.
- Place brush parallel to the curb, with all cut ends pointing to the right as you face the street.
- Avoid placing brush near trees, poles, hydrants, mailboxes, parked cars, and other obstructions.
- Limbs or branches must not exceed 6" in diameter.
- Remove all metal, roots, and dirt.
- Keep brush segregated from garbage, leaves and garden waste.
- Brush trimmed by contractors **WILL NOT** be collected.
- Brush mixed with leaves **WILL NOT** be collected.

If you live:	Place your brush at curb by 7:00 a.m. on:
South of University Ave. West of Park St.	1st Monday of the Month
South of University Ave. East of Park St.	2nd Monday of the Month
North of University Ave. West of Allen Blvd.	3rd Monday of the Month
North of University Ave. East of Allen Blvd.	4th Monday of the Month



**Please Note:** Collection is done throughout the week, not necessarily on Monday. If you see a truck pass your pile, they likely need to empty their truck or obtain special equipment. If Monday is a holiday, place brush at the curb by 7:00 a.m. Tuesday.

## **Leaf Collection**

Curbside collection of leaves and yard waste will begin in October and continue through November, weather permitting. Leaf collection will end following the season’s first snow accumulation, but NO LATER than November 30<sup>th</sup>. Trucks will then be converted for snow and ice control operations.

Please see the [Leaves and Garden Waste](#) web page for the current policy, as well as a complete description of rules and an alternative to curbside collection.

### **Leaf Collection Rules:**

- Pile leaves in front of your home on grass terrace areas along the curb, but **not in the street or gutter**.
- Do not pile leaves around trees, posts, hydrants, mailboxes, rocks, firewood, or brush.
- Do not park a vehicle in front of leaf piles.
- Leaves in bags or containers, or covered with a tarp, **WILL NOT** be collected.
- Leaves mixed with brush **WILL NOT** be collected.

**Please do not cover leaf windrows with tarps.** Our crew will provide a reminder tag on tarps they see. In the past, we have had equipment damaged from inadvertently vacuuming up heavy materials intended to hold the tarps down (bricks, rocks, firewood, etc.). Those large materials can get sucked into the equipment, causing extensive damage, and extended down-time.

Collection of leaves during fall requires a lot of work to be done in a noticeably short time. Your cooperation in making leaf collection efficient is both needed and appreciated.

## **Compost Site**

Residents may continue to drop off yard waste at the MRD compost site, 5211 CTH Q through November. The MRD compost site is operated by Purple Cow Organics. If you have any questions call: 608-831-0349 or visit the [Compost](#) web page on the City's website for additional information.

## **Holiday Trees & Wreaths**

The City will collect & chip holiday trees during the month of January on an as-needed basis, crew availability and weather permitting. All tinsel, decorations, lights, tree stands, etc. must be removed.

**Trees placed in plastic bags, covered in snow, or frozen to the ground will not be collected.**

Wreaths should be discarded in the brown trash cart. The wire holding boughs together cannot be chipped or mulched. As an alternative, residents may take their wreaths apart, recycle the metal, and set out the wood twigs for yard waste collection in the spring.

## **Winter Parking – Effective November 15th to March 15th**

Cold weather and snow will soon be upon us. City Ordinances require alternate side parking during the winter season, regardless of snowfall. Between 1:00 am and 7:00 am, all vehicles parked on the street must be on the even-numbered side on even-numbered days and on the odd-numbered side on odd-numbered days. Alternate side parking is not applicable on streets with parking limited to one side.

## **Snow Removal**

Middleton ordinances require that the owner, occupant or person in charge of each building, structure or unoccupied lot within the City fronting or abutting a street shall remove snow and ice from the sidewalk, including handicap ramps adjacent to such building, structure or unoccupied lot as well as from any fire hydrant upon or directly adjacent to the property to a point no higher than four (4) inches below the lowest outlet hydrant cap.

The snow and/or ice must be removed from the entire width of the sidewalk, handicap ramps and from fire hydrants.

No accumulation of snow or ice may be permitted to remain for longer than 24 hours regardless of the source of the snow or ice. If ice cannot be removed immediately, it shall be sprinkled with salt, sand, or combination thereof until it can be removed. You can also help by shoveling out your mailbox and areas for your trash and recycling carts.

**It is unlawful to plow, shovel or throw snow into the street.**

## **Winter Garbage & Recycling Cart Placement**

With winter weather approaching, it is time to plan for the placement of garbage and recycling carts during the next few months. While many residents can continue to set their carts in their driveway apron, some will instead want to clear snow from the terrace next to the driveway to make carts accessible for the collection trucks. This will be easiest if begun with the first snowfall.

When planning for your cart placement, please remember:

- Place carts with at least 4 feet of clearance on the sides so mechanical arms can get to them.
- Do not place carts on a snowbank or more than 2 feet behind the curb, or the mechanical arm may not be able to reach them.
- **DO NOT PLACE CARTS IN THE STREET**, as that presents a hazard to drivers and bicyclists and interferes with parking, storm drainage, snow plowing and street sweeping.

Please also remember that if severe weather prohibits trash and recycling collection, the pick-up day will be delayed by one day for all residential pick-ups during the rest of that week.

## **Refuse and Recycling Update**

Pellitteri wants to help us keep costs down for collecting recyclable materials, but they need our help. **Improperly placed recyclables will be tagged and not collected.** Please see [Pellitteri's memo](#) on this topic and review additional information on the [City's](#) and [Pellitteri's](#) web sites for a list of recyclable materials and proper cart placement. If you have questions, please call Pellitteri at 608-257-4285.

## **Recycling Center**

The Middleton Recycling Center is open Saturday mornings from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM (noon) year-round and Wednesday evenings 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM, May through September. The recycling center is located at 4330 Parmenter Street at the Municipal Operations Center.

City of Middleton residents can drop off scrap metals, electronics, block Styrofoam #6, large cardboard, clean wood, textiles, oil and oil filters, durable medical equipment, and small items like eyeglasses, batteries, books, cell phones/iPods/digital cameras, and more for recycling!

For specific information about items that will be collected (and fees for recycling, if applicable) at the [Middleton Recycling Center](#), please call 821-8390 ahead of time (answered only during operational hours).

## **Holiday Light Recycling**

You may drop off your indoor & outdoor holiday lights for recycling at no cost during the months of November, December & January.

### **Available locations:**

- Middleton Recycling Center 4330 Parmenter St (Saturdays 8-Noon)
- Ace Hardware 2540 Allen Blvd 608-831-2535
- Wolff Kubly Ace Hardware 6305 University Ave 608-238-0251
- Goodwill 6820 Century Ave 608-820-1114

Questions? Contact Kelly Hilyard at 608-821-8362 or [khilyard@cityofmiddleton.us](mailto:khilyard@cityofmiddleton.us)

## **Curbside Plastic Bag Recycling Has Ended**

Effective 4/19/21, residents should no longer place plastic grocery bag bundles (bags of plastic bags) in their blue recycling carts. Plastic bags can still be recycled in other ways – including taking them to many local retailers, or to the [Middleton Recycling Center](#).

### **Alternative Options:**

- Reuse your plastic bags as bathroom trash can liners, etc.
- Bring reusable bags with you to the store to reduce the number of single-use bags.
- Use paper bags to reduce the number of plastic bags generated. Empty paper bags are recyclable in the curbside program. Please flatten and place in the cart like you would cardboard for paper recycling.

## **Oil & Filters**

Used Oil and Oil Filters can be dropped off for recycling at the Municipal Operations Center in the shed just outside of the recycling center. The oil drop-off site is open for public use and is under surveillance 24/7. Illegal dumping is prohibited, and violators will be subjected to a fine. See Dane County Clean Sweep for disposal of other hazardous materials.

## **Disposing of Household Hazardous Items**

Dane County Clean Sweep accepts many household hazardous items, including paint. The facility is at the landfill on USH 12, across from Yahara Hills Golf Course. See the County website ([www.danecountycleansweep.com](http://www.danecountycleansweep.com)) for location, hours, materials accepted and charges. Remember to bring proof of Dane County residency.

## **Electronics Recycling**

E-waste is one of the fastest growing parts of municipal solid waste worldwide. People have more electronic devices than they did in the past and are replacing them at an even faster rate. Electronics contain valuable reusable materials, including plastics, metals, and glass. Recycling or reusing these materials lessens environmental impacts and economic costs by reducing the need for virgin materials in new products.

Electronics also contain harmful materials, including lead, mercury, cadmium, chromium, and other heavy metals and chemical flame retardants. When improperly handled or disposed of, these chemicals can pollute our soil, water, and impact human health.

The following items are banned from landfills in Wisconsin and should be recycled:

- Televisions
- Computers (desktop, laptop, netbook, and tablet computers)
- Desktop printers (including those that can scan, fax and/or copy)
- Computer monitors
- Computer accessories (including mice, keyboards, and speakers)
- DVD players, VCRs, and DVR's
- Fax machines
- Cell phones

Many electronics recyclers will also accept other types of electronics like stereo equipment, mp3 players, digital cameras, and other hand-held devices. Check the [Middleton Recycling Center](#) web page for a full list of what is accepted there and review other donation/recycling options in the "Electronics" section of the City of Middleton [Trash & Recycling Guide](#).

To see what happens when electronics are recycled, watch the video "What happens When I E-Cycle" at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov), search "ecycle."

## **Med Drop**

A **24 hour drop box** is available in the lobby of the Middleton Police Dept, 7341 Donna Dr.

Please empty pills into plastic sealed bags & recycle the pill bottles. If you are dropping off liquids or creams, they should remain in the original container, and should be placed in a sealed bag to avoid spillage. For more information, please visit the City's website at: <https://www.cityofmiddleton.us/543/Med-Drop-Program>.

## **Adopt-a-Storm Drain Program**

The City of Middleton has partnered with Dane County in the Adopt-a-Storm Drain Program. Adopters can commit to regularly clearing Middleton's storm drains of leaves, grass, trash, snow and other debris, and report and track their activities through a web application. To adopt a storm drain near you or for more information visit: <https://ripple-effects.com/adopt-a-storm-drain>.

## **PFAS Drinking Water Sampling**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) investigated the occurrence of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in drinking water at select municipal drinking water suppliers in WI during 2022. Middleton Water Utility voluntarily took part in this investigation by sampling its drinking water for PFAS. Middleton decided to sample for PFAS to proactively assess its potential impacts in the drinking water and to quickly protect our customers' health if needed. Our drinking water was tested as a part of this sampling project. The results show that PFAS compounds were NOT detected in any of our samples. The test results can be found on the [WI DNR PFAS Sampling Project Page](#), by typing "Middleton Waterworks" into the search bar. The results are listed in the "Other Chemical Samples."

## **Water Conservation Program**

The Middleton Water Utility offers water conservation programs with funding approved by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. The goal is to reduce water usage City-wide, as outlined in the Middleton Sustainable City Plan. In addition, the plan outlines goals and action steps for decreasing the gallons of groundwater pumped. Applications can be found on the [City website](#) and should be returned to the Water/Sewer Department at 7426 Hubbard Ave.

- [Residential](#) (Up to \$100 rebate for installation of high efficiency toilet)
- [Commercial](#) (Rebates for toilets, spray valves, or water audit)

## **Are My Water Pipes Lead?**

Some older homes (constructed prior to 1950) may have some water pipes made of lead. Old lead pipes are not automatically a health threat, since a layer of oxidized metal typically forms on the pipe surfaces over time, preventing water from directly contacting the raw lead. The following tips are intended to help you determine what kind of metal your home water pipes are made of.

**Brass Water Pipes:** Scraping brass will reveal a shiny yellow color. The pipe will not attract a magnet. Pipe fittings are mostly threaded, but some are soldered. Note that some brass water piping may contain lead in the brass alloy.

**Copper Pipes:** May range in color from shiny copper color to black depending on age, location, hot or cold-water use, and other conditions. Copper will not attract a magnet.

**Galvanized Steel Pipes:** Scraping a galvanized iron pipe will reveal a shiny silver-white color like lead. Unlike lead pipes, steel pipes attract a magnet and typically have threaded pipe fittings.

**Lead Pipes:** Scraping a lead pipe will reveal a shiny silver-white color and soft material. A lead pipe will not attract a magnet. Pipes terminate in a wider-diameter lead pipe joint that, in turn, may marry to a threaded nipple or adapter.



## **Is it Flushable?**



What we put down our drains and toilets can negatively impact our environment, put our health at risk, and raise sewer rates. Items labeled “flushable” can still clog pipes, tangle pumps, and result in messy and costly sewer backups. Toilets are not trashcans.

**There are only two items that we should ever flush:**

- **human waste**
- **toilet paper**

If you cannot avoid purchasing and using items that have been labeled “flushable,” dispose of them in the trash after use rather than putting them into our sewer system.

## **Water & Sewer Utilities Bill Payment Options – NEW!**

**Online** – The City of Middleton has partnered with [Xpress Bill Pay](#) to offer customers free and secure internet access to their water/sewer account information, including use history, past and current utility bills, online payment options and more. Simply create an account at [Xpress Bill Pay](#) to begin. When bills are ready for viewing, you will receive an e-mail notification with a link to view your password-protected account information. Within the user profile of your online account, you can decide whether to use your bank or card information as a one-time payment or enroll in autopay. There are no processing fees added for EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) payments.

**Debit or Credit Card** – Credit and Debit card payments can be made by calling 1-(800)-768-7295 or online by creating an [Xpress Bill Pay](#) account and entering your Credit or Debit card information. ***A 3.5% processing fee per transaction will apply to all Credit and Debit card payments.***

**Automatic Clearing House (ACH) payment** – Customers who do not have computer access or valid email address but would still like to set up automatic payments for their utility bills may do so through an automatic draft service set up by the Water Utility Billing Department. Complete the [ACH Form](#), available on the City’s website, and return it to the Water/Sewer Department at 7426 Hubbard Ave along with a voided check or deposit slip (*required*). There are no processing fees added for ACH (Automatic Clearing House) payments.