

# BC WORKS!

## The City of Battle Creek's Department of Public Works Newsletter

### Inside This Issue

1. Welcome
2. Recycling News and Bulk Waste
3. Recycling Collection, Map and Calendar
4. Recycling Do's, Don'ts and Resources
5. Recycling FAQs
6. Garbage and Yard Waste Collection
7. Lead Service Lines and Sewer Lines
8. Snow Plow Season



### Welcome to *BC Works!*

Welcome to *BC Works*, the City of Battle Creek's Department of Public Works (DPW) Newsletter. The newsletter will come to your mailboxes twice a year to provide you with the latest happenings at DPW. While this issue is focused on recycling and solid waste collection within the City, you will also find information on the City's lead service line replacement program, impacts of Fats, Oils and Grease (FOGs) and "disposable" wipes in your sanitary sewer pipes, and street obstructions during snow plowing season.

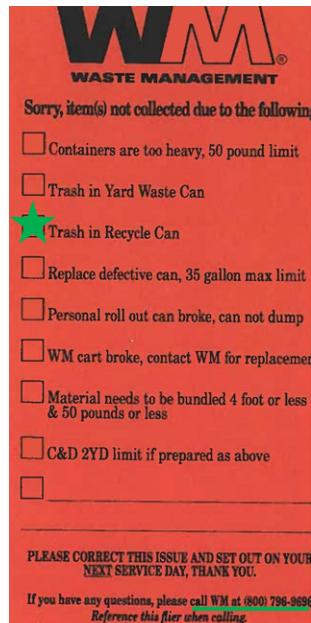
We hope you enjoy seeing what's happening behind the scenes in your city! We welcome your comments, suggestions and ideas. Contact us at 269-966-3355.



# RECYCLING NEWS AND BULK WASTE



Waste Management tag (right) will alert you that your recycling cart is contaminated, and your driver will not empty it.



In March, the city was informed by Waste Management (WM), the city's contracted waste hauler, that some of the recycling routes were being diverted to the landfill because the contamination (non-recyclable materials) in the curbside carts was at an unacceptable level. This contamination causes entire truckloads of recyclables to be rejected at the Materials Recovery Facility in Holland, resulting in fees of \$1,650 to the program, and the materials being landfilled.

The city began an aggressive campaign to help inform neighbors about what is, and is not, accepted in the curbside recycling program. We have used newspaper articles, radio advertisements, postcards, billboards, Facebook posts and Nextdoor over the last few months to get the message out. We've seen some improvement, but we still have some work to do.

Starting Nov. 2, the city and WM piloted a small-scale tagging program on small portions of the Monday pickup route to identify carts with contamination. Carts found containing non-recyclable materials are tagged with a red WM sticker on the lid, and the recycling is not collected. WM will tag a cart twice. The third time they find contamination, the cart will be removed from service. Residents can get carts returned after having a phone call with city staff to learn what materials are accepted in the recycling cart. The tagging program will be expanded to other service days as staffing allows.



**FREE** battery and light bulb recycling kits are available at the Department of Public Works (150 S. Kendall St.). Call us to pick one up! (269) 966-3355, ext. 1878



## Bulk Waste Collection

Bulk waste collection hours are the same as for recycling, garbage and yard waste (provided on Page 3).

Bulk waste must be placed at the curb in a manner to avoid scattering (bagged, bundled, etc.). Other guidelines include:

- Mattresses must be bagged or completely wrapped in plastic and taped. Bags are available at local retailers. You need not bag other furniture.
- Appliances must have doors removed.
- Refrigerators and air conditioners must have Freon removed and be tagged by a licensed technician.
- Tires are NOT accepted.

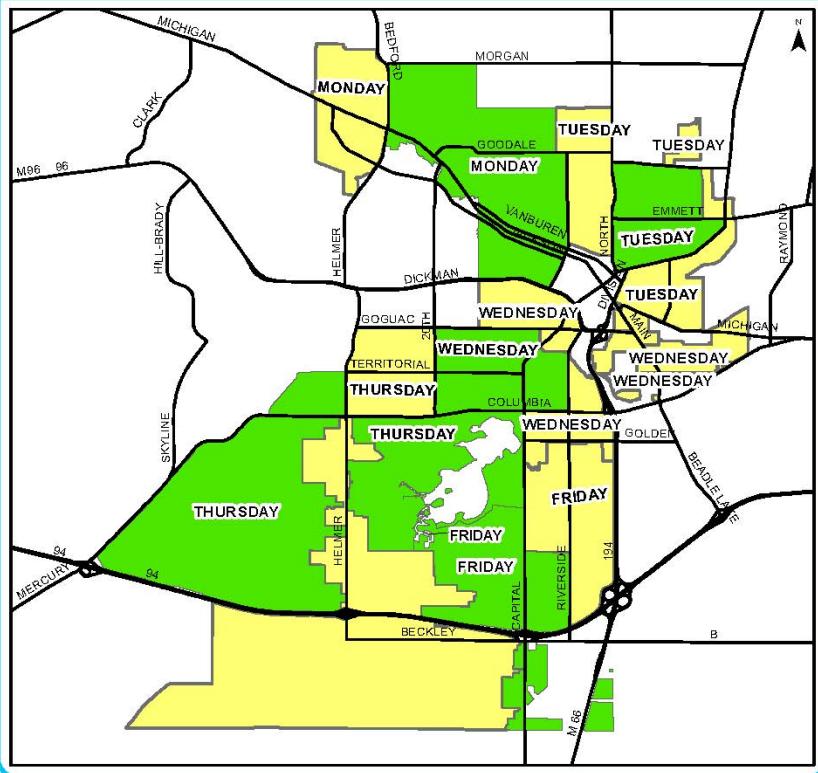


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City neighbors are billed monthly for garbage service through their City of Battle Creek water bill. This service includes garbage, recycling and yard waste. The current 30-day charge is \$19, with incremental increases based on the contract with the city's solid waste hauler. Backdoor service is also available for an additional charge. Senior/Handicapped discounts are available to those who qualify. Contact the city's Utility Billing team at 269-966-3366 for more information on these services.

# RECYCLING COLLECTION, MAP, AND CALENDAR

## Bi-weekly Recycling Pickup Schedule



Waste collection hours are from 6 a.m.-7 p.m., so be sure to have your WM recycling carts (green with yellow lid) at the curb by 6 a.m. on your scheduled pick-up day. Your recycling carts should be placed at the curb no earlier than 1 p.m. on the day prior to your collection day. Carts need to be removed from the curb no later than 9 a.m. on the day following collection. Place carts on the curb (not in the street) with the handles facing away from the street, and be sure that there is at least three feet of space around the cart and other objects for the automated arm to retrieve the cart, and to avoid damage to items near the cart. Take extra care during the winter months to keep the carts out of the street to allow access for snow plows.

City of Battle Creek neighbors can also take their recycling to the following locations. (**Be sure to call ahead for updated hours.**)

- **Waste Management:** 4547 Wayne Road, Springfield; **866-797-9018.** Mon-Fri: 9 am-5 pm; Sat: 7 am-12 pm; Sun: Closed
- **Marshall Recycling Center:** 13300 15 Mile Road, Marshall; **269-969-6395**

## May 2020

S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
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31						

## June 2020

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## July 2020

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26	27	28	29	30	31	

## Aug. 2020

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30	31					

## Sept. 2020

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## Oct. 2020

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## Nov. 2020

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29	30					

## Dec. 2020

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27	28	29	30	31		

## Jan. 2021

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## Feb. 2021

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28						

## Mar. 2021

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

## Apr. 2021

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

**Red dates** are holidays, after which pickup is delayed one day the rest of the week.

See full, interactive recycling map and calendar at [battlecreekmi.gov/recycling](http://battlecreekmi.gov/recycling).

# RECYCLING DO'S, DON'TS AND RESOURCES

## Clean & dry all items

Keep items loose - NO bags

- Milk/juice cartons
- Junk mail
- Magazines
- Flattened cardboard
- All plastics #1 to #7
- Metal cans
- Clamshell containers
- Glass jars/bottles



- Remove glass jar lids (recycle them, too)

## Trash these items:



There are many options for recycling some of the materials that are not accepted in your curbside cart.

Visit these sites to learn more.

- City of Battle Creek  
<https://www.battlecreekmi.gov/recycling>
- Waste Management  
<https://www.wm.com/us/local/mi/battle-creek/residential>
- Calhoun County Recycling Guide  
[CalhounCountyMI.gov/recycling](https://CalhounCountyMI.gov/recycling)
- Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy  
[https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-70153\\_69695--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-70153_69695--,00.html)
- Earth 911  
[https://search.earth911.com/?utm\\_source=earth911-header](https://search.earth911.com/?utm_source=earth911-header)
- Red Med Boxes in Calhoun County for unused medicines  
<https://www.drugfreebc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/RedMed9-19-19.pdf>
- Plastic Film Recycling  
[plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://plasticfilmrecycling.org)

## Remember the 3 basic rules of recycling



Recycle clean bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.



Keep food and liquid out of your recycling.



No loose plastic bags and no bagged recyclables.

Your local Meijer stores accept the following items at drop off areas at the store entrances. These items are NOT accepted in your recycling carts.

## PLASTIC BAGS



reusable grocery bags available for purchase in store

Meijer is committed to waste reduction and recycling

# RECYCLING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Is shredded paper accepted in my curbside cart?**

**NO.** While the paper material is recyclable, when it's shredded, it can litter the recycling collection center and damage machinery. Bagged shredded paper is also **not** accepted. Consider composting the paper or using it as mulch around plants. Also, small scraps of paper like receipts should **not** be placed in your curbside cart.

- **Should I bag my newspapers, magazines and junk mail?**

**NO.** It may seem like you are helping out by pre-sorting your materials, but all recycling must be **loose** in the cart.

- **Can I recycle plastic bags and films (like wraps around water bottles and paper towels) if they have a recycling symbol?**

**NO.** Plastic bags and films are **not** accepted in the City of Battle Creek's curbside carts. These materials can damage sorting machinery, causing costly shut-downs and repairs. These materials can be taken to Meijer stores for recycling or you can check [plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://plasticfilmrecycling.org) for other recycling options. Meijer also accepts: bread bags, newspaper bags, zipper food storage bags, salt bags, ice bags and cereal bags.

- **Should I leave the caps on plastic bottles and milk jugs?**

**YES.** Leave the caps on plastic bottles and jugs or throw them in the trash. The small caps are recyclable, but when loose they can be difficult to sort and can damage sorting machinery.

- **Can I recycle cardboard from frozen meals and pop and beer 12-pack cases?**

**YES.** Be sure the cardboard is free of any food residue and flattened. If there is food or grease on the cardboard, dispose in trash.

- **Can I recycle drink cartons like those used for orange juice and almond milk?**

**YES.** Be sure the cartons are rinsed and dry. And, you can leave the plastic pour spout attached.

- **Is my paper coffee or drink cup recyclable?**

**NO.** These cups have a plastic coating which make the material unusable for recycling. These need to go in the trash.

- **Do I need to remove the plastic windows on envelopes and staples and tape from my papers?**

**NO.** Plastic windows, staples and tapes are removed during the pulping process, so no need to remove them before recycling.

- **Can I recycle items in my curbside cart that have a recycling symbol but aren't listed on Page 4 (plastics #1-7, paper and cardboard, glass food containers, metal food containers)?**

**NO.** The City's program can only accept the items listed on Page 4. Other items such as plastic toys, packing materials, Styrofoam, plastic bags, etc. may be recyclable in other programs, but are **not** accepted in the City's curbside program. See the Calhoun County Recycling Guide ([calhouncountymi.gov/recycling](http://calhouncountymi.gov/recycling)) for other recycling options in the County.

- **I still have questions about recycling. Is there someone I can call for recycling help?**

**YES.** The City of Battle Creek's Environmental Services Department is here to help. Call Patty at (269) 966-3355 ext. 1878 or Bessie at (269) 966-3355 ext. 1889 with your recycling questions.

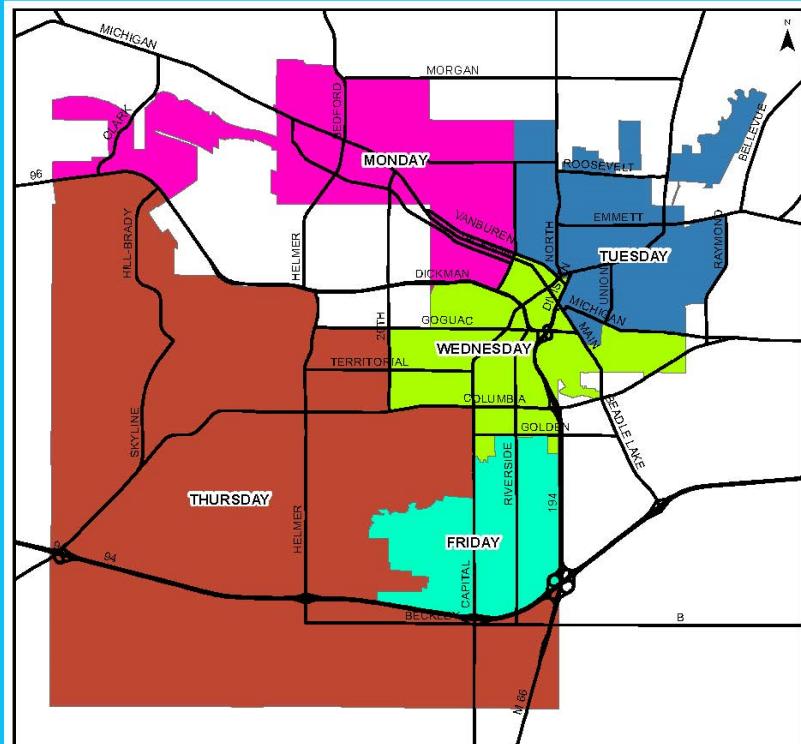
- **For more "Frequently Asked Questions" go to: <http://www.battlecreekmi.gov/recycling>**

## Proper Curbside Waste/Recycling Container Placement



# GARBAGE AND YARD WASTE COLLECTION

## Weekly Garbage Pickup Schedule



## Garbage Collection

Garbage collection hours and cart placement guidelines are the same as for recycling (provided on Page 3). Garbage collection includes items categorized as "Residential refuse"- refuse generated from normal household use.

"Residential refuse" does **not** include commercial refuse, construction waste, hazardous waste, industrial waste or small dead animals exceeding ten pounds in weight. Containers can be rented from WM or personal containers supplied by the resident. Personal containers shall be constructed of substantial plastic, metal or fiberglass and have a tightly fitting lid, be portable, watertight and vector and vermin proof, and be provided with handles or bails. The mouth of the container shall have a diameter greater than or equal to that of the base. Wrapped garbage and other refuse, **except materials intended for recycling**, may be deposited in plastic bags.

Wheeled garbage and yard waste carts are available for rental from Waste Management. Current rates are \$3.25/month for garbage and \$3.75/month for yard waste. Call: 1-800-796-9696 for rentals

## Yard Waste Collection

Yard waste (unlimited residential) is collected weekly from April 1 to Dec. 11, 2020. Yard waste collection days are the same as for recycling, garbage and bulk waste. Michigan law prohibits yard waste from being landfilled, so yard waste in your garbage cart will not be collected.

- **Yard waste includes:**
  - leaves
  - grass clippings
  - garden debris
  - shrubbery
  - small brush and branches
- Yard waste must be in an appropriate container which includes: 1. cart rented from Waste Management (**Call 800-796-9696**), 2. personal container with "Yard Waste Only" label (stickers are available from the DPW) or 3. paper yard waste bags available from local stores.
- Branches and brush must be bundled with twine or string and no longer than 4 feet in length and individual branches can be no more than 2 inches in diameter.
- Each bag or container must not exceed 50 lbs.
- Personal containers must not exceed 32 gallons
- NO plastic bags are accepted
- The City's compost site, Brice Pit, is also available to all City of Battle Creek residents for yard waste disposal. Fall/winter hours are: **Monday-Friday** 7:30 am to 5:30 pm; **Saturday** 9 am to 5 pm; **Sunday** CLOSED.
- **Christmas trees will be collected on your normal trash day between Dec. 26 and Jan. 29, 2021. Remove all decorations.**

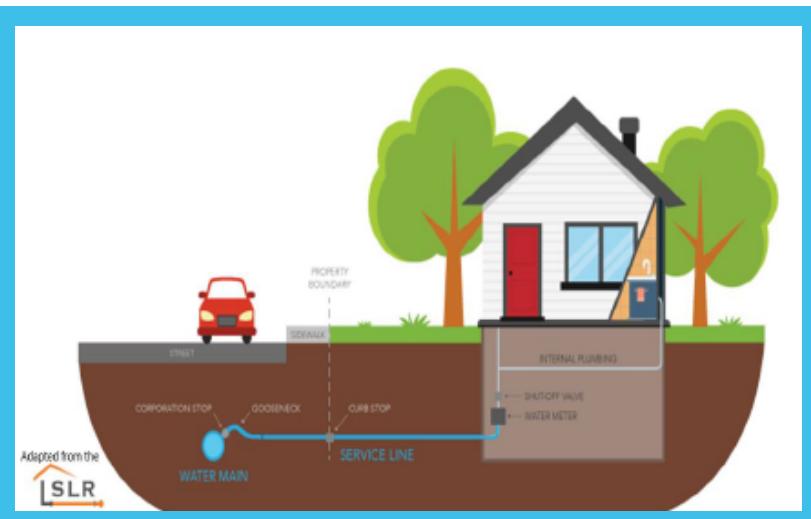


# LEAD SERVICE LINES AND SEWER LINES

## Lead Service Line Update

Recent legislation has changed the responsibility and method of lead service line removal throughout Michigan. The City of Battle Creek has completed a water service records review and sent out over 5,000 letters to owners and occupants of homes where a lead service line is presumed to be present. If you received this letter, **please be assured this does not mean that your water is unsafe**. The City of Battle Creek applies a very effective corrosion-control treatment that reduces the risk of lead leaching into your water. In addition, the City of Battle Creek adheres to the standards and testing requirements in the Safe Drinking Water Act and by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). Our water consistently tests at levels of lead well below the levels of concern. Because these water service records are sometimes over 100 years old, the Water Division has begun a process to verify the service line material by exposing the water line on both sides of the shutoff. The goal is to have this verification process completed by January 1, 2025. This process is necessary to allow for project coordination with road improvements and other infrastructure work, so that we minimize the disruption to the public as much as possible. Homeowners who have their service verified as a lead service will be notified again by the staff at the DPW.

If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Public Works at **269-966-3343**.



Sign up for Battle Creek's "**NOTIFY ME**" service to get email and text alerts on the City's street closures, boil water advisories, solid waste collection news and much more.

Visit: <http://www.battlecreekmi.gov/notifyme>

## Fats, Oils and Grease

When fats, oil and grease (FOG) are flushed down your kitchen sink they build up on the inside of the sewer lines making it difficult for wastewater to flow to the wastewater treatment plant. This buildup can cause sewer lines to back up into homes or into the street. If sewage backs up into the street and makes it to a storm drain it will flow directly to the river untreated. Please cool and can your fats and grease, and cool and pour your oil into a sealed container and dispose of it in your household garbage to help prevent sewer line blockages.



## No Wipes in the Pipes!

Flushable sanitary wipes should not be flushed down the toilet even though they say they are "flushable". These wipes plug pumps used to convey wastewater to the wastewater treatment plant, potentially causing sewer backups. Please dispose of wipes in trash instead of flushing them down the toilet.

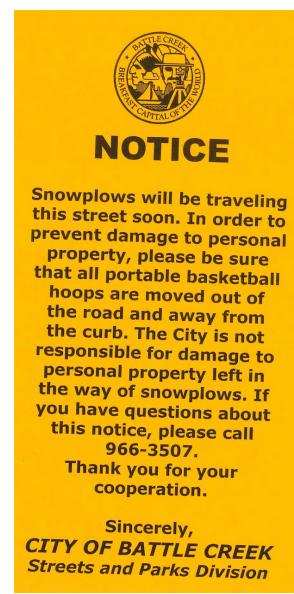




## Preparing for Snow Plow Season

Basketball hoops in the street block access for the snow plows when they are clearing the roads. Please remove any hoops or other items that may keep the snow plows from servicing your street - before the snow falls. Plows need full access to the streets to keep the roadways safe for travel. Be sure to also keep garbage, yard waste and recycling containers on the curb and out of the street during the winter months.

The city will tag any basketball hoops that remain in the streets requesting removal to prevent damage to items and allow for snow plow access. Thanks for your help in keeping the streets safe for all Battle Creek neighbors! If you have questions, please contact: **(269) 966-3507**.



Watch for weekly Snowtifications on the city's Facebook and Nextdoor pages. They give you tips and ideas for a smooth winter. Also visit [battlecreekmi.gov/snow](http://battlecreekmi.gov/snow).

Keep up with the  
Battle Creek Area  
Clean Water Partners  
events and news at  
[bcwater.org](http://bcwater.org) or on  
their Facebook page.

