WASTE REDUCTION GUIDE
LINCOLN & LANCASERT COUNTY
The QR codes in this guide will direct you to websites with more information. Point your phone’s camera at the codes and links will appear.

Reduce is the first option in the waste management hierarchy. By reducing consumption of nonessential products, consumers extend the life of natural resources, prevent litter, reduce worldwide shipping of single-use products and decrease materials sent to the landfill.

Waste reduction is not a new concept. During World War II, Americans were encouraged to support the troops through conservation. Americans reduced demand for food by growing “victory gardens,” conserved fuel by ride sharing, and limited consumption of new goods by repairing broken items.

Since then, countries across the world are working to regulate emissions that damage the environment. Locally, our community must prioritize being cleaner, greener and more resilient by following the waste management hierarchy. For more information on how to reduce, reuse and recycle, call the Solid Waste Management Division at 402-441-8215 or visit recycle.lincoln.ne.gov.

Reduction
- Cleaner production, sustainable consumption and prevention.

Reuse
- Reusing waste in its current form.

Recycling & Composting
- Processing waste to recover commercially valuable products.

Recover
- Recovering energy from waste.

Residuals
- Safe disposal in a landfill.

Water protection starts at home. Not all rain and snow that falls on your property soaks into the ground. **Stormwater runoff is not processed by the City wastewater treatment system and can carry pollutants into nearby waterways.** Those toxic materials include pet waste and lawn chemicals which harm aquatic life and poison groundwater. To protect local water, collect pet waste, avoid chemical lawn treatments and use biodegradable products for outdoor cleaning projects.

Common water pollutants:
- Litter
- Cigarette butts
- Fertilizers
- Pesticides
- Motor oil
- Sediment

Reduce while shopping
When shopping, avoid unnecessary packaging by purchasing bulk amounts and not using plastic bags for produce.
Reuse helps reduce carbon emissions by decreasing the demand to make and ship new items. When purchasing an item, consider the life expectancy of the products being purchased and where they will end up once discarded. Before buying new, try renting or buying used items at thrift and resale shops. Lincoln and Lancaster County have a wide variety of stores to choose from. See the list below for additional ideas.

REUSE SHOPPING GUIDE

**Clothing, Housewares and Miscellaneous**
- Blessings and More Thrift Store | 402-450-3577
- Bud’s Thrift Shoppe | 402-420-5697
- Cause for Paws | 402-420-5758
- Community Action Partnership | 402-471-4515
- Goodwill | 402-438-2022
- Habitat for Humanity Restore | 402-464-0010
- Home & Closet | 402-474-5407
- OMT! Divine Women’s Resale | 402-423-2066
- People’s City Mission | 402-475-6888
- Plato’s Closet | 402-420-2440
- Play it Again Sports | 402-483-7447
- Ruby Begonias | 402-438-4438
- Salvation Army | 402-466-5052
- St. Louise Gift and Thrift | 402-474-1600
- St. Teresa’s Thrift Shop | 402-475-7065
- The Black Market | 402-475-1033
- The Daisy | 402-475-7777
- Twice As Nice | 402-423-0083

**Baby/Children’s Clothing**
- Once Upon a Child | 402-464-4443
- Room 2 Grow | 402-325-0088

**Bicycles**
- Lincoln Bike Kitchen | 402-915-2453

**Books**
- A Novel Idea Bookstore | 402-475-8663
- Bluestem Books | 402-435-7120

**Records/CDS**
- Backtrack Records | 402-464-4567
- CD Warehouse | 402-486-0047
- Lefty’s Records | 402-438-0038

Consider adding these reusable items to your daily routine:
- water bottle
- coffee mug
- food container
- utensils
- shopping bag

Each day offers an opportunity to reduce waste.
Households and businesses should check with the firms listed in this guide to ensure proper handling of recycled products. The City has not conducted an environmental audit on any of the firms listed. Fees and restrictions may apply. Please call before dropping off materials.

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<td>Walmart Supercenter locations</td>
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<td>Walmart Auto Care Center locations</td>
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<td>Wolfe Ace Hardware</td>
<td>402-466-7707</td>
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<tr>
<th>Concrete and Asphalt</th>
<th>Household Hazardous Waste</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cather &amp; Sons Construction</td>
<td>402-466-9300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constructors, Inc.</td>
<td>402-434-1764</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gana Trucking &amp; Excavating (Roca)</td>
<td>402-794-5000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pavers LLC (Waverly)</td>
<td>402-786-5900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dudley’s Dew-Right Tree &amp; Mulch Services</td>
<td>402-421-0870</td>
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<td>Hofeling Enterprises, Inc.</td>
<td>402-438-8733</td>
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<th>Wood Waste</th>
<th>Propane Tanks</th>
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<tr>
<td>People’s City Mission</td>
<td>402-428-2066</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lee’s Propane</td>
<td>402-474-3235</td>
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<tr>
<td>Otte Oil &amp; Propane (Davey)</td>
<td>402-785-2365</td>
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Recycling Contamination

Recycling becomes contaminated when unacceptable materials such as plastic bags, electronics and other non-recyclable materials are placed in the recycling bins. It is also considered contamination when recyclable materials are incorrectly placed in the recycling bin such as food left in containers and recyclables contained in plastic bags.

Recycling contamination is the primary reason recyclables end up in the landfill and is the biggest threat to a successful recycling program. Don’t spoil your recycling. When recycling contamination occurs, you risk having the entire bin sent to the landfill. Do not assume your recycling processor is able to sort out all of the recycling contamination. Plastic bags clog recycling equipment and broken glass contaminates cardboard and other paper being recycled. To know whether an item is recyclable, check the guidelines on the container, call your recycling collector or consult the Solid Waste Management Division at 402-441-8215, recycle.lincoln.ne.gov. When in doubt, throw it out.

Top 5 Contaminants

**Plastic Films**
Plastic film can only be recycled at participating grocery and retail stores; never in curbside recycling bins.

**Glass**
Some single-stream curbside recycling may not accept glass. If glass breaks in the collection process, it can contaminate cardboard and other paper products. One of the best ways to recycle glass is through public recycling sites.

**Food Residue**
Recyclables must be clean and dry. Food residue in containers can ruin the entire load of recyclables, causing it to go to the landfill.

**Non-Recyclable Plastics**
Do not put single-use plastics, such as styrofoam, utensils, toothpaste tubes, wax-layered fast food cups, straws and packaging in recycling container.

**Textiles**
Textiles can only be recycled at participating designated sites; never in curbside recycling bins.

Composting is Recycling

Compost improves the health of soil by improving nutrient content and moisture retention on topsoil. Compost also saves money by reducing the need for fertilizers and pesticides. Local compost sources include:

- **Big Red Worms**
  3211 NW 39th St.
  Lincoln, NE 68524
  402-476-9340

- **LinGRO Compost**
  North 48th St.
  Transfer Station:
  5101 North 48th St.
  Lincoln, NE 68504
  402-441-8102

- **Prairieland Dairy**
  13000 Pella Rd.
  Firth, NE 68358
  402-791-2228

- **Soil Dynamics**
  1725 Avenue G
  Omaha, NE 68110 or
  16490 292nd St.,
  Ashland, NE 68003
  (by appointment only)
  402-332-4710 Ext. 3

All Lincoln garbage collectors offer recycling services. Call your collector for more information on curbside recycling.

What is Recyclable?

Community recycling standards may differ. Locally acceptable materials include plastics #1-5, aluminum, glass, steel cans, cardboard, paper board and paper (news, office and mixed).
This free service is for people who are older or with disabilities who want to manage household hazardous waste and toxic chemicals. Safe Homes for Seniors will assess, identify, sort, remove and recycle or dispose of unwanted hazardous waste safely.

Call 402-441-7030 to schedule an assessment.

Dropping off hazardous waste is easy for Lincoln and Lancaster County residents. Open every Wednesday 9 a.m.-1 p.m., no appointment necessary, or by appointment the third Saturday of the month.

Visit HazToGo.com or call 402-441-8021

SAFE HOMES FOR SENIORS

Use this to find hazardous products in your home. Check whether you plan to use it up, store it safely or take to HAZTOGO—Lincoln’s Hazardous Waste Center.

Use it up | Store it safely

### Kitchen
- Degreaser
- Floor Cleaner
- Oven cleaner

### Bathroom and Laundry Room
- Bleach
- Disinfectant
- Drain cleaner
- Spot remover
- Upholstery cleaner

### Craft/Hobby Areas and Garage
- Adhesive
- Brake fluid
- Furniture stripper
- Insecticide
- Mercury
- Mixed fuels
- Oil-based paint
- Old gasoline
- Paint thinner
- Pool chemicals
- Rodenticide
- Thermostat
- Varnish
- Weed killer

Visit us at HAZTOGO.com

Last year, over 100,000 pounds of hazardous waste was diverted from the environment. Keep it up!
Keep Lincoln and Lancaster County Beautiful (KLLCB) maintains a clean, healthy and safe community by organizing residents for litter reduction activities. Follow KLLCB on Facebook (@KLLCB) for waste reduction and recycling tips or call 402-441-8035 for more information on the following programs:

**Volunteertism** - Litter cleanup opportunities for groups and individuals are made possible by providing equipment such as gloves, safety vests, trash reachers, bags and more.

**Grant Funds** - These funds provide incentives and reimbursements to groups and individuals for neighborhood, roadway and park cleanups. Apply on the website.

**Event Recycling Container Lending** - This program provides containers for recycling at one-time meetings, conferences, benefits, festivals, and other special events.

**Illegal Dumping Cleanup** - Report illegal dumpsites for cleanup to 402-441-8022.

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**LANDFILL**

**North 48th Street Solid Waste Management Facility**
5101 N. 48th St., 402-441-8104
- Monday through Friday: 6:45 a.m.-4:15 p.m.
- Saturday: 6:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Sunday: 6:45 a.m.-12 p.m.

This location is for small vehicles and trailers only. Access is permitted for any size vehicle containing construction and demolition waste. All waste, except concrete and dirt, must be secured and/or covered. Unloading must be completed by closing time.

Yard and wood waste disposal is limited to small vehicles and trailers only.

**Bluff Road Solid Waste Management Facility**
6001 Bluff Road, 402-441-8102
- Monday through Friday: 6:45 a.m.-4:15 p.m.
- Saturday: 6:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Sunday: 6:45 a.m.-12 p.m.

This location is for commercial refuse haulers only. All loads must be covered.

Yard waste, appliances and tires must be separated from other waste and deposited in designated areas. Corrugated cardboard must be removed from the load prior to arrival. From April 1 to December 1, disposal of grass and leaves in the landfill is prohibited by state law.

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**CONSCIOUS CONSUMPTION**

Consumers have the power to drive the demand for products made from recycled materials. Choosing products like toilet tissue and paper towels made from recycled content is a great way to support recycling. Look for labels on products that specify recycled content. Ask businesses about their packaging and recycling methods.

For more information on how to use your purchasing power to encourage businesses to use environmentally-responsible practices, call the Solid Waste Management Division at 402-441-8215 or visit recycle.lincoln.ne.gov.