

RECYCLING

IN THE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE SECTOR

FACT SHEET

▶ CORRUGATED CARDBOARD DISPOSAL BAN

Corrugated cardboard is not garbage. Starting **April 1, 2018**, the landfill will **not accept** clean and dry corrugated cardboard.¹ It must be reused or recycled. Corrugated cardboard (pictured below) is defined as three or more layers of paper with the middle layer rippled or corrugated.



▶ CHALLENGES TO RECYCLING IN THE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE SECTOR

This fact sheet provides useful information to help automotive companies keep corrugated cardboard out of the landfill and overcome typical recycling challenges, including: training employees on what/how to recycle, limited infrastructure, managing hazardous or universal wastes, and managing subscription/container costs for a wide array of materials.

▶ VALUE OF AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE RECYCLING

- **Cost Savings.** For every ton of garbage diverted from the landfill, \$34.75 in disposal costs is avoided. Collection fees must still be paid when recycling, but the tipping fee is often less than landfilling or non-existent. Sometimes recycling high-value, clean materials, such as cardboard and metal, earn businesses extra revenue.
- **Efficiency.** If materials are wasted on the job, you pay twice: for purchase and for disposal. Knowing what is being thrown out can tell a lot about how efficiently your employees are using materials that affect your bottom line.
- **More Business.** Promoting your business as a place to recycle used oil, antifreeze, tires or batteries can help introduce customers to your business and build your environmental reputation with your clients.

¹ LMC 8.32.040, Sect. C / Recyclable cardboard* shall not be accepted by the City for disposal in the City's public sanitary landfills effective April 1, 2018. (*Clean and dry corrugated cardboard.)

| Recyclable Parts and Materials | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Motor Oil, Filters, and Absorbents | Starters and Alternators |
| Auto Glass | Belts |
| Engines and Transmissions | Rubber Hoses |
| Scrap Metal | Mats and Carpets |
| Batteries | Shipping/Packaging Cardboard Water |
| Tires | Pumps |
| | *Plastic Bumpers (Firstar Fiber only) |

OVERCOMING RECYCLING CHALLENGES IN THE AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE SECTOR

- Develop a Plan for Cardboard.** If your business does not currently recycle corrugated cardboard, begin planning as soon as possible (corrugated cardboard disposal ban effective as of April 1, 2018). Discuss convenient options to contract on-site recycling with your current garbage or recycling collector, or search for better services by contracting a new collector. Every [garbage collector](#) is required to offer recycling services to their commercial customers at least twice per year. You may also choose to self-haul cardboard to a recycling processor (see Links & Resources below). Public recycling sites are provided for **residential** use and should not be used by commercial establishments.
- Inspect Your Garbage.** Assess your garbage and make a list of recyclables and landfill items that are being generated. If you have a recycling program in place, inspect recycling for contamination - the presence of garbage in recycling bins. Inspect all areas of your property, noting where certain types of recyclables are generated.
- Place Containers.** Consider minimizing garbage bins throughout the shop. Set up stations with containers for frequently used materials such as cardboard, oily rags, scrap metal, wire, and absorbent. Provide closable drums for used oil, antifreeze, and other liquids. Also consider color-coding containers to easily identify different material destinations.
- Label Containers.** Be sure that all containers in your facility are labeled clearly. Including signs with images of materials can communicate across languages and make item disposal easy to understand. For more information on recycling signage, click [here](#).



Many scrap materials can be collected and recycled, including metal (left), batteries (center) and wooden pallets (right), among other things.

- **Designate a Space for Cardboard.** If space is too limited to add a dedicated container, consider breaking down cardboard and stacking it in a corner. Have an employee drop the stacks off at a recycling processor at no cost, or schedule a pickup with your collector.
- **Plan for Scrap Material.** Material such as metal, auto batteries, and copper wiring can be taken to scrap yards. They may pay for your material. To maximize efficiency, wait until you have a full dumpster load before scheduling a pickup from your garbage or recycling hauler. Or consider having an employee regularly take small amounts of the material to scrap yards to avoid collection service costs.
- **Reuse Towels and Rags.** Designate a small container or barrel for used rags. Contract with an industrial towel service to regularly pick up rags for cleaning and drop off clean bundles.
- **Use Space Efficiently.** In maintenance shops, space is often tight. Use small containers for items such as plastic bottles and cans. In the break room, where these items are more common, consider larger containers.
- **Buy in Bulk.** When ordering frequently-used products such as oil, solvents, and absorbent, buy in large quantities to reduce packaging and the frequency of deliveries.
- **Continually Communicate with Staff.** Discuss and encourage garbage reduction, reuse of materials and recycling at employee meetings. Post educational materials around the shop or breakroom. Educational material can be distributed among employees to encourage continued best practices.
- **Celebrate Your Success.** Create an atmosphere of pride by continually promoting the success of your recycling program. Report the amount of recyclables diverted from the landfill to employees and customers. Apply to the [Recycle Lincoln Leadership Recognition Program](#) and earn public recognition for your efforts.

LINKS & RESOURCES

- **American Plastics Council Stretch Wrap Recycling Guide**
<https://plastics.americanchemistry.com/Stretch-Wrap-Recycling/>
- **Commercial Recycling Self-Assessment and Waste Diversion Rate Calculator**
<http://recycle.lincoln.ne.gov/commercial/self-assessment.htm>
<http://recycle.lincoln.ne.gov/commercial/waste-diversion-calculator.htm>
- **Corrugated Cardboard Disposal Ban FAQ**
<http://recycle.lincoln.ne.gov/corrugated-cardboard.htm>
- **Guide to Selecting / Contracting for Garbage and Recycling Collection**
<http://recycle.lincoln.ne.gov/commercial/fact-sheets/pdf/collection-contracting.pdf>
- **Local Garbage and Recycling Collectors**
<http://recycle.lincoln.ne.gov/collectors.htm>

- **Machinery Lubrication – Options for Lubricant Storage and Handling**
<http://www.machinerylubrication.com/Read/28902/lubricant-storage-handling>
- **Multilingual Resources**
<http://recycle.lincoln.ne.gov/multilingual-resources.htm>
- **Nebraska Recycling Council**
<http://www.nrcne.org>
- **Nebraska Materials Exchange Program**
<http://www.knb.org/exchange.htmls>
- **Recycle Across America**
<http://www.recycleacrossamerica.org/>
- **Recycle Lincoln Leadership Recognition Program**
<http://recycle.lincoln.ne.gov/wrrap/recognition.htm>
- **Recycling Guidelines by Material**
<http://recycle.lincoln.ne.gov/wrrap/recognition.htm>
- **Recycling Processing Centers**
 - Firststar Fiber, 402-894-0003, <https://firststarrecycling.com/>
 - * Plastic bumpers accepted here
 - Mid America Recycling, 402-476-8502, <http://www.midamericarecycling.com>
 - Recycling Enterprises, 402-421-6655, <http://www.recyclelincoln.com/>
- **Recycling Signage and Labels**
<http://recycle.lincoln.ne.gov/commercial/fact-sheets/pdf/recycling-signage.pdf>
- **Waste Reduction and Recycling Assistance Program (WRRAP)**
<http://recycle.lincoln.ne.gov/wrrap/>

For more information about recycling and Lincoln's corrugated cardboard diversion efforts, visit recycle.lincoln.ne.gov, email recycle@lincoln.ne.gov or call the Recycling Office at 402-441-8215.