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Solid Waste Management for Agricultural Properties

This guidance document has been produced by the Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment (DWEE) to assist landowners and farm and ranch operators with the management of their solid waste. The dumping of waste on private property has been prohibited in Nebraska since October 1, 1993.

The Nebraska Recycling Council's Recycling Guide is a resource that allows you to search for recycling locations in your area by material type. Keep Nebraska Beautiful has waste programs that include materials exchange and used oil collection. Links to these websites can be found in the Resources section at the end of this document.

Building Demolition Waste

For demolition waste, there are some exceptions which are:

- The use of concrete waste, block, brick, concrete rubble, or similar material for erosion control, landscaping, or land improvements.
- The burial of trees and brush, or the ashes from burning trees and brush. A burn permit from the local fire department must be obtained before the burning of any trees or brush.
- The burial of farm buildings on the property where they originated only if the property is zoned for agricultural use. All hazardous material must be removed before burial occurs. Burying building waste that did not originate from the property is prohibited.

Burn Barrels

DWEE does not regulate the use of burn barrels for household waste, but it may be regulated by city or county regulations. Contact your local city and county officials before using a burn barrel in your area. The ash from burning household waste must be disposed of at a permitted Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) landfill. Burying ash waste is prohibited.

Junk and Scrap Agricultural Equipment

Property owners are prohibited from accumulating junk on property that is not purely agricultural to the extent that the junk is a potential hazard to health. "Junk" is defined in Nebraska [Title 132 – Integrated Solid Waste Management Regulations](#) as materials that include, but are not limited to, old scrap, copper, brass, iron, steel, rope, wire, glass, rags, batteries, paper trash, rubber, debris, demolition waste, abandoned mobile homes that are dismantled or wrecked, vehicles or parts of vehicles that are untaxed, untitled, or unlicensed, and other old or scrap material.

Waste Tires

The land disposal of waste tires is prohibited in Nebraska. However, the beneficial use of waste tires for agricultural purposes is acceptable in some instances:

- Use as bumpers on agricultural equipment
- Use as ballast to maintain covers or structures on an agricultural site
- Use as feeders and water tanks for livestock
- Use as bank or blowout stabilization for areas that are ½ acre or smaller in size

For specific criteria on waste tire disposal, refer to Nebraska [Title 132 – Integrated Solid Waste Management Regulations](#), Chapter 14. See also DWEE Guidance Document "Use of Waste Tires for Blowout Stabilization."

Waste Oil and Oil Filters

Land disposal of waste oil is prohibited. Waste oil should be recycled or reused. Local petroleum dealers may be able to help you dispose of waste oil or connect you to oil recyclers. Waste oil should never be mixed with other liquid or solid wastes.

Oil filters should be crushed, punctured, or dismantled, and drained so they do not contain free liquids. Oil filters should be kept separate from other waste and disposed of at a permitted landfill or recycled when possible.

Vehicle Batteries

Landfill and land disposal of vehicle batteries is prohibited. Local dealers of batteries often collect used batteries or may be able to help you contact a recycler.

Antifreeze

Antifreeze should be recycled or reused. Never mix used antifreeze with used oil.

Pesticides

Pesticide containers are considered non-hazardous waste if they are triple rinsed, or power washed. Some areas of the state have pesticide container collection sites. Information about collection sites can be found on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln website at <https://pested.unl.edu/recycling/>.

Livestock Waste

The composting of livestock waste such as bedding and manure, and the land application of livestock waste generated at your own livestock operation is exempt from Title 132 regulations as long as the operation is in compliance with [Title 130 – Livestock Waste Control Regulations](#).

Dead Animals

Please refer to the DWEE Guidance Document “Disposal of Animal Carcasses and Non-Disease Related Mass Mortality Events” for more information.

Statewide Landfill Bans

The following items are banned from landfills and land disposal in Nebraska.

- Yard waste from April 1st through November 30th
- Waste oil
- Lead acid batteries (car batteries)
- Household appliances
- Unregulated hazardous waste except for household quantities
- Waste tires in any form

RESOURCES:

- DWEE Home Page <https://dwee.nebraska.gov/>
- Nebraska Recycling Directory <https://nrcne.org/recycling-guide/>
- Keep Nebraska Beautiful <https://www.knb.org/>

Contacts:

- DWEE Main Number (402) 471-2186
- DWEE Toll Free Number (877) 253-2603
- DWEE Hazardous Waste Compliance Assistant (402) 471-8308
- Email questions to: DWEE.moreinfo@nebraska.gov

DWEE Publications:

- Environmental Guidance Document – “ABCs of Demolition”
- Environmental Guidance Document – “Construction and Demolition Waste in Nebraska”
- Environmental Guidance Document – “Use of Waste Tires for Blowout Stabilization”
- Environmental Guidance Document – “Disposal of Animal Carcasses and Non-Disease Related Mass Mortality Events”

Guidance documents are available on the DWEE website by clicking “Visit Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (DEE),” selecting “Forms,” and “Publications, Grants & Forms.”

- [Title 128 – Nebraska Hazardous Waste Regulations](#)
- [Title 130 – Livestock Waste Control Regulations](#)
- [Title 132 – Nebraska Integrated Solid Waste Management Regulations](#)

Titles are available on the DWEE website by clicking “Visit Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (DEE),” selecting “Resources and Services,” “Laws & Regulations,” and “Rules & Regulations.”

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