

green talk



Watering Restrictions

From **May 1st to September 30th** the use of the City water supply system for lawn and garden sprinkling, irrigation, or other non-potable uses is **prohibited between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.** and is **limited to an odd-even schedule** corresponding to the property address. During this time residents with even-numbered addresses may water only on even-numbered days and residents with odd-numbered addresses may water only on odd-numbered days. It should be noted that the watering restriction does not apply to activities such as washing your vehicle on a Saturday afternoon. Even so, if you can wash your car in the evening or morning, it will help conserve water. It is also wise to have a spray nozzle on the hose while washing the vehicle to minimize the water that flows into the storm sewers.

Say Hello to Energy Saving Tips Home Energy Squad by Xcel Energy

Springtime is a chance for Minnesotans to spend more time outdoors after a long winter. It is also an opportunity to prioritize some of those home improvement projects. If you were dealing with ice dams or drafts during the winter months now would be a good time to schedule a visit with the **Home Energy Squad** to learn where your home is losing energy and how you can fix it.

Kelli, a Mahtomedi resident, has lived in her home for 30 years. She had problems with ice dams on the roof and heard they were often related to warm air leaking into the attic. Kelli decided it was finally time to do something about it, and she made an appointment with the Home Energy Squad.

During a two and half hour home visit, two energy consultants installed energy saving products such as LED bulbs, door weather-stripping, water savers, water heater wrap and a programmable thermostat to help Kelli start saving right away.

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Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale

Washington County is excited to partner with the Recycling Association of Minnesota to sell compost bins and rain barrels to residents at low cost.

Washington County residents get an extra \$20 off each item!

To receive the discounted price, order online at www.co.washington.mn.us/2813/backyard-composting and enter promo code “Washington.” Proof of residency is required at purchase. Limit two rain barrels and two compost bins per household.

Home Composter Compost Bin

\$64 full price | \$44 after discount

RainCatcher Rain Barrel

\$79 full price | \$59 after discount

Pre-ordered items are available for pick-up at the Environmental Center during normal business hours.

Washington County Environmental Center

4039 Cottage Grove Drive
Woodbury, Minnesota 55129

HOURS

Tuesday: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Thursday: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Closed on 4th of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

The Household Hazards of Spring Cleaning

There must be something in the air this time of year that compels us to clean, consolidate and reorganize our homes into efficient and spotless spaces. As you work up the elbow grease and start tossing out junk, it may surprise you that some of your everyday household products require special care when you dispose of them.

Do you have leftover items like paint, cleaners, oils, batteries, or pesticides lurking in your garage or basement? Oftentimes these products contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients and are considered to be household hazardous waste (HHW).

Improper disposal of HHW includes pouring it down the drain, on the ground, into storm sewers, or putting them out with the trash. The dangers of these disposal methods might not be directly obvious, but incorrect disposal of these wastes can hurt the environment and even harm human health.

The next time you're spring cleaning or on the move, be safe and do the right thing. Instead of in the trash or down the drain, here's what you can do to ensure proper disposal of your HHW:

- Become a label reader. As a general guide, bring products labeled "Warning" and "Poison" to your HHW Facility for safe disposal.
- Bring your household hazardous wastes (paint, motor oil, etc.) to the Washington County Environmental Center. Call **612-275-7475** for drop-off locations and times.
- Create an inventory of the products you have, so you do not buy more than you need.
- Consider creating a non-toxic tool kit made from simple materials you have at home. Baking soda, vinegar, vegetable oil and lemon juice are a few common ingredients that make excellent cleaning substitutes.

For additional tips on reducing HHW at home, visit: www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green

Home Energy Squad by Xcel Energy, continued



While they were there, the Home Energy Squad crew also conducted an energy audit that involved checking attic and wall insulation, a blower-door test for leaks and a combustion safety check of the heating system.

At the end of the visit the crew provided Kelli with a customized report that explained her home's performance and made concrete recommendations, such as air sealing the attic to help prevent heat loss and the formation of ice dams.

When asked about her experience with the Home Energy Squad Kelli said, "They were very efficient and installed over 50 lightbulbs for me!"

This year while you are planning home improvement projects make an appointment with the Home Energy Squad and see what else you can do to save energy and money throughout the year.

The Home Energy Squad is a program provided by Xcel Energy and delivered by the Center for Energy and Environment, a local nonprofit that has been helping Minnesotans save energy for over 40 years. The City of Mahtomedi pays half the cost of a Home Energy Squad visit, which means city residents only pay \$50. To schedule your visit call **651-328-6220** or sign up online at <https://www.mncee.org/home-energy-squad/mahtomedi/>

Yard Waste and Organics Sign-up

As part of our five-year recycling contract with Waste Management, we are offering residents the opportunity to opt-in and sign up for curbside weekly yard waste and organics collection.

The cost of the weekly collection service for 2020 is \$14.15/month and will be billed on your quarterly utility bill. The following are food and organics, and yard waste items that will be collected:



Produce
Fruits & vegetables



Meat
All cooked and raw meat products including bones, shells, fish, beef & chicken



Dairy
Milk, yogurt, ice cream & cheese



Floral
Plants & flowers



Bakery & Dry Goods
Pasta, beans, rice, bread & cereal



Soiled Paper Goods
Coffee grounds & filters, tea bags, soiled paper bags, tissues, paper towels, napkins & uncoated take-out containers



Compostable Serviceware
Wooden utensils, paper plates & cups



Leaves, Grass Clippings, Pine Needles, Small Twigs & Brush
Brush items must be bundled into limbs no larger than 3 inches in diameter, no longer than 3-4 feet in length and less than 2 feet in diameter on the bundles

NOT ACCEPTED: Sod, dirt, tree stumps, hay, mulch, wood chips, sawdust, lumber, pine cones, animal feces and deceased animals.

If you are interested in this service, please fill out and return the form at the City's website www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us.