

green talk



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 Serveware
Wooden utensils, paper plates & cups



Leaves, Grass Clippings, Pine Needles, Pine Cones, 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, 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. The City will contact residents by letter when the program begins.



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.

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Water Conservation Rebate Program

The City once again was awarded a Metropolitan Council Grant as part of the Council's 2019-2022 Water Efficiency Grant Program. The amount of the grant is \$6,300. Mahtomedi is one of forty cities in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area that applied for and was accepted into this grant program.

Grant funds will be used for the City's ongoing water conservation program. The City is offering \$50 rebates to Mahtomedi Water Utility Households replacing washing machines or toilets. Residents can bring in their original purchase receipts and documentation of applicable required certifications (i.e. user manual) and get a \$50 check. Toilets must be labeled Water Sense Certified and use 1.28 gallons per flush. Washing machines must be Energy Star-Qualified High Efficiency Certified. Rebates are available on a first come first serve basis. One rebate check per household.

Forms are available on the City's website at www.ci.mahtomedi.mn.us. For more information, contact City Hall at **651-426-3344**.

RECYCLING PICKUP

Recycling is picked up every other Thursday. On your scheduled pickup day, you should place your recycling container behind the curb or street edge after 5:00 p.m. the night before collection but no later than 7:00 a.m. on your collection day. **When a holiday falls on or before the scheduled collection day, the collection will be one working day later.**

Xcel Energy Saving Tip — Using Lights

High-efficiency, LED light bulbs can save you money over the life of a product. Switch to LEDs, especially ENERGY STAR®-qualified products, which typically use 70% to 90% less energy and last at least 15 times longer than the traditional bulbs they replace. Consider taking a quick tour of your home and think about which lights you use most often, and replace those with LEDs first to help save more on bills. Pick the right bulb for you. LEDs use less energy. Choose a wattage that's about 1/4 of what you usually buy for an incandescent bulb. Always turn off lights when you leave the room, even if you'll only be gone for a moment. Use outdoor motion detection lighting, so you only use energy when you need it. Always unplug cords from outlets when not in use and use power strips to easily turn power on and off.



Nontoxic Fishing Tackle: Let's Get the Lead Out

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Safer fishing tackle can help — Anglers can help prevent lead poisoning. Inexpensive and ecologically sound alternatives to lead fishing weights are available. Anglers can use sinkers and jigs made from non-poisonous materials such as tin, bismuth, steel, and tungsten-nickel alloy.

A great way to help is teaching good stewardship to young anglers. Outfit kids' tackle boxes with non-lead weights. They are nontoxic and safer for youngsters to handle. Plus, inexperienced anglers tend to lose the most sinkers, so you'll be cutting down on the amount of lead getting left behind in Minnesota lakes and rivers. More information at <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/living-green/nontoxic-tackle-lets-get-lead-out>.

Food: Store it Right to Make it Last Longer

If you're trying to minimize grocery trips, it can be easy to buy too much and then have food to waste. Type the link below in your browser for tips on food storage to make things last longer. What's the last food item that you had to throw away because it went bad? See if you could have been storing it better!

<https://savethefood.com/storage>

Freeze it to Make it Last

Your freezer is an amazing tool for preserving food, like that huge pot of soup you made that only you seem to like. Type the link below in your browser for tips on how to harness the power of your freezer for food preservation.

<https://savethefood.com/articles/the-art-of-freezing>



Deciphering Dates on Food Packaging

90 percent of us occasionally throw away food too soon, and over half of us do it regularly — this is all due to misunderstanding about package dates. Type the link below in your browser to learn what those dates on your food packaging really mean.

<https://savethefood.com/articles/deciphering-dates-on-products>

Fix That Food

Wilted, stale, too salty? It can still be saved! Type the link below in your browser for some kitchen hacks to help you save food that's on the brink.

<https://savethefood.com/articles/5-ways-to-revive-food>



ACCORDING TO MPC'S LIVING GREEN 365: Some Green Myths

MYTH 1 It's better for the environment to wash your car by hand than at the car wash.

Not so, reports the International Car Wash Association and the LA Times, among others. For many do-it-yourselfers, washing a car by hand means using a steady stream of water. This approach can use 100 or more gallons of water versus 15-75 used by many commercial car washes.

Carwash businesses are required to send their dirty wash water to municipal wastewater plants for treatment. Some businesses reclaim it for reuse onsite. Water and contaminants from home vehicle washing, on the other hand, typically drain to stormwater sewers and right into rivers and other surface waters, where they pollute.

If you're committed to washing your car at home, use eco-friendly car washing strategies. Otherwise, consider taking it to a commercial carwash.

MYTH 2 Products labeled as "natural," "eco-friendly," or "green" are better for the environment.

These types of labels have one thing in common: they're meaningless. They're ambiguous terms sometimes used by marketers to appeal to consumers shopping for environmentally preferable or healthy products. They can lead consumers to think products are greener or healthier than they really are.

Familiarize yourself before shopping with information on what to look for and how to differentiate greenwashed products from legitimate ones. For more information, visit www.pca.state.mn.us.