

Western

DISPOSAL SERVICES

A QUARTERLY UPDATE FOR OUR CUSTOMERS SPRING 2004

Win One Month Free Trash Service

Several lucky customers will receive one month of free trash service for finding their names in this newsletter!



If you find your name, call our Customer Service Department at 303-444-2037 to receive credit on your account for one month of free service. Sorry, names mentioned as part of the stories are not eligible.

Holiday Schedule

For up-to-date information about our holiday schedule, call our Holiday Hotline at 303-448-2280 or look it up at www.westerndisposal.com.

The following holidays will be observed by Western Disposal:

- * **Memorial Day**.....5/31/04
- * **Independence Day**.....7/04/04
- * **Labor Day**.....9/06/04
- * **Thanksgiving Day**.....11/25/04
- * **Christmas Day**.....12/25/04
- * **New Year's Day**.....1/01/05

(see page 3 for detailed holiday schedule)

E-Minders

Subscribe to Western Disposal's *E-Minders* Program. This program sends you e-mail reminders of upcoming holidays, programs and other useful information. You can join by calling us at 303-444-2037 or on our web site at www.westerndisposal.com.

What Happens to My Yard Waste?

Yard waste is defined as tree branches, shrubs, grass clippings, leaves, plants and vegetation. In 2003, Western Disposal processed over 9300 tons of yard waste materials from the following:

- Yard waste recycling drop-off sponsored by the city and county of Boulder
- City's Spring Organics Cleanup and Fall Leaf Collection Programs
- Western Disposal and city of Boulder Christmas Tree Drop-off Recycling
- Western's curbside yard waste collection program.



WESTERN'S COMPOST FACILITY

What happens to all this material?

Last spring, Western purchased a large grinder to turn this material into mulch and compost. Yard waste mulch can be used as animal bedding, for landscaping projects, and processed further into compost for use as soil amendment. This spring, Western plans to start coloring mulch to expand our product line and use of the material. Our grinder has been busy all winter creating about 100 tons of mulch per day, most of it ground to 1/4" to be composted at our grinding and composting facility near Stazio Ballfields. Our compost and mulch is being sold to fertilizer companies, landscaping companies and nurseries. Western produced approximately 4500 tons, or 13,500 cubic yards, of compost in 2003; and we plan to compost an additional 7500 tons, or 22,000 cubic yards, in 2004.

Creating compost from mulch is a time consuming and complicated process, and we are just starting to see the benefits of our investment and efforts. The success of this project is a great example of how commitment to recycling and diversion, combined with science and technology, can create useful and valuable materials from everyday waste.

- Yard waste accounts for approximately 17% of the total waste generated.
- Composting reduces yard waste to about 1/3 of its original volume.
- Composting saves valuable landfill space.
- Composting makes environmental and economical sense for our communities.
- Composting is all about returning yard waste to its roots; what goes around, comes around.

City of Boulder's Annual Spring Clean-Up 2004

Western Disposal is proud to announce that we are again working with the city of Boulder on its annual Spring Clean-Up Program, providing residents with free collection of their organic materials. After collection, the organics are ground into mulch and made available to residents to use in their gardens and for landscaping.

4/19 - 4/23	Center Section - North side of Baseline to south side of Mapleton
4/26 - 5/07	South Section - South city limits to south of Baseline
5/10 - 5/21	North Section - North side of Mapleton to north city limits

HOTLINE NUMBER: 303-448-2282 Call for updates on completed sections and completed areas within section.

Materials that are acceptable: leaves, grass clippings, yard waste and branches up to six inches in diameter. Place your material at the curb loose or in paper bags (please do not use plastic bags).

Materials NOT accepted: sod, dirt, construction materials, household trash, all other non-organic material, material in plastic bags.

If you miss the Spring Clean-Up Program, you still have the opportunity to recycle your yard waste by bringing it to the organics drop-off center located at Western's transfer station (free for city of Boulder residents; small charge for Boulder County residents and businesses). The drop-off center is open year-round.

Timely Information

Some of you have contacted us regarding the timing of articles in our newsletter. Because our newsletters are included with the quarterly statements, with one-third of our customers invoiced each month, there are times when program dates published in the newsletter have already passed or the content of the article is not relevant when you receive your bill. For example, styrafoam recycling drop-off after the holidays is in January but you may have not received the newsletter announcing this until the first week of March.

This has been an on-going concern of ours since we began publishing the newsletter. One problem we

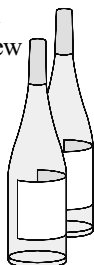
encounter is that the dates for most programs, i.e. Spring Cleanup or Fall Leaf Collection, are often not determined by the City, or other relevant party, far enough in advance for us to publish the information in the previous quarter's newsletter. We, therefore, decided that is better to reach as many of our customers as possible with the information rather than not publishing it at all.

It would be very costly to mail the newsletter separately to all of our customers during the first week of a quarter; but we can offer a solution: our newsletter is published on our web site the first week of each quarter. Just visit www.westerndisposal.com, click on "What's New" on the left and then "Newsletter" on the right, to keep current on upcoming events.

Accepted Recyclables

Below is a list of items accepted at the **Boulder County Recycling Center**, located just north of Arapahoe at 1901 63rd Street. All materials eligible for curbside collection are accepted, as well as some other recyclable items that you may have on hand. One difference from curbside recycling, however, is that paper items must be separated as listed below, and not combined into one bin. The drop-off center is open 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, and it's free to Boulder County residents. The items in red are accepted at the Recycle center only, not at the curb:

- Commingled containers (all in one bin): include aluminum cans/clean foil, steel/tin cans, empty aerosol cans, glass bottles/jars, plastic #1 (bottles, jugs, screw top jars only), plastic #2 (bottles, jugs only), paper milk/soy cartons/drink boxes (NO LIDS PLEASE)
- Corrugated cardboard and brown paper bags
- Office paper and opened mail (no dark or fluorescent paper)
- Magazines and catalogs

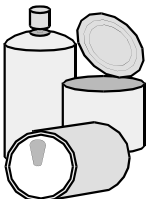


- Newspapers and their inserts
- Paperboard (cereal, shoe & gift boxes)
- Phone books
- Scrap metal (including metal appliances NOT containing Freon or CFC's)

Didn't see the item you're looking for on the list? Don't forget about the Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHARM). Check out their website at www.ecocycle.org or call (303) 444-6634. Mary and William MacGregor.

For more information about the Boulder County Recycling Center, visit www.bouldercountyrecycles.net or call (720) 564-2220.

For information about recycling programs offered by Western Disposal, call (303) 444-2037 or visit www.westerndisposal.com.



Western's error!

In our Winter Newsletter Recycling FAQ's article, we failed to mention that Boulder County also helps to subsidize the yard waste and wood waste drop-off programs for Boulder County residents.

New Outbound Scale

Western Disposal is installing an additional scale at our transfer station for outbound traffic to improve the flow of traffic and to lessen the wait time processing loads in and out of our facility. We are also replacing our existing scale, which will eventually be used for inbound traffic only.

The groundbreaking for the new scale should take place in early March 2004, after some underground power cable is rerouted. The installation of this new scale will take 4 to 5 weeks to dig the pit, put in support pillars, hang the scale, pour a concrete pad on top of the scale, and let the concrete cure. Once this process has

been completed, we will route all inbound and outbound traffic over the new scale while we replace the existing scale. Carrie Cavanaugh-Keyek and David Keyek.

The replacement of the existing scale will take 2 to 3 weeks to remove the old scale and install the new one. The expected completion date of this project is early May 2004, after which the traffic will be rerouted and the wait time for customers will be minimized.

This is just an example of how Western Disposal's commitment to customer service makes things better for our community and you, our customers.

Holiday Schedule for 2004

The holiday schedule is a little different this year because Independence Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day do not fall during the Monday through Friday workweek. Western Disposal will have uninterrupted service during these holiday workweeks. The complete holiday schedule for 2004 is outlined below:

Memorial Day, Monday May 31st, 2004

- Western Disposal's offices and transfer station will be closed.
- Commercial services will be uninterrupted.
- Residential services will be delayed one day, running Tuesday through Saturday.

Independence Day, Sunday July 4th, 2004

- Western Disposal's offices will be closed Monday July 5th, however the transfer station will be open.
- Commercial services will be uninterrupted.
- Residential services will be uninterrupted.

Labor Day, Monday September 6th, 2004

- Western Disposal's offices and transfer station will be closed.
- Commercial services will be uninterrupted.
- Residential services will be delayed one day, running Tuesday through Saturday.

Thanksgiving Day, Thursday November 25, 2004

- Western Disposal's offices and transfer station will be closed.
- Commercial customers normally scheduled on Thursdays will be serviced on either the Wednesday before or the Friday following the holiday.
- Residential services Monday through Wednesday will be uninterrupted. Residential services normally scheduled on Thursday and Friday will be delayed one day, running Friday and Saturday.

Christmas Day, Saturday December 25th, 2004

- Western Disposal's offices and transfer station will be closed Friday December 24th.
- Commercial services Sunday through Friday will be uninterrupted. Customers normally scheduled on Saturday will be serviced on either the Friday before or the Monday following the holiday.
- Residential services will be uninterrupted.

New Year's Day, Saturday January 1st, 2005

- Western Disposal's offices and transfer station will be closed Friday December 31st.
- Commercial services Sunday through Friday will be uninterrupted. Customers normally scheduled on Saturday will be serviced on either the Friday before or the Monday following the holiday.
- Residential services will be uninterrupted.

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How is composting done?

When materials arrive at our site, they are ground through a 1/4" screen to reduce the material to a size optimal to start the decomposition process. The ground mulch is spread out, watered, and stacked into piles called windrows, approximately 8' high and 18' wide at the base and approximately 350 feet in length. Steve and Pamela Sparough.

The compost will "cook" while decomposing and will reach temperatures in excess of 140 degrees Fahrenheit through the inside of the pile. This will assure that all pathogens and weed seeds are destroyed. The windrows are turned periodically and additional water is injected to aerate the windrows and help maintain the appropriate temperatures. Depending on the temperature of the pile, moisture content, rotation frequency, and type of material composting, the process can be complete in 9-12 months.

The completed product is a dark, crumbly material similar in texture to peat moss. Yard waste compost does not have a high macro-nutrient content like a fertilizer; its strength and value are as a soil amendment.

What can compost do for your soil?

- Improve soil structure
- Improve water retention
- Provide greater soil aeration
- Result in better plant growth

What can compost be used for?

- Top dressing of existing turf
- Planting trees and bushes and flower bed preparation
- Roadside erosion control
- Weed control
- Golf course construction and maintenance
- Combining with topsoil for new lawn preparation

Western is not currently selling our mulch and compost at a retail level. We do not have adequate space or an appropriate location at the present time to sell our material in small quantities to individual homeowners. Hopefully, you will soon be able to purchase compost and landscape materials made from yours and Boulder County's own yard waste, through local landscape supply companies and landscapers throughout the county.

Western to Discontinue Curbside Yard Waste Collection

In April of 2002, Western began offering curbside yard waste collection to residents in the city of Boulder. This service was at a reduced rate compared to the cost of disposing of it as trash.

When Western originally set up the program, our surveys indicated there would be sufficient demand and that it would be economically viable for us to provide. Unfortunately, this was not the case. We needed about 2000 households to sign up for the service to break even financially. In the first year, we had

625 subscribers and 740 in 2003. Due to the lack of subscribers and high cost to provide this service, we must discontinue offering curbside yard waste collection.

Many homeowners compost or haul their own materials, and some have a service haul the material away. City of Boulder residents will still be able to recycle their yard waste by bringing their materials to the City's yard waste drop-off site at Western's transfer station at 5880 Butte Mill Road. This drop-off site is open year-round and is free of charge to you as a resident of the city of Boulder.

Christmas Tree Recycling

Thanks to all participants in the Christmas tree recycling program; 88.13 tons, or over 7000 trees, were collected during the program and diverted from the landfill!



Extra Trash Stickers



If you live in the city of Boulder, don't forget to purchase your extra trash stickers at \$2.00 each and save 35% over the price of \$3.15 per 32-gallon container.

Stickers can be acquired in a number of ways (minimum order of five, unless purchased in person):

1. In person
Western's Admin. Bldg.
5880 Butte Mill Road
Boulder, CO 80301
2. By phone
303-444-2037
3. By fax
303-444-7509
4. By electronic mail
contact@westerndisposal.com
5. Via web site
www.westerndisposal.com
6. By mail
P.O. Box 9100
Boulder, CO 80301



*Serving Boulder County
Since 1970*

Ways to Reach Us...

5880 Butte Mill Road • P.O. Box 9100
Boulder, Colorado 80301
ph. (303) 444-2037
fax (303) 444-7509
e-mail: contact@westerndisposal.com
www.westerndisposal.com



20% Post Consumer Waste