



City of Duluth
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Keep Duluth Clean Virtual Clean-Up

Frequently Asked Questions

I picked up garbage as part of the virtual clean-up – but it won't fit in my garbage bin! If I leave them on the side of my garbage will my hauler pick them up?

You are encouraged to NOT put anything extra outside of your carts for pick-up. This is a courtesy to your hauler. We want to limit exposure and risk to those picking up our garbage! If you have additional garbage needs or bags that won't fit into your garbage bin, we strongly recommend you call your garbage service provider directly to schedule an extra pick-up and/or to understand any possible additional charges you may incur.

During the virtual clean-up, should I recycle items I find that are usually recyclable?

Because most items found outside have significant amounts of dirt and debris on them, these cannot be recycled and should be thrown away. It is also important to NOT pour out any liquids that are inside bottles or containers – just throw the container away with the liquid inside. You don't know what's in there! Our motto: when in doubt, throw it out.

I found needles and/or other hazardous/ sharp/ waste materials, what should I do with it?

Using care and common sense, residents can properly dispose of sharps to keep our neighborhoods clean and safe. Simple precautions such as wearing gloves, carefully picking up the sharp from the safe plunger end; avoiding the needle at any time; disposing of the needle in a thick plastic container such as a laundry detergent jug; and washing your hands with warm soapy water immediately after disposal are vital for safety.

It is illegal to dispose of sharps in household garbage or recycling within the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD). Here are simple steps the public can take:

- Carefully place any found syringes or needles in an empty plastic container with a closable lid (ex: empty pop bottle or laundry detergent jug).
- If you have the needles on public/park land, call the Sharps Hotline at 218-730-4001 to request a pick-up, and a trained volunteer will come and collect these found sharps from you.
- If you have the collected needles at your house, please call the Harm Reduction Sisters at 720-401-6569 to request a pick-up, and a trained volunteer will come and collect these found sharps from you.
- Anyone who discovers sharps and are not comfortable handling them can call the Sharps Hotline at 218-730-4001 to describe where the sharp is located, and a volunteer will come to collect it. This number can be used at any time to report discarded sharps in public places (ex: streets, parks, parking lots, etc.).

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The City of Duluth is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

I want to do some major spring cleaning. Where do I bring items that won't fit in my garbage can? Is there somewhere I can order a roll-off or dumpster?

We strongly encourage folks to not begin projects at home that will knowingly produce large amounts of garbage, as there are limited resources available to processing this waste. However, dumpsters and roll-offs are available through local hauling companies. A simple Google search for "roll-offs" or "dumpsters" will produce a number of results. You can also call your local waste hauler (look for their number on your garbage bins). They may provide roll-offs or dumpsters, as well.

As always, keep an eye on the WLSSD website at wlssd.com for any updates regarding the opening of their facilities, including the Materials Recovery Center.

I would like to rake my yard and start doing some gardening. Where do I bring yard waste?

Did you know that the local haulers servicing Duluth provide yard waste services from May to October? There may be an extra cost and they'll need to deliver a yard waste bin, so call your garbage service provider to learn more. The WLSSD Yard Waste site will be open to the public starting April 30: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday 9 am to 4 pm. Accepting leaves (free), brush (\$10/cu yd). Please visit the WLSSD website at wlssd.com for more information.

I have a lot of sand and salt on my sidewalk, curb and boulevard. What do I do with it?

It's important to know that catch basins lead directly to our streams and Lake Superior, not to the wastewater treatment plant. Each Spring, Duluthians are encouraged to sweep excess road salt and sand from sidewalks, curbs, and boulevards and bring it to one of Duluth's five FREE Road Sand Collection Site locations:

- Chester Bowl (near the playground)
- Duluth Heights Community Club Parking Lot
- Piedmont Community Center
- Wheeler Field (towards the back)
- Portman Community Center (47th Avenue East)

Is there any place in the area that is currently taking donation items?

Most donation drop-offs are closed due to COVID-19. If possible, hold on to any items you wish to donate until drop off locations are reopened.