

2019 Omaha Spring Cleanup: Best Practices Guide

The Omaha Spring Cleanup (OSC) is a collaborative event hosted by the City of Omaha, Keep Omaha Beautiful (KOB), and neighborhood association leaders. The multi-week event provides an opportunity for residents to dispose of large and bulky waste that cannot typically be set out for curbside recycling and trash pickup. Each week, there will be several regular cleanup sites in one area of the city, with designated sites to collect appliances, lead acid batteries, and tires. Each cleanup site is open to ALL Omaha residents. Participants **do not** need to be a dues paying member of the sponsoring organization, nor is any fee required to participate in the event. Please note that if you register for Omaha Spring Cleanup, you commit to having volunteers for the entirety of your assigned date/time. Below is a general guide to follow to ensure a successful cleanup site:

Prior to Cleanup

- Ensure you have proper permission to use the site. The City will request site permission for any Omaha Public Schools location. For any other site, the neighborhood association's coordinator is responsible for obtaining permission and a damage waiver. Please contact the city's Solid Waste Coordinator Nick Chapman with questions (402-444-3915 ext. 1125).
- Begin contacting organizations from the Recycling & Reuse Options Guide to make a plan to divert waste through increased recycling and donations at your cleanup.
- Promote your cleanup site to your neighborhood residents. Try a few of these **marketing tips**:
 - Utilize pre-designed materials (flier, social media graphics, email header, OSC logo) provided by KOB. Items are available via email ([HelloKOB@cityofomaha.org](mailto>HelloKOB@cityofomaha.org)) or on KOB's OSC website.
 - Email the flier to your neighborhood association's distribution list and post information on your neighborhood's Facebook page and on NextDoor.
 - Mail out the flier to residents
 - Promote your cleanup via your neighborhood association's website or newsletter.
 - Place yard signs provided by Keep Omaha Beautiful at major intersections of your neighborhood.
 - Ask local religious institutions and businesses in your neighborhood to hang a flier or promote the information via their own channels.
 - Create a calling tree to easily communicate information throughout the neighborhood via phone calls
- Contact KOB to coordinate litter cleanup in conjunction with OSC site.
- Use the OSC Volunteer Recruitment Resource provided by KOB to staff your cleanup site with volunteers.

Day of Cleanup (before 9:00 a.m. start)

- Arrive at the site by 8:00 a.m. at the latest to meet with the truck driver to decide where to park the garbage truck(s). If your cleanup location also serves as a tire and/or appliance collection site, you will need to collaborate to discern where to drop off these collection container(s).
- If you coordinated with recycling and reuse vendors, work with them to set up their collection container(s). Designate a volunteer to help specifically with this collection.
- Meet with the City Inspector who will be arriving between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. to drop off:
 - UnderTheSink brochures to hand out to participating residents and info about River City Recycling
 - Small info sheets noting addresses of the appliance and tire recycling site(s)



- Any requested traffic cones
- Safety vests
- A spill kit
- Do not accept materials before 9:00 a.m.
- Set out any safety cones you requested.
- **Volunteers:** Provide a safe check-in site, equipped with snacks and water (and shade as necessary). Meet with them to provide any instructions regarding the cleanup. You will definitely want a volunteer in charge of greeting residents and handing out brochures, as well as distributing appliance/tire site info sheets as necessary. You will also want to have volunteers to direct traffic in and out of the site, and assist with any additional recycling and reclamation efforts. Be conscious of the safety of your volunteers.

Day of Cleanup (during the event)

- Residents dropping off items are expected to unload their own materials; however, volunteers can assist at their own risk. The drivers of the garbage trucks are not contracted to help residents with unloading materials.
- If your site is NOT a tire or appliance collection site, provide residents bringing tires and/or appliances with the address info sheet noting the location(s) of these sites.
- Keep children away from containers and traffic at all times.
- There are no designated “large volume” sites. Try to handle large volume drop offs to the best of your ability, but call your City Inspector if you feel that you do not have the capacity to handle a load so that he/she can route the individual to a different/slower site.
- If the line starts to get long, have a volunteer check in with people in line greeting them, confirming what they have (and if they have tires/metal) that they need to take it to the designated site, etc.)
- At 2:00 p.m., cut the collection off at the last person in line. Anyone who arrives or gets in line after 2 p.m. should not be permitted to dispose of items. Ask volunteers to share information about the website and next week’s dates to anyone who did not make the cut.
- At the end of cleanup event, make sure all debris and trash are collected around the site. Use the provided spill kit to clean up any fluids that may have leaked from the garbage truck(s). The site should be returned to the pristine condition you found it in.
- Return leftover materials to City Inspector at the end of your event.

Waste that CANNOT Go into the Garbage Truck

Through careful monitoring and communication, help us ensure the following items aren’t placed in the garbage truck:

- Any material that can be set out for regular garbage or recycling collection
- Rocks or concrete — take to Heimes [9144 S 147th St] (not open on the weekends)
- Liquids or toxic metals (paint, oil, automotive batteries, pesticides) — take to Under the Sink [4001 S 120th St]
 - Under the Sink is open 9am to 4pm and does not require an appointment on OSC Saturdays.
- Major appliances (washer, dryer, refrigerator, freezer, water heater, etc.) — take to designated appliance site (microwaves not included)
- Tires and lead acid batteries — take to designated tire site and lead acid battery site

