

SUGAR ISLAND TOWNSHIP

Solid Waste & Recycling Guide



The intent of this resource guide is to provide information to Sugar Island Township residents and tax payers regarding options and opportunities for recycling and proper disposal of household waste, including potentially hazardous materials, as well as other items requiring disposal. It is important that citizens using this guide check services provided by entities on the mainland before making the trip. This check is especially important as schedules and fees change. If you operate a business that creates refuse, please dispose of those materials on the mainland. Additionally, if you have suggestions regarding the improvement of services, please forward those ideas to members of the Township Board.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SUGAR ISLAND TOWNSHIP
www.sugarislandtownship.com
6401 E. 1 1/2 Mile Road
Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783
(906) 253-9353

CHIPPEWA COUNTY RECYCLING CENTER

NorthernTransistions.org
1423 W. Easterday Avenue
Sault Sainte Marie, MI 49783

In This Guide:

What items are disposed of in our compactors?

What products are recyclable?

Drop-off locations.

Disposal and recycling methods for various items including: Household hazardous waste (motor oil, propane tanks, car batteries and fluorescent light bulbs), Electronics, Latex Paint, Medications & Sharps, Household, single use batteries, Appliances, Tires, Styrofoam, Ammunition & Fireworks.

Special Cleanup Periods.

The Sugar Island Township has a long-term contract with Waste Management, Inc. to provide solid waste compactor service. The contract calls for the placement of two compactors on Sugar Island with year-round service at the Northern Transfer Station and summer service at the Southern Transfer Station. This same contract also supports the placement of open dumpsters, when requested and subject to availability, at the Northern Transfer Station.

These compactors are designated to support general household refuse with the following exceptions:

- Fluids of any type. ***Please drain your water, pop, booze bottles and other fluid containers before you discard them. We don't want to pay for fluids.***
- Any item generally considered as a hazardous material including: motor oil, propane tanks, car batteries and fluorescent light bulbs, electronics, latex paint, household, single use batteries, appliances, tires, Styrofoam, ammunition & fireworks.
- Furniture of any type. ***Breaking up your furniture and hiding it in boxes or plastic bags takes up space that might otherwise be available within the compactor.***
- Construction materials (e.g., drywall, wood, roofing or nails). ***Hiding roofing or other construction materials in boxes or plastic bags takes up space that might otherwise be available within the compactor.***
- Lawn refuse (e.g., sticks, limbs, grass or other clippings, animal excrement, or plants). ***In 1995, State law (PA 451) prohibits the placement of yard clippings in Michigan solid waste landfills.***
- Burn barrel ashes. ***Burn barrel ashes should be screened for metals, glass, and other nonflammables and then spread in gardens, flower beds, and areas where clean fill is needed or necessary. Burn barrel ashes are heavy and can easily be used for clean fill.***
- Old or expired medicines. ***Depending on their participation, expired medicines should be returned to your doctor or your pharmacy. Old medicines may also be incinerated if appropriate facilities are available.***
- Any other item that might contaminate a landfill once it breaks down or degrades. ***We aren't good stewards of Mother Earth if we contaminate our landfills.***

It is important to note the compactors servicing the Northern Transfer Station are scheduled to be rotated every two weeks throughout the year. They may be rotated earlier if they are determined to be at capacity. Since the bulk of associated fees paid by the Township to Waste Management are related to weight, every pound of materials recycled by Sugar Island residents and tax payers is one less pound we have to pay for.

North Transfer Station (6295 E. 1 ½ Mile Road) **OPEN YEAR ROUND**

Hours of Operation: 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Days of Operation: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday & Sunday (Except Holidays)

South Transfer Station (Homestead Road) **OPEN MID-MAY TO OCTOBER**

Hours of Operation: 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Days of Operation: Monday, Wednesday & Friday (Except Holidays)

HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING

WHAT PRODUCTS ARE RECYCLABLE ON SUGAR ISLAND?

- Corrugated Cardboard: Moving boxes, packing boxes, heavy brown boxes.
Please remove metal and plastic strapping as well as any large staples, flatten boxes (No Styrofoam)
- Mixed Paper: Newspaper, brown bags, magazines, paperboard (like cereal boxes), computer paper, junk mail, and phone books.
Please leave shredded paper in clear plastic bags
- Glass: Clear & colored food and beverage containers.
Please wash & remove lids –no window glass, ceramics, or drinking glasses.
- Metal: Food & non-returnable, beverage containers, pie tins, aluminum foil, empty aerosol cans.
Please wash clean and flatten, remove aerosol cap & nozzle before flattening.



Plastic Containers:

Plastic containers stamped 1 & 2 including: milk jugs, water bottles, peanut butter jars, butter tubs, yogurt cups, plant flats, prescription bottles, laundry detergent bottles
No Styrofoam, wash clean, remove caps & labels whenever possible.

RECYCLING DROP-OFF:

Recycling is provided by Sugar Island Township in coordination with the Chippewa County through Northern Transitions located at 1423 W. Easterday Avenue, Sault Sainte Marie. From A recycling trailer is available year-round at the Northern Transition Station. This trailer supports recycling for glass containers, phone books/magazines, plastic containers and metal cans. In the summer, the Township often utilizes Reid Metals Inc., located in Dafter at 13154 S. Mackinac Trail, Dafter, MI 49724 for metal recycling. Reid Metals, Inc. can be contacted at (906) 632-0018 or via their website at reidmetals.com if you would like to contact them.

WASTE/RECYCLING HAULERS

There are a number of larger waste companies serving Chippewa County and a plethora of smaller operations that may be available to remove waste from your property. Please keep in mind that larger operations may own their own landfills while smaller operations may be at the mercy of larger landfill operators. The largest waste haulers in the area include:

- GFL Environmental USA, Inc. (formerly Smith Sanitation): 3239 W. M28, Brimley, MI 49715 (906) 635-3380
- Waste Management, Inc.: 711 W. Spruce Street, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783 (906) 635-5971
- UP Hauling & Disposal: localdj84@yahoo.com, (906) 203-9443

If you intend to hire a smaller operator, you may wish to ask where they intend to take the waste from your property. You may find that some of them will be utilizing illegal dump sites that are not properly designed, built, operated, or licensed/inspected by state officials, thereby increasing the risk of environmental contamination affecting our friends and neighbors.

PROPANE TANKS

Expired or damaged propane tanks may be disposed of at Reid Metals in Dafter. Care should be taken to ensure tanks under pressure, are handled safely. Additionally, some propane tank exchange companies like Blue Rhino accept old or expired 20 pound tanks for recycling. There are multiple Blue Rhino sites all over Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

ELECTRONICS

Personal computers and other small consumer electronics can be recycled instead of going to a landfill. In addition, since 2008, all manufacturers of computers and televisions that are sold to households and small businesses in Michigan are required to have a free and convenient take-back recycling program available to consumers.

Many retail companies allow electronics recycling and some offer incentives for doing so:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goodwill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staples
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Buy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costco
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sam’s Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Depot

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Household hazardous waste is material that may threaten human, animal and/or the environmental health and wellbeing of your friends and neighbors when they are disposed of improperly. Household hazardous waste material often includes toxic, flammable, caustic or chemically reactive ingredients.

Some retail companies also support specific household hazardous waste recycling:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Auto Parts- Car Batteries & fluids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick Oil Change-Car fluids
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auto Zone-Car Batteries & fluids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tractor Supply-Car fluids
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walmart Tire & Lube Express- Car Batteries & fluids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lynn Auto Parts-Batteries

LATEX PAINT

Latex paint is not a household hazardous waste but it is often treated as such in its liquid form. To dispose of a small amount of unused latex paint, just open the container and let the paint dry. This drying process should be in a well ventilated and dry area. For larger quantities (i.e., multiple gallons), you might want to mix the paint with some type of absorbent material, such as cat litter, sawdust, or shredded paper and stir. Once the stirred material resembles thick oatmeal, allow it to dry in a well ventilated and dry area. Once solidified, latex paint can be safely disposed in a landfill. Please remove the paint lid and discard appropriately.

Also, latex paint can be donated to the North Star Habitat for Humanity ReStore at 400 Sheridan Avenue, Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783. They can be contacted at (906) 632-6616 or soohabitat@gmail.com.

APPLIANCES

Metal can be salvaged/recycled from large appliances (e.g., stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, air conditioners, and freezers) and some metal dealers will pay money for them. However, some of these appliances contain an environmentally unfriendly refrigerant gas that must be removed by a trained technician. Working appliances may be donated or sold via newspaper classified ads, or various internet sites such as Facebook, Ebay, Craigslist or other similar sites. Just as a safety reminder, if you plan to put these items next to your driveway or the main road for easy pickup, please remove or secure the doors to large appliances to avoid the potential of children or small animals being trapped in them while playing or exploring.

HOUSEHOLD, SINGLE USE BATTERIES

Household batteries can be made of a variety of heavy metals and other metals (nickel, cadmium, mercury, lithium, silver and zinc) and should be disposed of properly. While the total amount of contaminants may be minimal in a small number of non-rechargeable batteries, disposing of them in the compacting service provided by Sugar Island Township is acceptable, although it is important to note that Walmart (Customer Service Center) will accept your single use batteries. For those using large quantities of rechargeable batteries, recycling services such as Call2Recycle may be available. The Home Depot, Best Buy, and Staples stores in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario also accept batteries for recycling.

EYEGLASSES

While the number might be small, the Vision Center at Walmart accepts used eyeglasses.

USED INKJET TONER CARTRIDGES

Walmart (Electronics Section) accepts used inkjet cartridges for recycling.

TIRES

According to various sources, the United States generates about 290 million tires for disposal. Tires can be a very problematic source of waste and the numbers generated highlight a significant need for recycling. Used tires can be used for multiple purposes, including dock bumpers, flower gardens, playground equipment, and other landscaping functions. The Sugar Island Township does not recycle used tires and neither does Northern Transitions, Inc. However, most tire stores in Sault Ste. Marie will take your used tires for a small fee. You are encouraged to contact the tire store where you purchase your tires for their fees and drop-off times.

TELEVISIONS

Televisions, depending on their size, may contain up to four pounds of lead which is a dangerous contaminant. Flat screen televisions may be turned in to Goodwill Industries at 2510 Ashmun Street, Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan 49783. If you are making a trip to the Lower Peninsula, you could drop off old televisions at Best Buy.

STYROFOAM

Smaller Styrofoam products, including packing materials and peanuts, meat trays, cups, plates and similar items are not recyclable by Sugar Island Township or Northern Transitions, Inc. but they may be disposed of at a Sugar Island Transfer Station. These items contain chemicals that are known carcinogens, so burning Styrofoam is dangerous and should be avoided, especially if the burning is incomplete (like in a burn barrel). Individuals looking to dispose of larger amounts of Styrofoam are encouraged to take these materials directly to a local landfill.

AMMUNITION & FIREWORKS

These types of items must be handled with extreme care. Citizens wishing to dispose of ammunition or fireworks should contact the Chippewa County Sheriff Department at (906) 635-6355. Under no circumstance should ammunition or fireworks be disposed of at a Sugar Island Transfer Station.

SPECIAL CLEANUP PERIODS

It is not unusual for communities to conduct “spring cleanup” or “fall cleanup” activities and Sugar Island Township is no different. During these periods, large, roll-off open dumpsters are placed at the Sugar Island Northern Transition Station, and Sugar Island residents or tax payers are permitted to dispose of larger amounts of household items.

Starting in June 2021, individuals wishing to dispose of materials in roll-off, open dumpsters (when present) will have to provide proof of Sugar Island Township residence or some form of identification that can be checked against a list of current Sugar Island tax payers. Non-residents and non-tax payers will not be allowed to dispose of materials in the roll-off, open dumpsters.

Spring Cleanup Schedule for 2021: June 1st to June 30th
Fall Cleanup Schedule for 2021: September 1st to September 30th
Spring Cleanup Schedule for 2022: TBD
Fall Cleanup Schedule for 2022: TBD

Furthermore, to maximize the number of citizens served, we ask eligible individuals looking to dispose of building construction materials and/or larger amounts of household waste to take these materials directly to a landfill on the mainland, or wait until the end of the special cleanup period before attempting to dispose of these items at the Northern Transition Station.

And finally, the Northern Transition Station utilizes a burn barrel to dispose of paper, cardboard and smaller wooden items. If you don't have a burn barrel, or access to one, please do not hesitate to separate your disposable items into categories that include non-burnable garbage, recyclables, and dry paper or wood products that can be disposed of by burning. If you want to use a burn barrel but don't have access to one, please don't hesitate to inquire at the North Transfer Station. The Township does not sell burn barrels but the staff at the North Transfer Station may know somebody that does. The non-burnable garbage may go in the compactor, the recyclables can go in the recycling trailer and the burnable items may be burned by the Transition Attendant. Please remember, every pound we recycle is a pound we don't have to pay for.