

CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 22, 2019

TO: Municipalities, businesses and property owners impacted by the July 19 – 20, 2019, severe storm events across Wisconsin.

FROM: Kate Strom-Hiorns, Department of Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Supplemental Information: Demolition Debris Management, July 19 – 20, 2019, Storm Events

The purpose of this memo is to provide supplemental information, including local department contacts, regarding management of waste and debris generated from recent storm events across the state. (Note: some of this information is a modified version of [DNR publication WA601](#), developed specifically for this flood event.)

On July 19th and 20th, severe storms and heavy winds damaged buildings and roads. It is anticipated that a great deal of demolition debris will need to be managed in a short period of time following this catastrophic event.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is concerned with public health, safety, and environmental impacts when demolition debris is mismanaged. This document provides resources to communities and businesses in managing storm-generated debris, and to individuals interested in razing a single structure.

Typical types of waste generated from both natural disasters and planned demolition activities, along with proper disposal methods, are listed below.

CLEAN SOIL, BRICK, BUILDING STONE, CONCRETE, BROKEN ASPHALT PAVEMENT, WOOD WASTE FROM DOWNED TREES, AND UNPAINTED OR UNTREATED WOOD

These items may be stored and disposed of outside of a landfill *without Department approval* as long as the site selected does not impact surface waters, wetlands, floodplains, and critical habitat areas. You can contact solid waste staff if you want assistance on locating an appropriate disposal site. The term “clean” refers to material that is unpainted, untreated, and not contaminated with petroleum or other contaminants. Communities should consider composting or chipping smaller wood waste for use in landscapes damaged by the storm event or offering clean wood waste for use as firewood. Clean brick, building stone, concrete and asphalt may be stockpiled for crushing and reusing in future building projects. Uncontaminated sand from sand bags or uncontaminated full sandbags made of biodegradable materials such as burlap or jute may also be stored or disposed of in this manner. Additional information on sandbag disposal can be found [here](#).

ROOFING METALS, SIDING, AND OTHER METALS INCLUDING APPLIANCES

This material may be easily recycled and therefore should be stockpiled and hauled to a scrap metal recycler. Some appliances may contain hazardous substances such as Freon. Freon must be removed by qualified and licensed personnel and items containing Freon or other hazardous substances should be stockpiled separately from other metals.

ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS - SIDING, FLOORING, ROOFING AND INSULATION

Structures that may contain asbestos items normally require special inspection and handling by **licensed** personnel and proper disposal. Contact the DNR Asbestos Program Coordinator in the contact section, for details on proper identification and handling of materials containing asbestos.

HAZARDOUS WASTE IN THE FORM OF PAINTS, SOLVENTS, FUELS AND PESTICIDES

Many municipalities have collection programs capable of handling household hazardous wastes. If your community does not have a household hazardous waste program, arrangements can be made with an outside contractor to establish a household hazardous waste disposal drop-off and collection service. Contact Department Hazardous Waste staff in the contacts section, with questions regarding proper management of hazardous waste.

NON-CONTAINER GLASS, ASPHALT AND FIBERGLASS ROOFING, CARPETING AND PAD, INSULATION, PVC PIPING, SIDING, DRYWALL, PLASTER, TREATED WOOD, AND PERSONAL ITEMS SUCH AS CLOTHING AND FURNITURE

Items that cannot be recycled or reused *require disposal in a licensed landfill, or an approved one-time disposal or construction and demolition landfill site.*

These materials may be stored uncontainerized, without department approval as long as:

- The temporary storage is not in a floodplain and will not create detrimental impacts on surface water or groundwater, a significant adverse impact on wetlands, a take on a threatened or endangered species, the migration or concentration of explosive gasses, or the emission of a hazardous air contaminant.
- The waste is free of noxious odors and not readily transported by wind or water
- The volume of waste at the temporary storage area does not exceed 5,000cy on-site at one time
- The total amount of material stored at the staging area over the course of its existence does not exceed 10,000cy
- The storage location does not occur within 100 feet of any public or private water supply well; navigable lake, pond, flowage, river or stream; or within 20 feet of the facility property boundary
- Within 60 days of ceasing to accept waste at the facility, all waste is removed

CLEAN WOOD (NOT PAINTED, TREATED OR GLUED)

Clean wood may be stored and chipped for boiler fuel or landscaping purposes. Clean wood may also be composted, buried, burned at a licensed woodburning facility, or possibly burned as a one-time burn with approval from the Air Supervisor in the contacts section.

OPEN BURNING

It is illegal to burn painted, treated or unclean wood, asphalt, plastics of any kind, oily substances, tires and other rubber products, garbage, recyclables, wet rubbish, and other materials. Demolition materials that cannot be burned include: roofing materials, all kinds of flooring materials, insulation, plywood and other composition board, electrical wiring, cabinetry and countertops, and plastic plumbing.

Open burning of trees, wood, brush, and other clean wood waste is an option, but *requires prior DNR approval or concurrence*; and may not be the best option. Please contact DNR the Air Management Supervisor in the contacts section, to discuss options and request an approval. Open burning results in the release of contaminants to the air, water and land, and may have an adverse impact on human health and the environment. Also, a fire spreading out of control is always a serious concern and stretches needed emergency personnel even thinner. A wild fire resulting from open burning activities could cost you money, if the local fire department is called out to suppress the fire. Chipping, composting, and using clean wood waste for firewood should be the options considered first!

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES CONTACTS:

Open Burning: Rick Wulk, (920) 461-9387, Richard.Wulk@wisconsin.gov

Asbestos: Mark Davis, (262) 574-2118, Mark.Davis@wisconsin.gov

Solid Waste: [Solid Waste Storage Contacts by County](#)

Hazardous Waste: [Hazardous Waste Requirements Contacts by County](#)

ADDITIONAL REOUSRCES

The department's storm debris web page: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Waste/StormDebris.html>

The licensed transporters in the state: [Solid Waste/Recycling and Hazardous Waste Transporters](#)

The licensed solid waste facilities in the state: [Solid Waste Facilities](#)

A Storm Debris Management Options Table is found on the following pages.

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Material	MSW Landfill / Transfer Facility	C&D Landfill	C&D Processing Facility	MRFs	Other Recycling Processors	Scrap Metal Processing Facilities	Hazardous Waste Facility	Composting Facility	Woodburning Facility	Fill Location
Antifreeze					X (antifreeze processor)		X			
Appliances						X				
Asbestos	X*	X*								
Asphalt	X	X			X (hot mix asphalt plant)					
Batteries – lead acid/motor vehicle					X (battery recycler)		X			
Cardboard				X				X		
Carpet	X				X (carpet recycler)					
Concrete	X	X	X							X
Concrete – Reinforced	X	X	X							X
Concrete Block	X	X	X							X
Culverts – concrete	X	X	X							X
Culverts – metal	X	X	X			X				

Culverts – poly/plastic	X		X							
Drywall	X	X	X							
Electronics					X (electronics recycler)					
Flooring – wood, vinyl etc.	X	X	X							
Fluorescent bulbs					X (lamp crusher)		X			
Furniture	X									
Gasoline cans							X			
Guard rails – metal						X				
Guard rails – treated wood	X	X			X (licensed waste wood processors)					
Insulation	X	X	X							
Wood – treated	X	X	X		X (licensed waste wood processors)					
Wood - untreated	X	X			X (wood chipper)			X	X	

Paints - lead based, stains, solvents, varnishes and other chemicals							X			
Pavement	X	X								X
Pesticides							X			
Plastics - non container	X									
Plastics - container				X						
PVC Pipe	X									
Rock or stone										X
Roofing - Metal						X				
Roofing - Shingles	X	X	X		X (shingle processor)					
Sand from sandbags	X							X		
Sandbags – biodegradable material	X							X		
Sandbags – non biodegradable	X									
Siding – concrete	X	X	X							X
Siding – metal		X				X				
Siding – vinyl	X	X	X							

Signs and signposts – metal						X				
Signs and signposts – treated wood	X	X			X (licensed waste wood processors)					
Soil - clean										X
Soil - cointaminated										
soil - flood water impacted but otherwise clean										
Tires					X (tire processor)					
Tree stumps	X	X			X (wood chipper)				X	X
Tree waste								X	X	
Utility Poles	X	X			X (licensed waste wood processors)					