

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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“Transfer Station”



It's that season when homeowners are looking to get rid of lawn clippings, broken branches and the basement couch. The trash collector won't accept these items so they need to be taken to the Solid Waste Division Transfer Station at 610 East Monroe Avenue.

According to Gary Lund, division manager, nearly any type of waste can be brought out to the transfer station. The charges for the different items can be found on the website at <http://ci.norfolk.ne.us/solidwaste>.

Every vehicle that comes out to the transfer station should enter the scale which is off to

the right after entering the driveway. Most loads will be weighed on the way in and on the way out, and then a bill is calculated based on weight.

Grass clippings and brush are typical loads that can be paid for immediately so the customer doesn't have to weigh in again after they empty their load.

Most trash will be loaded onto trailers and taken to the Coalition landfill. The grass clippings are composted at the Norfolk site. Brush is ground for reuse or burned. Oil, tires, appliances, metal, batteries and concrete are recycled and have their own fees.

Household chemicals can also be brought out to the transfer station. Lund said that soon there will be a Household Hazardous Waste drop off so those potential dangerous chemicals can be separated from the general waste and kept out of the landfill.

The transfer station is open from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm every weekday and until noon on Saturday. Lund said that Saturdays are usually the busiest days and April, May and June are the busiest months.

“The old landfill was five miles south of town. When it closed due to new EPA landfill regulations, the cost of building a landfill had increased significantly. Norfolk banded together with 20 other communities to build the

Facts:

The transfer station:

- sees 23,000 customers per year
- handles 30,000 tons of trash per year
- handles 500 tons of grass clippings per year
- has five employees

There are 2.5 pounds of trash produced per person per day which equals 2,825 pounds of trash per year per household.

coalition site 32 miles away. That distance made it impractical for residents to drive to, so the transfer station was built in Norfolk. Now instead of 100 small loads taken to the landfill every day, we take about six semi-loads," Lund said.

He added that the Solid Waste Transfer Station and landfill are businesses run by the government and are operated entirely on revenue generated by disposal fees paid by the customers.

"The operating budgets for the landfill and the transfer station each exceed \$1.8 million annually. After 16 years of operation, both systems are financially sound and well on their way to being debt free," Lund said.