

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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“Garbage Guidelines”

Spring is here and it's that time of year when people like to clean out their garages and basements and clean up the trash that has accumulated in the landscaping under the melting snow and in the shrubbery. It's also a good time to remember the policies that the City of Norfolk has set up concerning garbage and other refuse.

The first thing to know is that every home or business owner or manager in Norfolk is required by law to get rid of any accumulated garbage on their property.



“It's a health issue. Food scraps, old papers and other refuse left in or around a home or property attracts rodents and bugs and is also a fire hazard,” said John Kouba, City of Norfolk Health Official.

The containers used to store the trash until it can be picked up by a licensed garbage hauler need to be 32 gallons in size or smaller and they must be equipped with tight fitting lids and handles so that garbage workers can easily move them.

A receptacle for the garbage can also be provided by the garbage hauler. The lids on those receptacles are generally attached to the container, but may need to be tied or otherwise secured so that garbage can not blow out or animals cannot enter the receptacle.

Even though garbage containers are required to be clean and odor free, they are still somewhat unsightly. The City of Norfolk, as most cities, requires that the containers be stored in the rear or side of the home and only be placed in front of the home on days when the garbage hauler will be emptying it. In all areas where there are alleys, the garbage containers must be placed in the backyard. The only time when the garbage containers can be placed in front of the house curbside would be on garbage collection day.

“The important thing is that the trash should be secured from blowing around. Wind does blow pretty often in Nebraska and can take that trash all over your lawn, the street and your neighbors' lawns,” Kouba said.

If a homeowner wants to get rid of an old couch or other furniture, it's a good idea to first call a donation center and see if they would be interested in taking it. If it is broken or not fit for use, it can be hauled to the Norfolk Area Transfer Station at 610 East Monroe Avenue. The Transfer Station is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Arrangements can also be made for the garbage hauler to take care of those large items. Call them for more information.

For more information about how to handle garbage correctly, contact the City Health Department at 844.2060.