

**UW Madison-Division of Extension--Ashland County Office  
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**-NEWS RELEASE-**

DATE: June 15, 2020

TO: Area Newspapers

FROM: Lissa Radke, Community Development Educator, Extension Ashland County

RE: 2020 Cleansweeps Collections for Four Northern Wisconsin Counties

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**Got Hazardous Waste?**

**2020 Cleansweep Hazardous Materials Collections in August and September**

The annual Cleansweep collection of hazardous materials will take place at events in nine northwestern Wisconsin counties including Ashland, Bayfield, Price, and Sawyer counties in August and September. Residents may participate in any event, regardless of county of residence.

Bayfield County: Tuesday, August 11, 2 to 7 p.m., in Iron River at the Iron River Community Center, 8275 East Mill Street, 715-373-6104.

Ashland County: Wednesday, August 12, from 2 to 7 p.m., in Ashland at the WITC parking lot, 2100 Beaser Ave.

Price County: Tuesday, September 29, from 2 to 7 p.m., in Park Falls at the St. Croix Rod parking lot, 856 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. N., 715-339-2550.

Sawyer County: Wednesday, September 30, 2 to 7 p.m., in Hayward at the Sawyer County fairgrounds, 14655 Co. Hwy B, 715-634-4806.

The Cleansweep program is open to all residents, farmers, businesses, governmental units, and schools. This event is free to households for most items, and there are some fees for small quantity generators such as farms and businesses. Farms & businesses must pre-register by calling the Northwest Regional Planning Commission at 715-635-2197.

The Cleansweep program accepts unwanted chemicals and materials that contain hazardous or poisonous characteristics. Acceptable items include oil-based paints, stains, lead paint, shellac, varnish, wood preservatives, roof coatings, driveway sealer, pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, poisons, some household cleaners, acids, corrosives, pool chemicals, automobile

transmission and brake fluids, antifreeze, degreasers, solvents, thinners, turpentine, adhesives, kerosene, lighter fluid, gasoline, PCB ballasts, rechargeable and button batteries, metal halide lights, lead tackle, thermometers, mercury, thermostats, and aerosols.

Some materials have a small fee due to recycling costs. For example, oil filters are \$1.00 each, and fluorescent tube bulbs are \$0.65 to \$2.25 each depending on size.

The Cleansweep event will not accept latex paint, as it is not considered hazardous. The best and safest way to dispose of unwanted latex paint is to open the container, place it in a safe place, and allow it to dry out and harden. This works best with containers that are less than half full. Once it is completely dry it can be placed in regular garbage containers.

Additional unacceptable items include empty or dried paint cans, used motor oil, explosives or flares, pressurized containers, radioactive materials, Freon 11 & 12, medical or infectious wastes, waste motor oil, auto and alkaline batteries, asbestos, tires, recyclables, electronics, and appliances.

The Ashland and Bayfield collection sites will be accepting household pharmaceuticals, which include prescription and over-the-counter medications such as pills, capsules, ointments, liquids, sprays, creams, inhalers, vials and drops. Please leave prescription medications in the original containers, and remove personal information on the container.

No radioactive or chemotherapy medications are accepted, nor are sharps, syringes, and IV bags or tubing. Contact your health care provider for disposal options for those materials.

The Ashland Police Department, Washburn Police Department, and Ashland and Bayfield counties' Sheriff's Departments have free, year-round drop-off sites in their buildings for medications. Throughout the year in southern Ashland County, residents can take unwanted pharmaceuticals and medications to the Mellen Police Department, Park Falls Police Department, Price County's Sheriff Department, and the Butternut Village Hall.

The Extension websites (<https://ashland.extension.wisc.edu//> and [Bayfield.extension.wisc.edu](https://bayfield.extension.wisc.edu)) offer a "2020 Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Guide" for year-round disposal options offered at area businesses that accept many of these items. Check the guide for addresses and phone numbers of businesses and departments that accept materials throughout the year.

The four counties have contracted with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission since the Cleansweeps program started in 1995. The program received a Wisconsin Governor's Award for Excellence in Hazardous Waste Reduction, and has operated 390 collections gathering 1.6 million pounds of hazardous materials since its start.

For more information, call the Ashland County Extension Office at (715) 682-7017, or Bayfield County Extension at 715-373-6104. Collection details, prices and information including dates and times of other collections in Northern Wisconsin can also be found on the Ashland and Bayfield County Extension websites.

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**Contact Information**

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Price County: Evan Lund, 715-339-2550

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Photo caption: An annual Cleansweep hazardous material collection event allows residents, like this Ashland County participant in 2019, to safely dispose of toxic products such as lawn and garden chemicals, household cleaners, and medications. Farmers and businesses can also participate in the 2020 collection events in August and September.



Photo Credit: Lissa Radke