



Northeast Indiana  
Solid Waste  
Management District

# District News

Volume 3 Issue 3

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Monthly electronic newsletter provided as a service to our customers

## Why is Recycling Important?

### Important Dates:

- District Board of Directors meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the Ashley office complex.
- Electronics and fluorescent bulbs collected on Friday mornings 8-12 only. Fees charged.

Recycling refers to the collecting of used materials that are destined to be cleaned and reprocessed. Recycling means using the core elements of the item as raw material for another product. Common items that can be recycled are plastic bottles, paper, batteries, tin and aluminum.



So, why is recycling important? Consider this—recycling is important because less energy is used when making a new product. It removes pollution and harmful materials from the waste stream; and the consumption of natural resources decreases. Jobs are created because of all stages of the recycling process. Recycling saves space in landfills; and individuals can feel good about their participation in a program that is readily available and so easy to understand.

Want to know where to find a recycling station? Check out the website at [www.niswmd.org](http://www.niswmd.org).

## Mission Statement

To assure uniform, efficient, cost-effective solid waste services are available to the citizens of the District.

## Recycling Reminder

The NISWMD provides residential recycling stations that are available twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. The recycling stations offer blue containers for the collection of #1 and #2 plastics, tin and aluminum cans. The red containers are great locations for broken down (smashed) cardboard boxes, cereal boxes and other corrugated cardboard items. Yellow containers are available for newspapers and magazines/catalogs.

Only the above mentioned materials are accepted in the recycling containers provided by the Solid Waste District. At each location, you will also find a wooden box designated for household batteries. If you are unsure this recycling program will take the materials you wish to recycle, contact the District office at 800-777-5462 for further recycling options.

## Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management

Primary Business Address  
2320 W—800 S  
P.O. Box 370  
Ashley, IN 46705

**Contact us by:**

Phone: 800-777-5462  
Fax: 260-587-3523  
E-mail: [info@niswmd.org](mailto:info@niswmd.org) or  
[pdecamp@niswmd.org](mailto:pdecamp@niswmd.org)

**Reduce-Reuse-Recycle-Rethink**

For more information  
go to the District's  
website at  
[www.niswmd.org](http://www.niswmd.org)

## 2009 - a good year for Recycling

- ⇒ 578 tons of tin, aluminum, #1 and #2 plastics were recycled in the blue bins; 932 tons of cardboard in the red bin and 1,604 tons of newspaper/magazines in the yellow bins. 3,114 tons recycled in 2009.
- ⇒ 12,803 tons of brush, grass clippings and leaves were handled at the compost lots.
- ⇒ 74 tons of used paint, oil, chemicals, batteries and fluorescent bulbs were recycled.
- ⇒ 54 tons of electronics and 11 tons of books were recycled and 6 tons of shoes were reused.
- ⇒ 196 companies utilized reduction, reuse and recycling strategies with the help of the District.

## Mercury in Our Homes

### What is Mercury?

A heavy metal that is highly toxic to humans and as a pollutant, mercury stays in the environment for a very long time.

### Why is Mercury a Concern?

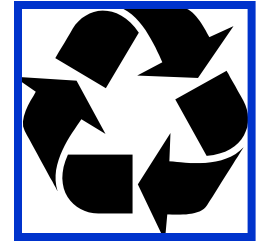
Mercury poisoning can cause irreversible brain, liver and kidney damage. Fetuses and children are most sensitive to mercury toxicity. Mercury does not break down to less toxic forms in the environment. Significant amounts of mercury have been found in many streams and species of fish in Indiana.

### Where is Mercury in My Home?

Mercury is often used in everyday household objects so it is important to dispose of them properly. Common items include but are not limited to: fever thermometers, some antiseptic products, fluorescent light bulbs, thermostats, oil-based paints, clothes irons, pilot light sensors, gauges and switches in chest freezers, washing machines, electric space heaters and scientific apparatuses such as barometers. Mercury may be found in items such as coffee makers, children's shoes with light-up soles, automotive headlamps and some batteries.

### How Should I Dispose of Mercury Items?

Keep these items out of the trash. Contact a HVAC Contractor, the Solid Waste District at [www.niswmd.org](http://www.niswmd.org) or IDEM at [www.in.gov](http://www.in.gov) for recycling guidelines.



## Did You Know?

- ⇒ It is believed that Americans use 2.5 million plastic bottles every year.
- ⇒ An aluminum can may be recycled many times.
- ⇒ When 1 ton of steel is recycled, 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,000 pounds of coal and 40 pounds of limestone are saved.
- ⇒ For every ton of recycled newspapers, we save 17 trees.

Source: [www.buzzle.com](http://www.buzzle.com)—recycling facts.