



Olmsted County Environmental Resources

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Mattress Recycling

Mattresses have historically presented unique disposal challenges. For many years, they were sent directly to the landfill where they took up a large amount of valuable space. Around 10 years ago, the landfill began shredding mattresses and sending them back to the Olmsted Waste-to-Energy Facility (OWEF) where they were utilized as fuel. While this was preferable to letting them take up space in their original form, shredding mattresses (specifically their coils) was particularly hard on our shredding equipment.

Since replacing the shredder was cost-prohibitive, a better option was needed. Fortunately, a relatively new recycling outlet was available at [7 Rivers Recycling, LLC](#) in Onalaska, WI, and an agreement was reached at the end of 2020. To date, the county has shipped nearly 4,000 mattresses for recycling. As a result:

- Mattresses are moved further up the solid waste hierarchy. Steel mattress coils can be recycled. Mattress foam can be recycled into carpet backings. Mattress felt can be used as moving blankets, floor liners, and weed barriers.
- The life of shredding equipment at the Kalmar Landfill is prolonged.
- Handling is reduced. An empty trailer is dropped off when a full load of mattresses is ready to ship.
- Recyclable material is kept out of the OWEF.

Mattresses can be brought to the Recycling Center Plus, <https://bit.ly/3KodYqZ>, for a fee of \$22.00. The disposal fee helps offset the costs associated with shipping and disassembly at 7 Rivers Recycling.



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