

Be Prepared For Citywide Cleanup April 9-16

Take The Time To Organize Items You Are Disgarding

BY HEIDI HENSON

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It's April and the calendar says it is spring, so for many people that means it's time to do so some major cleaning.

In an effort to help keep Yankton looking nice, the City of Yankton is once again providing Citywide Cleanup — April 9th-16, 2011.

The goal every year, says Dave Leyden with the Street Department, "is to try to keep Yankton as tidy as possible."

To reach this goal, Yankton residents who are on city garbage collection routes can place items on the curb beginning Saturday, April 9. Items such as tree branches, wood products, metal, and minimal concrete will be picked up.

Leyden is asking residents to please separate items into piles.

"If stuff is separated it helps

us so we don't get stuff mixed up. It's just easier," he said. "And don't pile it around things like fire hydrants, mail boxes, phone boxes, and things like that."

According to the City of Yankton website, city crews will begin picking things up at the curbs April 11-15. And as a reminder, this is only for people who are resident customers on regular city garbage routes.

Residents are asked to wait until April 9 to begin placing items on the curb.

"It doesn't take long and it helps keep the community looking nice," Leyden adds.

If the following steps are followed, city crews will pick up at your curb:

- Separate materials by type into piles.
- Piles must be placed at the street curb on the day that your regular garbage is picked up. These items will not be picked up in alleys.

• Piles must be placed directly in front of your property and not in front of adjacent neighboring property.

• Tree branches shall be no longer than 10' in length.

• Garbage cans set out for normal collection must be set away from piles and left in alleys.

There are many items that will not be picked by city crews.

Grass clippings and leaves can be disposed of at the transfer station, free of charge, anytime during the summer.

"If people bring out yard waste we just ask that they keep the garbage out of it," said Leyden. Last fall when they were preparing the windrows they were finding everything under the sun in the grass piles.

Newspapers, cardboard, plastics and other recyclables are collected free of charge throughout the year. Once a week recyclables are collected



COURTESY PHOTO
Citywide Cleanup begins this Saturday in Yankton. Residents are encouraged to wait until then to place items on the curb. A complete list of what can be collected through the transfer station is available on the city website at www.cityofyankton.org.

at the curb or you can bring items to the transfer station. For more information on the River City Recycling Program go to: www.cityofyankton.org.

Paints, thinners, painting oils and other hazardous wastes cannot be disposed of at the Yankton transfer station. In the

past, during the fall, the city has provided a time to dispose of hazardous wastes, but Leyden said it has not been determined when that will be done this year.

The transfer station can take items like refrigerators and air conditioners, but these things can not contain any

Restore Your Property Once Winter Weather Is Gone

(MS) — Restoring a yard after a long winter is a springtime rite of passage for many homeowners. Harsh winds and heavy snow can take their toll on even the most beautiful landscape.

Spring is a homeowner's first chance to survey the damage and begin restoring the yard to where it was before all those strong winds and snowstorms. To get started on your yard this spring, consider the following tips.

• Don't begin too early. The early bird might get the worm, but the early homeowner might get a damaged lawn. If temperatures for an upcoming free weekend are unseasonably warm, it's best to avoid doing spring yard cleanup until there have been several warm weekends to thaw the ground. Unless the ground has completely thawed, footsteps on the yard will damage the grass, compacting the soil and prevent-

ing the air and moisture that soil needs from doing its job and penetrating the soil. What's more, if the yard is raked before the ground has thawed, the rake might just be pulling the grass out by its roots.

• Survey the property. A close survey of the property will give homeowners an idea of just how big or small their restoration project will be. A thorough survey will reveal any problem areas and may also reveal some unexpected guests. Rabbits and squirrels often nest in yards during the winter. Rabbits will nest in the ground, while squirrels typically build nests made of leaves in the trees. Unless it's entirely necessary, avoid removing any nests, and be sure to carefully inspect the yard before the season's first mow.

• Out with the old. When the cleanup process is ready to begin, it's time to remove remnants from

last season. This includes removing any dead plants as well as last year's mulch. If new mulch is simply thrown on top of old, plants could suffocate.

Dead leaves also tend to gather during the winter, often up against fences or a home's exterior walls. Rake up these dead leaves and add them to the season's compost.

• Get rid of thatch. Thatch can be soil's worst enemy, preventing its access to the sunlight, air and moisture it needs to make the lawn look beautiful and healthy. Thatch removal can be tiresome, but visit the local hardware store and pick up a dethatching rake to make the job a little easier. Thatch removal isn't always necessary every spring. Many homeowners have found removing thatch every other year is effective enough.

• Aerate the yard to revive the soil. Soil often becomes compacted

as spring becomes summer and summer becomes fall. This is especially true of yards that are heavily used, be it by kids playing outdoors or families who love to host warm weather gatherings in the yard. Aerating in the spring removes plugs of sod from the soil, loosening it up and making it easier for air and water to reach the roots.

• Address those ugly bald spots. Bare spots in a yard can result from any number of things, be it a dog urinating in the yard or even disease. Early spring, when temperatures are a little cooler and promote grass growth, is a great time to address the yard's bald spots. Do so by clearing away the spots and sprinkling the freshly exposed soil with some grass seed. Then add some fertilizer and be sure the newly seeded areas get some water until the new, healthy grass begins to grow in.

LIGHTS

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selfes," she said.

Colored lights, illuminated furniture and subtle fixtures designed to blend with nature will be popular this year, according to design professionals.

Workman expects to see the use of color increase, and "I don't mean Christmas lights," she said. Landscapers are starting to incorporate subtle red, blue and pink lights into their work, she said.

Color is particularly appropriate if you are planning a party, Rossbund added. It's "a fun way to change things up," she said.

Some homeowners are adding a bright pop of color with light-up patio furniture, Robert said. The battery-powered chairs and tables are available in a variety of colors.

International designers like Modoluce and Neoz have created lines of plastic tables and chairs that are lit from within.

Avanzini has a line of wood furniture made with glowing light strips. It helps create a lounge look that Robert thinks will be popular this summer.

"With the rise of staycations, we will see a lot of designs adopting a real bar-type lounge attitude, with perhaps more extravagant and festive pieces," she said.

Moonlight USA sells decorative outdoor illuminated globes, which can glow white like the moon or cast light in a rainbow of colors. The company also makes

a tabletop for the globes. The clear acrylic disc has a cut-out center that allows it to rest on top of the globe so it can function as a table.

"The color is very robust," said owner Anke Kondek. "It's a wow effect."

Homeowners wanting to light a more natural setting may go for a softer, more layered look, said Beth Webb, an interior designer in Atlanta. She favors the custom copper-and-wood pieces made by The Outdoor Lights in Cumming, Ga.

Company president Chris Wakefield has created lights that cast a warm glow around fire pits, dining areas or outdoor living rooms. Some of his more popular items include punctured copper cylinders that create a firefly effect, stamped copper lanterns and illuminated, artificial birdhouses. The lanterns can hang from a shepherd's hook or a tree branch.

Before buying lights for reading, lounging or dining, the professionals recommend making sure that pathways and steps are properly lit for safety.

"You want light to help you navigate spaces near or around steps," said Jeff Dross, director of education and industry trends for Kichler Lighting.

He and the other experts warned against making outdoor spaces too bright. They suggest using subtle light that is aimed towards the ground wherever possible.

"For most tasks you only need low light," Dross said. "Avoid that glare. Glare forces you to think you need more light than you do."

Hardwood Wood Floors: Performance, Expectations

One of the leading causes of customer dissatisfaction with their hardwood floor is that the floor does not live up to expectation. No matter how experienced the installer, how good an install that he/she performs or what the quality of the hardwood is; there are number of things that can be expected from a hardwood floor.

• Hardwood Floors will dent: the term "hardwood" is relative to "softwood" as far as a comparison in terms of hardness. Hardwood floor will dent from impact with "high heel" shoes, furniture sliding across the floor and even your pet's nails. No finish that is applied to the hardwood will prevent the dents but the finish must contour to the dent to protect the hardwood from moisture and household use. Scratching the finish with any abrasive or sharp object is not considered normal use or wear.

• Hardwood is not a monochromatic product: hardwood, since it is a natural product, will vary in appearance from one board to the next. It is not a manufactured product but is milled from kiln-dried wood that comes from a tree. It will have grain and color variations consistent with the grade and species of the selected hardwood flooring.

• Hardwood may "gap": although the hardwood floor "strips" may start tight together it will since it is a natural product, continue to absorb and release moisture. The "hygroscopic" process causes the hardwood to expand and contract from season to season with the changes of humidity in the environment. As a result, some gaps may appear between some of the individual boards in the floor.

It is critical to the performance of the hardwood floor that the house temperature remains

between 65-75 degrees Fahrenheit and the interior house humidity be within the range of 35-55 percent moisture content.

• Species characteristics: each species of hardwood reacts differently to temperature, humidity, and sunlight and will continue to expand and contract at different rates as well darken and lighten as the UV rays from the sun react with the wood. Each Species has a different degree of hardness and will dent to varying degrees depending on the hardness of the species.

• Maintenance of the floor: each hardwood floor needs to be maintained on a regular basis to

avoid excessive deterioration and damage to the finishes and the hardwood itself. Regular sweeping, vacuuming or mopping with a dry mop are recommended to assure that sand, grit and other debris do not damage the surface of the flooring. Damp mopping with manufacturer-approved cleaners is recommended to maintain the hardwood floor's original appearance and luster. Place a mat or area rug at all entries or high use areas to protect the floor's finish from excessive wear.

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