

Reduce Reuse Recycle

Dealing with Discards in a COVID-19 World

A reference to help you reduce your trash, reuse durable items, recycle everything you can, and rethink waste.



Information valid through April 2021

Welcome to the 2020 *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Guide*

Dear Residents and Business Owners of Hampshire and Franklin Counties:

We send thanks to the Western Massachusetts businesses that make production of this 13th edition of our Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Guide possible through their advertising support. We are especially grateful for their support as we all adjust to the new normal during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As an “essential” business, the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) has continued to operate through Massachusetts’ Stay-at-Home Advisory. Safety and physical distancing protocols have been put into place and employees are provided personal protective gear. We are fortunate also that the market value for some of the paper streams the MRF produces has risen.

Recyclable material collected in Western Massachusetts tends to be cleaner – or less contaminated with trash - than in many other parts of the country. Our Western Massachusetts communities do a great job keeping our recycling stream free of contaminants (problem items such as wet cardboard, dirty bottles and cans, Styrofoam, and “tangles” such as plastic bags and garden hoses), so our recycling stream remains marketable!

The Springfield MRF Advisory board is committed to providing local municipalities with effective tools to help reduce the amount of material that we discard. We offer useful, engaging posters for the public to download and print on our website

(springfieldmrf.org) to help people understand what materials are in demand by manufacturers, and our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/SpringfieldMRF) generates interesting, helpful posts.

This guide is additional method we employ to keep residents educated about dealing with discards. In addition to information about recycling, the guide provides options for reusing and donating, and advice about items that need to be kept out of the trash or recycling stream because of their effect on our health, environment, and recycling end markets.

On behalf of the Springfield MRF Advisory Board, we thank you for your conscientious recycling efforts. Let’s keep up the strong waste reduction effort that has earned Western Massachusetts a great reputation!

Tracy DeMaio



Chair, MRF Advisory Board

YOUR RECYCLING EFFORTS



WON'T GO TO WASTE

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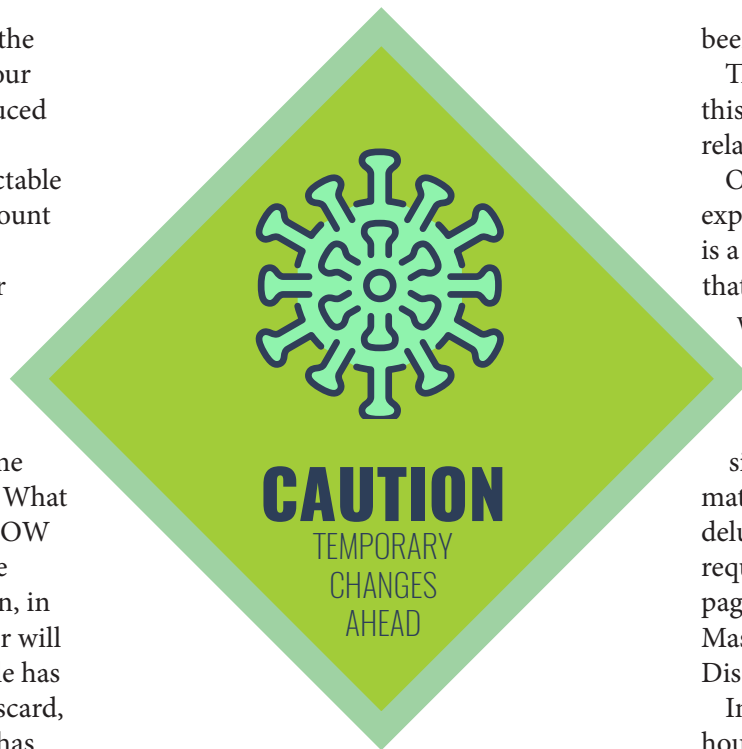


Where there is a will, there is a way. City of Northampton Waste Reduction Coordinator Susan Waite, and Franklin County Solid Waste Management District Program Director Amy Donovan, captured a screen shot during one of their virtual meetings while planning this Guide.

Dealing with Discards in a COVID-19 World

Few will argue with the fact that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed our daily lives. Closures, shortages, reduced schedules and workforces, and procedural changes have turned our sedate and predictable routines on their heads in a very short amount of time.

The satirical Zoom meeting on the cover of this guide is a case in point. Who could have predicted three months ago that so many of us would get a crash course in online meeting platforms? Many people working from home are discussing the same topics with the same colleagues as before. What the COVID-19-situation has changed is **HOW** people are meeting. The discard and waste world has been affected in a similar fashion, in that the key changes that have occurred (or will occur) are procedural or operational. Little has changed with regard to what to recycle, discard, and donate, but how it gets accomplished has



been altered (at least temporarily).

The information on the first several pages of this guide will help you navigate this new waste-related terrain.

One of the issues many households are experiencing during the Coronavirus pandemic is a pileup of donations, bulky waste (items that don't fit into a trash bag) and leaf and yard waste as we await the reopening of discard-related organizations and collections.

The challenge is that for the first time in history, we've all been clearing out simultaneously, and existing outlets for the material may not be able to accommodate a deluge of material, given that social-distancing requirements that may be the new normal. On page 4, you'll find suggestions to help western Massachusetts communities "Flatten the Discard Curve."

In the event that your preferred clothing or household donation center must limit donation

Continued on page 6

Food scraps belong in the soil, not the trash.

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compostable bags!



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REBUILD LIVES

Flattening the Discard Curve

How you can help

Just as hospitals are at risk of being overwhelmed by COVID-19 patients, there is a risk that donation centers, charitable organizations, and waste collection facilities will be overwhelmed by residential discards as the state Stay at Home Advisory is relaxed. Ongoing social distancing and other pandemic adaptations will continue to affect the services and discard outlets on which we've come to depend. As a community, we need to work on flattening the discard curve.

With millions of people spending the majority of their time at home, the waste industry is reporting major volume shifts, with decreases in commercial waste and increases in residential waste. According to WasteDive, "local governments from numerous states are reporting residential volume increases of 20% or more since stay at home advisories took effect." These increases cause challenges for a waste industry navigating a new terrain with a reduced number of employees.

And the waste industry is not the only affected party. Donation-based businesses such as second-hand clothing and housewares shops are anticipating a surge in donations when they are able to open—with mixed feelings. Their business model relies on a stream of used material from the public, but thrift shops are also grappling with the challenge of processing a surge of material with a potentially smaller, socially-distanced work crew.

Christine Quinn, Manager of Northampton's Cancer Connection Thrift Shop, is looking forward to opening her shuttered shop soon, but is still working out the details. "We're going to be down a lot of volunteers and are looking at limited hours. Our donations area will be open, but if we are overwhelmed, we will have to close it periodically in order to catch up." With many transfer station swap shops closed until further notice, enterprises like Quinn's may be inundated with donations. Already, community donation boxes are spilling out into parking lots, with organizations like Bay State Textiles and the Salvation Army working hard to keep up with the flow.

Like Quinn, Ian Albert, General Supervisor of Springfield's Salvation Army donation facility, is in the throes of planning for an onslaught, but is confident, in part because



of a seasonal abundance of storage space. "It will take us longer to process material, but I'd rather have it here than in the waste stream."

The reuse, recycling, and waste industries are faced with a scenario parallel to the one faced by hospitals and medical professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic; how to accommodate a rush of need with limited resources. Here are a few things we all can do to help flatten the discard curve and make life for everyone easier:

Hold on to donations if you are able

Waiting a month or more will help ensure that your durable goods will be put to use instead of finding a home in a landfill or incineration facility. This may mean tussling with household members eager to clear out spring cleaning detritus, but the resources and energy used in producing the goods will be better utilized, and the extra time in storage will eliminate potential active virus residue (see Keeping Used Goods in the Safety Zone on page 6). To protect the items and ease future handling, put them in labeled (e.g. "Kitchen Items" and "Winter Clothes") and dated bags or boxes and store them (if possible) in a dry location. The folks that

process donations will be in a better position to handle the influx after they have had time to adjust to the new normal.

If you can't delay your donation, be understanding

As Quinn and Albert remarked above, processing the material will take longer than usual and they will likely be working with a reduced, socially-distanced, staff. Some organizations have extremely limited storage and can only accept a limited amount at one time, so there may be days when your donations will have to be refused. See Donation and Sharing Options on page 7.

Avoid leaving donations outside

The thrill of purging your home/car of collected donations has been known to overpower logic, and you may find yourself tempted to add to a mountain of donations outside a parking lot donation box. Please don't! The odds of your material being scattered or damaged by wind, rain, and sun before it is collected are high. And while in a perfect world wet discards would be sorted and salvaged, the reality is that they are always thrown away. See Donation and Sharing Options on page 7 for a list of alternative options if your local donation box or thrift store cannot handle more donations.

Notify your waste hauler if you expect to have more weekly trash than usual

When haulers can anticipate and schedule volume changes, it makes it easier for everyone. Whether your hauler has you using a rolling cart or trash bags, an unanticipated mountain of trash can be challenging. Your neighbor's pickup may also be affected as a result. To ensure a smooth resolution for all, make advance arrangements with your hauler.

Cultivate patience and tolerance

We are all navigating the same difficult storm, and people are doing the best they can to adapt to new challenges, but it is without question a stressful time and tempers are bound to flare. Take a deep breath if you feel frustrated, annoyed, or crabby, and remind yourself that this is difficult for everybody.



3 SIMPLE STEPS TO HELP YOU AND OUR DRIVERS STAY SAFE

During these unprecedented times, help our essential waste and recycling drivers collect safely.



01

DRIVERS ARE SAFER IF THEY ARE IN THE TRUCK

USA has invested in automated collection for our drivers' safety and efficiency. Make sure your waste fits in the containers so they can remain in the truck.



02

KEEP WASTE BAGGED AND RECYCLABLES LOOSE

Bags can help keep garbage from becoming unsanitary, but cannot go through the recycling process. Always bag your waste and keep your recyclables clean and loose.



03

PUT CARTS CURBSIDE AND KEEP PATHS CLEAR

We recommend putting all carts out the night before collection to ensure timely pickup. For commercial customers, please make sure our drivers have clear access to your container.

For Temporary Clean-out Dumpsters or to Sign Up for Curbside Collection

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intake due to reduced staffing or other issues, finding other ways to gift your discarded durable items will become important. We provide several Donation and Sharing Options on page 7 to help ensure that your reusable, durable discards are reused rather than landfilled or incinerated.

And speaking of reusables, is there a safe way to introduce used household items into your home? We discuss it and provide links to helpful Centers for Disease Control (CDC) resources in the Adopting Used Goods Safely box below.

Last year the U.S. Recycling industry was blindsided when the primary buyer of recyclable materials requested lower contamination rates than domestic recycling processing facilities

were able to provide. While we are not out of the woods yet, Brooke Nash, Waste Reduction Branch Chief at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection discusses the progress that has been made and the future market outlook on page 10.

Meanwhile, on July 1, a new contract begins with the operators of the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility, the local sorting facility to which much of the region's collected recyclable material is taken for processing. Only minor changes will take effect with regards to the types of material acceptable for recycling under the new contract. You will find an explanation of those changes on page 13.

Here's a summary of procedural information to help adapt to our new landscape:

Household Trash

For health and litter reduction purposes, please tie up garbage bags before they are placed in curbside bins or deposited at transfer stations. Eric Frederickson, USA Hauling & Recycling's Director of Operations, recommends that even household trash placed into rolling carts should be bagged prior to placement in the cart for the same reasons. Bags keep trash contained and keep carts clean and more sanitary. Frederickson also suggests that curbside collection customers periodically clean and disinfect trash cart lids and handles with a standard household cleaner (as recommended by the CDC with other high-touch surfaces in your home).

Continued on page 8

Adopting used goods...safely

Indications are that the risk of the COVID-19 virus traveling from the surface of an object to a person is fairly low, but new discoveries about COVID-19 are made every day, and little is known with great certainty. At this time, the safest course is to treat items from sources outside your own household as though they have viral contamination.

According to the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes¹, "Coronaviruses on surfaces and objects naturally die within hours to days." The risk of virus transmission on a surface depends on several factors, including the amount of virus that has landed on an object, external conditions (e.g. heat, humidity, & UV exposure), surface type (e.g. metal, plastic cardboard), and elapsed time on the surface. Assuming adequate quantity, one would then need to touch one's face with an infected body part. In an April 24 Cleveland Clinic post², Infectious Disease Specialist Dr. Frank Esper explains that "Because the virus is detectable doesn't mean that there is enough to make someone sick." Unfortunately, it is not yet clear how much is required to make someone sick. Until more is known, an abundance of caution is recommended in dealing with objects from sources outside your home. There are at least two strategies one may

employ to reduce the risk from gifting and adopting used household goods:

Quarantine

Household goods can be quarantined, just like people. A conservative approach based on recent studies would be to stow an item in a safe, out-of-the-way place (like a garage) for 3-7 days. This will allow any potential viral contamination to dry out and decay. Be sure to wash your hands with soap and water, scrubbing for 20 seconds, immediately after moving the item.

A study published in the March 2020 New England Journal of Medicine³ found that the longest time that the virus lingered on a surface was three days. In a second study published in Lancet in April⁴, a larger amount of the virus was applied, and it was found that the virus could be detected for up to seven days on some surfaces. Continuing a quarantine beyond seven days will help ensure that no active virus will be found on the object.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Because the Coronavirus is susceptible to soap, a second strategy is a thorough wash with warm soapy water, followed by (if the type of material permits) disinfection. The Centers for Disease Control website provides disinfection guidance for households affected by the Coronavirus. Use a "COVID 19 household disinfection" Google search to locate the CDC's "Cleaning



& Disinfection for Households" webpage⁵, which offers information for handling and disinfecting hard (non-porous) and soft (porous) surfaces, as well as electronics, and textile-based items (e.g. clothing, linens). A link to a list of EPA registered disinfectants for the Coronavirus is provided on the page, as well as safety protocols, alternate homemade disinfectant options, and important information about concentration levels, application methods, contact time, and ventilation requirements.

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Reopening_America_Guidance.pdf - Retrieved May 14, 2020

² <https://health.clevelandclinic.org/how-long-will-coronavirus-survive-on-surfaces/> - Retrieved May 14, 2020

³ <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMc2004973> - Retrieved May 14, 2020

⁴ [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanmic/article/PIIS2666-5247\(20\)30003-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanmic/article/PIIS2666-5247(20)30003-3/fulltext) - Retrieved May 14, 2020

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cleaning-disinfection.html> - Retrieved May 14, 2020

Donation & Sharing Options

The concept of a socially-distanced garage sale or swap shop might be hard to imagine right now, but other socially distanced donation and sharing options exist. Here are some strategies to ensure that your durable household items get reused, not discarded. See Adopting Used Goods Safely on page 6 for information about safely adding used material to your household during the COVID-19 epidemic.

Charity Thrift Shops

The best thing about donating to a charity shop is that you double your rewards. The probability of your goods being reused is increased, and you financially support a meaningful cause or social service program. The only potential downside is that they desire only items that people are willing to purchase. Charity thrift shops are keenly aware of what their clientele will buy,

and sometimes cannot accept things you consider valuable (handling items they can't sell incurs costs). To avoid disappointment, visit a shop's website or call before your visit to learn donation criteria and confirm that they are accepting donations.

Housing-related Non-Profit Groups

A number of non-profit and faith-based organizations collect furniture and basic household items to furnish households for people in need. You may find veteran, rehabilitation, transitional, and immigration-related housing assistance programs via a Google search. Try "Charity Furniture Donation" + "veterans" or whatever group you hope to donate to.

Curbside Giveaway

The simplest way to offload an item might just be to place it at the end of your

driveway with a "free" sign attached. The key to this approach is to limit the amount of time you leave the items outside and pull them inside when rain or strong winds are expected (or securely anchor a waterproof cover over them). Rain damages items, reducing their value and dampening curbside shopping enthusiasm. A warning: some neighbors may disapprove of curbside giving, and some neighborhood/condominium associations prohibit it.

Neighborhood Listservs

Some neighborhoods have neighborhood listservs on which you can notify people in your neighborhood of an item you want to give away, then leave it on your porch or in your yard for retrieval. A similar commercial app called NextDoor will allow you to communicate with area neighbors, but you will need to set up an account.

Continued on page 8

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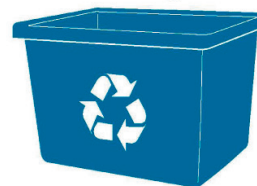
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Transfer station drop-offs

Social distancing requirements have slowed down operations at some transfer stations. To help reduce wait time, residents should sort discards in advance and load vehicles strategically to streamline their removal. New protocols at transfer stations may include mask wearing. Visit your town's webpage or call your community representative (see pages 26-27) to learn about new procedures.

Recycling

While a few minor changes to what is considered acceptable in the recycling mix will become effective on July 1, 2020 (see "Minor Recycling Changes to Take Effect" on page 13), the current recycling guidelines have not changed.

Massachusetts has suspended enforcement of retailer container redemption programs until further notice or the current state of emergency is terminated, but collection of recyclable household material continues with no changes. The redemption program suspension affects only those centers that collect bottle bill-designated material and return deposit money to consumers. Consumers are encouraged to hold on to their deposit containers for redemption at a later date or to recycle those containers along with existing household recycling.

Operations at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) have continued with enhanced social distancing precautions and worker use of personal protective equipment. The commodity price for some varieties of paper has increased along with a demand for shipping boxes.

Recycling should be loose (unbagged), clean, and well-sorted, with strict adherence to the Springfield MRF's acceptable items list (found at springfieldmrf.org). This is important for



two reasons: 1) to limit additional handling by haulers, sorters, and quality control workers, and 2) to ensure that only clean, quality recyclables are sent to market. Refer to page 30 and visit springfieldmrf.org and RecycleSmartMA.org for details about what should be going into your bin. See "Is Your Recycling Going To Waste?" on page 10 to learn why a clean recycling stream is important.

Bulky Waste, Leaf and Yard Waste

Some bulky waste and leaf/ yard waste collection sites have been temporarily closed as a result of Governor Baker's Stay at Home order, but no changes to the types of materials accepted are anticipated. Visit your city or town's webpage or call your community representative (see pages 26-27) to learn about opening dates and potential new disposal procedures.

Hazardous waste

Some scheduled dates of community household hazardous waste collection events have been postponed and a few have been cancelled. Visit page 28 for a list of anticipated dates. Please note

that more date changes are expected as more is known about how the ongoing COVID-19 situation will affect operations of public works departments and licensed hazardous waste handlers. New England Disposal Technologies (NEDT) in Westfield operates a year round, fee-based drop-off center (nedt.org).

Clothing and Textiles

Most clothing donation box organizations have been able to empty the boxes, although some workforce-related delays have occurred. Concerns about thousands of households dropping donations off within a short time frame has led to a community effort to "flatten the donation curve." Visit page 4 to learn more about how you can ensure that your useful discarded material does not find its way into a trash dumpster.

Compostable Food Waste

Access to most municipal or commercial compost collection options has continued unchanged during the last two months. Disposal protocols at area transfer stations may have changed. Visit your city or town's webpage or call your community representative (see pages 26-27) to learn new disposal procedures (if applicable).

Home composting is an excellent way to reduce one's household waste during this quarantine period. You'll find information about getting backyard composting started on page 29.

The Western Massachusetts discard landscape has changed...at least temporarily, but the changes have not been catastrophic. Change can be difficult and few people enjoy it, especially when it is forced upon us. But humans are adaptable and New Englanders in particular are known for their resiliency and grit. Working cooperatively together we can do this!

Online Giveaway Options

Online gifting offers your material to a wide audience, increasing the chances of finding someone enthusiastic. Post a photo of the item, the town it is in, and basic details and wait for interested parties to contact you. The simplest option is to join a local or regional Facebook gifting group.

"Buy Nothing <municipality name>" is popularly used, but others can be located by searching for public Facebook groups with terms like "free," "give" or "gift." Items may also be gifted (not just sold) on Facebook Marketplace. Freecycle.com is a national network of local gifting and getting groups, but you are required to set

up an account with a password. There is also a free section on Craigslist.com. The caveat to online giveaway is that once a "giftee" has been identified, you'll need to identify a safe, socially-distanced way to transfer the goods (a "porch pickup" is often the simplest solution).

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Is Your Recycling Going to Waste?

BY BROOKE NASH | MA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

While recent news stories about recycling might have you believe otherwise, the answer is an emphatic no, recycling is not a wasted effort. The cans, bottles and paper you put in your recycling bin are part of an important supply chain that returns used materials to the manufacturing sector to make new products and packaging in the U.S. and overseas.

But what you put in your recycling bin does matter, now more than ever. In 2018, the Chinese government imposed a ban on the import of most recycled paper and unsorted plastics from the U.S. and Europe. Known as “National Sword”, the ban was a wake-up call to the recycling industry. For the previous two decades, almost half the recyclables collected in the U.S. were sold to mills in China where they

were converted into packaging for the myriad consumer goods that China exports to the U.S. each year. The Chinese recycling mills accepted low quality material and using cheap labor, sorted out the good from the bad. Until they decided they’d had enough.

National Sword caused a global disruption in the secondary materials market. The oversupply of scrap paper and plastic caused their value to plummet. Markets in Southeast Asia stepped in to buy at low prices, while demanding higher quality, cleaner material.

And that’s where each of us comes in. Over the years, many of us became “wishful recyclers”, putting items in the recycling bin that we hoped would be recycled. Our recycling habits became a little sloppy. And quite frankly, most of us simply didn’t know there was a problem.

The most common mistakes

We asked the operators of Massachusetts’ Material Recovery Facilities (MRF) - where household recyclables are sorted into separate streams before they’re sold to end-markets - what the biggest problem materials are. Top of the list is plastic grocery bags. That’s right - even though most plastic bags display a recycling symbol, they do NOT belong in your household recycling bin. Why not? Plastic bags wreak havoc at MRFs where they wrap around sorting equipment and shut down the sorting line. Workers have to manually cut the bags off the equipment, a dangerous and time-consuming job. This happens multiple times a day at the recycling facility in Charlestown where Boston’s recyclables go for sorting.

Continued on page 12

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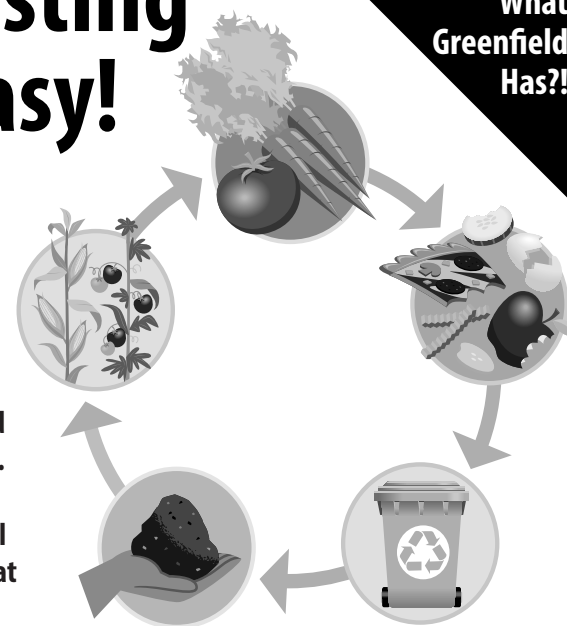
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Williamsburg, MA 01096
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www.hrmc-ma.org

Contact: Kathleen A. Casey, HRMC Administrator

Composting is Easy!

Guess What Greenfield Has?!

The Greenfield Department of Public Works offers recycling of compostable food materials (see accepted items list below) at the Transfer Station located at 86 Cumberland Road. The drop-off site is available during normal open hours year round at the Transfer Station.



Residents are encouraged to bring up the following items:

Meat • Fish • Bones • Dairy • Eggs • Eggshells
Fruit and vegetables • Bread • Rice • Pasta
Tea bags • Coffee grounds • Paper filters
Soiled or waxed cardboard • Soiled pizza boxes
Paper towels and napkins • Paper plates and cups (no lids or straws)
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Continued from page 10

The other worst offenders? Recyclables in plastic bags (these are pulled from the sorting line and thrown away); food and liquids, clothing, and “tanglers” such as wire, garden hoses, rope, and string lights. None of these items belong in your recycling bin.

Become a smarter recycler by following these guidelines:

- Empty and rinse all food and beverage containers
- Remove all plastic and Styrofoam packing from cardboard boxes before recycling.
- Ignore the recycling symbol with a number that's on most plastic items - it does NOT mean it's recyclable.
- For plastic items, the shape is the best rule: If it's a bottle, jar, jug or tub, recycle it! Otherwise, put it in the trash.
- Consult the online “Recyclopedia” for recycling answers to over 500 items. Find it at RecycleSmartMA.org.
- Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter (recyclesmartma) to learn more about recycling smart.
- Spread the word to friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers about recycling smart.



Keeping the bad stuff out of our recycling bins means the good stuff gets recycled. It also ensures we're supporting a supply chain of recycled materials for the manufacturing economy, while conserving resources and protecting our environment. The silver lining to National Sword is that for the first time in decades, major investments in U.S. recycling mills are being made to fill the void that China left. That means jobs and economic growth right here at home. All the more reason to feel good about recycling.

Brooke Nash is Branch Chief for Municipal Waste Reduction at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and leads the Recycle Smart MA statewide recycling education initiative.

Several changes as to what material is accepted at the Springfield MRF will become effective as of July 1, 2020. See page 13 for details.



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Minor Recycling Changes Take Effect July 1

Western Mass residents may have heard that changes to household recycling rules are pending. Please be assured that changes for the average household will be minor.

First, some background. The Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) accepts, sorts, bales, and sells recyclable material from 73 member communities in western Mass. The MRF is the only recycling facility in Massachusetts that is owned by the Commonwealth. It is operated by a private operator, and a 15 member advisory board discusses and reviews its operations, provides recycling education (such as this guide) to the public, and acts as a liaison between member communities, the MRF operator and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

A new contract with the private operator, Waste Management Recycles America, will go into effect on July 1, 2020. The new contract adds two items to list of acceptable material and removes two items. Details are provided below.

Shredded paper and aerosol cans will no longer be accepted

As of July 1, 2020, shredded paper will no longer be acceptable in western Massachusetts' household/municipal paper



recycling program. Going forward, the best way to get your confidential documents recycled is to bring them to area businesses (e.g. copy shops, office supply, shipping stores, and local banks) for secure shredding. Many local banks sponsor free spring and fall shredding events. The material generated from commercial shredding operations is taken directly to local paper mills, avoiding the scattering and contamination that ensues at a household recycling facility. If you are not able to bring your paper to a business or public event for shredding, please dispose of shredded paper as trash.

On July 1st, 2020, aerosol cans will no longer be accepted in municipal recycling. Until then, recycle only EMPTY aerosol cans that contained non-hazardous materials, such as health & beauty products (sun block, first aid spray, hair products, deodorant, & shaving cream); food products (cooking oil, whipped cream, frosting) and laundry products (starch, anti-static products & air fresheners). To prevent a fire hazard, cans must be completely empty (no air or noise from the nozzle when pressed). Do not puncture, pierce, flatten, or remove nozzles prior to recycling.

Clear plastic cups and egg cartons will be considered acceptable

As of July 1, 2020, crystal clear plastic cups (printed OK) will be considered acceptable in municipal recycling. Remove lids and straws and place them in a trash receptacle.

Other plastic cups, such as polystyrene (#6 plastic), colored "keg" cups, and opaque (cloudy) plastic cups, are not acceptable for recycling and must go in the trash. If a clear cup is labeled "compostable," it should NOT go in recycling. "Compostable plastic" cups may go in municipal or commercial compost programs. These products are not designed to degrade in home compost bins or piles.

Starting on July 1, clear plastic egg cartons will be officially accepted.

Paper & Styrofoam egg cartons are not accepted in municipal recycling, but are often reused by backyard chicken farmers. Paper cartons may also be composted in municipal compost collections, or in home compost bins (for home composting, rip into pieces.)

For more information on what is and is not accepted for recycling in western Mass, please visit the Springfield MRF's website: (springfieldmrf.org) and Facebook page (facebook.com/SpringfieldMRF)

What Do I Do With...?

☠ = Items that are hazardous or require special handling.

This handy disposal guide filled with local and national resources will assist readers in finding out if an unwanted item is recyclable, reusable, compostable, hazardous waste, or trash.

Aerosol cans ☠

On July 1st, 2020, aerosol cans will no longer be accepted in municipal recycling. Until then, recycle only EMPTY aerosol cans that contained non-hazardous materials, such as health & beauty products (sun block, first aid spray, hair products, deodorant, & shaving cream); food products (cooking oil, whipped cream, frosting) and laundry products (starch, anti-static products & air fresheners). To prevent a fire hazard, cans must be completely empty (no air or noise from the nozzle when pressed). Do not puncture, pierce, flatten, or remove nozzles prior to recycling.

Aerosol cans that are empty and once contained hazardous materials are NEVER recyclable. Place empty hazardous waste aerosol containers in your household trash (empty cans from insecticide, paint, lubricant, waterproofing, automotive, adhesive/craft & cleaning products). Aerosol cans with hazardous material in them should be brought to a household hazardous waste collection (see page 28). For additional information, visit: www.mass.gov/guides/safely-manage-hazardous-household-products.

Aluminum foil, cans & “disposable” pans

Rinse clean & recycle with bottles & cans. Acceptable items include aluminum pie pans and take-out containers, disposable roaster pans, and clean aluminum foil (ball it up).

Aluminum siding (see “Scrap Metal”)

Ammunition, explosives

Call your Police Department for proper disposal instructions.

Antifreeze ☠ (see “Automotive Products”)

Appliances (see “Scrap Metal”)

Arts, crafts & hobby items ☠

Some paints, solvents and related materials are hazardous and should be brought to a

hazardous waste collection. Always check the label before tossing in the trash. Visit www.crazycrayons.com for info about crayon recycling. Recycle Prang markers by visiting www.dixonrecycle.com. Schools can participate in Crayola ColorCycle, which accepts all brands of plastic markers, highlighters and dry erase markers: www.crayola.com/colorcycle.

Asbestos ☠

There are strict removal & disposal requirements for asbestos. Contact the Western Region of the Mass Department of Environmental Protection: John Moriarty 413-755-2128 john.moriarty@mass.gov. To find licensed asbestos contractors, go to www.mass.gov and type “Currently Licensed Asbestos Contractors” into the search bar.

Athletic shoes (see “Shoes”)

Automobiles (see “Vehicles”)

Automotive products ☠

Automotive products contain many hazardous materials & must be handled with care. Do not dump in the trash, on the ground or down the drain.

- **Motor oil** - Even a small amount of improperly disposed of motor oil will contaminate water & soil. In MA, retailers are required by law to accept up to two gallons of used oil at no charge with an original sales receipt. Many auto supply stores, auto repair shops & gas stations will accept used oil even if you didn't buy it from them. Many towns accept motor oil at transfer stations or hazardous waste collections. See pages 26-27 for local disposal information, or see page 28 for a hazardous waste collection. Or call the MassDEP Used Oil Hotline at 617-556-1022.

- **Motor oil filters** - Some auto supply stores or auto repair shops will recycle oil filters for free. Some towns accept motor oil filters at transfer stations. See pages 26-27 for local disposal information. Oil filters may be thrown away or recycled as scrap metal only when the oil has been completely drained (while filter is still warm, puncture the dome top & drain into a collection container. See above for oil disposal).

- **Empty motor oil bottles** - Empty motor oil containers are not recyclable; drain well and

then throw them away as trash.

- **Antifreeze** - Antifreeze is not only hazardous; its deceiving color & sweet taste may attract children, pets & wild animals. Empty antifreeze bottles should be thrown away (do not recycle). Consider having your vehicle's radiator flushed at a service station to avoid the responsibility associated with proper storage & disposal. Antifreeze can be brought to a household hazardous waste collection (see page 28).

- **Brake fluid** - Brake fluid is hazardous and must be brought to a household hazardous waste collection (see page 28). Empty bottles from this material should be thrown away (do not recycle).

Baby Food pouches (see “Plastic Pouches”)

Bags (see “Plastics” and “Reusable Bags”)

Ballasts ☠ (see “Mercury & Mercury-containing Products”)

Batteries ☠

Common “single-use” household batteries (alkaline, carbon zinc and zinc chloride in sizes A, AA, AAA, C & D, 9 volt, lantern size) manufactured after 1996 don't contain mercury or other hazardous/recyclable materials & can be thrown away as trash. (Put plastic tape on contacts on 9-volts and lantern batteries before disposal or storage.) Check labels carefully: some rechargeable and lithium batteries (which require special handling) can resemble alkaline batteries.

ALL other battery varieties contain hazardous materials and require special disposal. Never put these batteries in recycle or trash bins. Many communities have convenient drop-off options; see pages 26-27 for local disposal information or search online with your zip code at www.earth911.com. In addition:

- **Button batteries** (found in watches, hearing aids, electronics & some toys) are usually accepted free of charge by stores that sell them or at watch/jewelry shops.

- **Lead acid batteries** (found in vehicles, boats, motorcycles, kids' ride-on toys, lawn mowers) will be accepted by the retailer from whom you buy a new one (they are required to take one back at no charge). Scrap metal recyclers typically pay for lead acid batteries.

• **Lithium batteries** (found in many applications, primarily in cameras) Check all batteries carefully before disposal; look for “Lithium” on the label. They resemble alkaline batteries, but these should be recycled properly: some municipalities accept them.

• **Rechargeable batteries** contain heavy metals and should never be thrown in the trash or put in municipal or commercial recycling bins. These are found in cell phones, cordless phones, laptops, tablets, some digital cameras, camcorders, UPS battery back-ups, some toys, baby monitors, power tools, robotic vacuum cleaners, and emergency medical equipment. Also, rechargeable toothbrushes, razors, flashlights and hand-held vacuum cleaners, plus rechargeable batteries that can be recharged with a battery charger. Home Depot, Lowes, and Staples stores accept Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion), Nickel-Zinc (Ni-Zn), small Sealed Lead Acid (Pb) batteries (up to 11 pounds). For more information and options for recycling rechargeable batteries, go to www.call2recycle.org.

Beer and Soda Packaging

Although it looks like paper boxboard, beer and soda packaging contains an invisible layer of plastic (to stay strong when wet) and is NOT recyclable.

Bicycles

Working bicycles in good condition can be offered to charities (search online via “bicycle donation”) or private organizations (e.g. www.pedalpeople.coop) that will use them, or may be gifted to individuals free via an online sharing group (e.g. Freecycle.org) or a Buy Nothing Facebook

group). For recycling options, see “scrap metal.”

Boats

See more info under “Vehicles.” Boats might be accepted in bulky waste collections at some municipal transfer stations, or if metal, at scrap metal dealers. Call first. All automotive-type fluids must be drained and properly disposed of.

Books

Books in good condition may be sold at used bookstores, donated to public libraries, little free libraries, or a book exchange, or dropped off at your local recycling/transfer station’s swap shop. Reader to Reader, an Amherst-based non-profit, provides library-quality books to U.S. schools and public libraries (www.readertoreader.org). Paperback books & phonebooks unsuitable



for reuse CAN be recycled in municipal programs. However, the covers and spines from hardcover books are NOT recyclable; rip the pages out and recycle those; place the spine and covers in the trash. Roundabout Books (Greenfield) accepts books in any condition; donations are sorted for local and mail-order sale and all types of unsalable books are recycled at a local paper mill. Also accepted: CDs, DVDs, and vinyl records in working condition (www.roundaboutbookstore.com; 413-773-0820).

Bottle Caps & Lids

Plastic caps & lids are recyclable only if fastened to a plastic bottle/jar/jug/tub. Loose plastic tops should be placed in the trash; small items cause safety hazards and shutdowns at recycling facilities because they get caught in the sorting equipment. Metal lids, like those from glass jars, should be attached to the

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container. Metal lids from food cans should be pushed inside the can or recycled loose.

Boxes

- Clean cardboard, boxboard, paperboard boxes are recyclable (e.g., packaging from cereal, crackers, tissues, shoes, gifts, etc.) Attached plastic windows may stay, but discard plastic liners. Flatten.

- The clean portions of pizza boxes can be recycled, but the greasy parts must be discarded or composted. Because whole pizza boxes are usually greasy to some degree, drop-off centers and curbside programs sometimes reject them. Turning them inside out or ripping out greasy sections are the best ways to ensure they won't end up in a landfill. Soiled pizza boxes can be delivered to municipal compost programs at the transfer stations in Amherst, Bernardston, Conway, Deerfield, Greenfield (also open to non-residents), Leverett, New Salem, Northampton, Northfield, Orange, Wendell & Whately. Go to pages 26-27 to find contacts for these programs.

- Frozen food boxes, ice cream cartons, case boxes from soda or beer, and kitty litter boxes are not acceptable in recycling or composting. These boxes are made with "wet strength paper," a special plastic-reinforced material that keeps them from falling apart when wet. These boxes do not break down in the paper recycling or composting process, and must go in the trash.

Bubble wrap & inflated plastic packaging (*Air pillows*) (see "Plastics")

Building & remodeling materials

Construction & demolition ("C&D") waste includes asphalt, asphalt shingles, bricks, cement, cinder blocks, clapboard, concrete, doors, flooring, insulation, lumber, mortar, plaster, plywood, roofing, sheetrock, tiles, windows & wood. Fee-based disposal options are available at most recycling/transfer stations; call your community representative (see pages 26-27) for more information. Vehicles with a capacity greater than 5 cubic yards are subject to strict disposal requirements for C&D wastes in MA. For more information: www.mass.gov/lists/managing-construction-demolition-cd-wastes.

Used building materials (in good condition) can be donated for re-use. The following organizations will accept some reusable items. Call prior to delivery to confirm that your materials will be accepted, or to arrange for free pickup. Deconstruction services may be offered. Items might be tax-deductible.

- EcoBuilding Bargains, 83 Warwick St., Springfield, MA (413-788-6900;

ecobuildingbargains.org)

- Habitat for Humanity's ReStore in Westfield: 301 East Main St., Westfield, MA 01085 (413-642-8990; www.habitatspringfield.org/restore)

Wooden pallets can be reused or recycled as "clean wood waste." Disposal options for large quantities include (but are not limited to) Martin's Farm (Greenfield: 413-774-5631), Gold Circuit E-Cycling (Palmer: 888-283-0007), Index Packaging (NH: 800-662-3626), 360 Recycling (Westfield: 413-562-0193).

Note: pressure-treated wood should only be disposed of in a modern landfill. Don't put it in a backyard compost pile, a brush or chipping pile; don't burn it or send it to a waste incinerator for disposal. See pages 26-27 for local disposal information.

Cameras

Staples stores, Best Buy stores, and many electronic waste (e-waste) recycling programs accept digital cameras for free. Canon has a mail-in recycling program: shop.usa.canon.com/shop/en/catalog/recycling.

Canning Jars

Canning jars (e.g. mason jars) are not recyclable because of the thick, heat resistant glass. Reuse, give to a friend who can use them, put in a tag sale or swap shop at a transfer station, or place in the trash.

Carpet

Flor® offers a free mail-back recycling program for carpet squares (www.flor.com/recycle). Some nonprofit organizations accept relatively clean carpet for reuse. See pages 26-27 for local disposal information.

Cartons & drink boxes

In dual stream recycling programs, "paper" cartons should be recycled with bottles & cans ("gable tops" for milk and orange juice, "aseptic packaging" for almond milk, soup, juice boxes). Rinse containers. Discard straws; plastic caps & spouts may stay. Don't include foil drink pouches (e.g., Capri Sun, Honest Kids) with your bottles & cans.

Cartridges (see "Ink, Printer & Toner Cartridges")

Cell phones ☎

Cell phones shouldn't be thrown away due

to their reuse value & hazardous/recyclable components. Numerous charitable & for-profit organizations accept cell phone donations. Search online using "cell phone donation" or check out www.recyclingforcharities.com, www.call2recycle.org or www.earth911.com. Stores that sell cell phones will also accept them for free recycling, and many cell phone manufacturers offer buy-back programs through the mail. Many municipal transfer stations (see pages 26-27 for local contact information) also accept them for special recycling, as do Home Depot, Lowes, and Staples stores; participants in the Call2Recycle program: www.call2recycle.org.

Christmas trees (see "Yard Waste")

Cigarette Butts

Terracycle's "Cigarette Waste Brigade" (Terracycle.com) accepts extinguished cigarettes, filters, loose tobacco pouches, outer plastic and inner foil packaging for recycling into plastic pallets and other products.

Clamshells & clear molded plastics (see "Plastics")

Cleaners (see "Household Hazardous Waste")

Clothing & textiles

Local reuse & donation opportunities exist for all textiles & shoes. Deliver CLEAN & DRY textiles & clothing to drop-off boxes serviced by organizations such as the Salvation Army (easternusa.salvationarmy.org) & donation centers such as Goodwill Industries (www.goodwill.org). DO include items that are torn, stained, with missing buttons or broken zippers, as these organizations sell damaged textiles to recyclers to be made into insulation. Acceptable items include these CLEAN & DRY items: mismatched socks, shoes and gloves; all clothing and

accessories including belts, ties, underwear & purses; and linens such as curtains, pillows, comforters, sheets, towels, and stuffed animals in any condition. Some animal shelters also accept old sheets, blankets, pillowcases, bedspreads, throw rugs & towels for reuse.

To find local clothing consignment stores or quality used clothing, go to www.thethriftshopper.com. See also www.thredUP.com, www.swap.com, www.refashioner.com, and wornwear.patagonia.com.

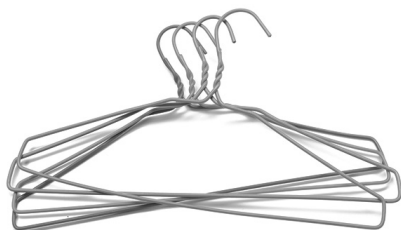


Bras can be donated to Salvation Army or Goodwill; any items that are not in good condition will be baled and sold for textile recycling. New & gently used bras can be mailed to The Bra Recyclers for distribution to women in transition around the world: www.brarecycling.com; 480-988-2283.

Some non-profit organizations target specific types of clothing to benefit those in need, such as professional clothing and wedding dresses (westernmass.dressforsuccess.org; www.donatemyweddingdress.org).

Coat hangers

Do not put hangers in recycling bins: hangers get caught in machinery at recycling facilities. Some charitable organizations accept hangers for reuse or resale. Metal hangers are accepted for reuse by some dry cleaners & are also accepted for recycling as scrap metal at most recycling/transfer stations. Unfortunately, plastic hangers are not recyclable and should be thrown away when they are no longer useable.



Compact fluorescent lamps ☠️ (“see *Mercury & Mercury-containing Products*”)

Computers & TV’s (see “*Electronics*”)

Construction & demolition waste (see “*Building & Remodeling Materials*”)

Cooking oil

Never pour cooking oil down the drain. Liquids should be kept out of trash, recycling, and municipal compost bins. Lifecycle Renewables accepts vegetable oil by appointment from individuals. It also provides containers and pays for the oil at food service providers: 888.461.9831, www.lifecyclerenewables.com. Lifecycle Renewables’ used cooking oil is transformed into replacements for fossil fuels. Western Mass Rendering provides dumpsters for large collections: www.westernmassrendering.com; 413-569-6265.

Corks

Corks should not be put in your recycling bin. Natural corks can be crumbled & added to a backyard compost bin, or put in municipal/commercial composting. ReCORK (www.recork.org) recycles natural wine & champagne corks (no plastic or metal corks); Whole Foods in Hadley and Ryan & Casey Liquors

in Greenfield are ReCork collection sites (call first). Yemm & Hart pays for large volumes of corks mailed to them, and accepts (but doesn’t pay for) plastic corks: www.yemmhart.com. Wine corks can be reused in many creative ways (search online for “cork art”).

Cosmetics containers

Origins offers free recycling of make-up packaging, regardless of brand. Empty cosmetic tubes, bottles, lipstick covers, jars & caps can be brought to an Origins retail store or department store counter nationwide: www.origins.com/our-commitment. Other mail-in recycling programs for empty cosmetics containers can be found at www.maccosmetics.com/giving_back/back_to_mac.tmpl and www.terracycle.com.

Cups

As of July 1, 2020, clear plastic cups will be acceptable in municipal recycling that is processed at the Springfield MRF (springfieldmrf.org). Remove lids and straws and place in trash. Other plastic cups, such as polystyrene (#6 plastic), colored keg cups, and opaque plastic cups, are not acceptable for recycling and must go in the trash. If a clear cup is labeled “compostable,” it should NOT go in recycling. Compostable cups may go in municipal or commercial compost programs. These products are not designed to degrade in home compost bins or piles.

Paper cups are not recyclable and must be placed in the trash. Some paper coffee cups are designed to be compostable in municipal or commercial compost programs; check for text that says “BPI certified” or “compostable.”

Egg cartons

Clear plastic egg cartons may be recycled with bottles & cans. Paper & Styrofoam egg cartons are not recyclable, but are often reused by backyard chicken farmers. Paper cartons may be composted in municipal compost collections or in home compost bins, if ripped into pieces.

Electronics

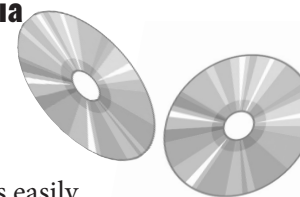
State regulations prohibit disposal of screen-based electronics such as laptops, tablets, iPads, Kindles, flat screen TVs, monitors and CRTs (cathode ray tubes) in household trash, but many items with power cords can be recycled. Most municipal transfer stations offer electronics recycling programs, although disposal fees may apply; see pages 26-27. Electronics that are mostly metal, such as

computer towers and DVD players, can also go in scrap metal recycling.

Staples stores accept computer-related electronic waste for free recycling. Staples does not accept TVs. Staples stores also offer a reuse program. Best Buy accepts a wide range of electronic waste for free recycling, but charges \$25 for TVs. For more information, call your local store or visit their website and search for “recycling.” Computer manufacturers offer a variety of electronic recycling programs, including (but not limited to) Apple, Dell, Gateway, Hewlett-Packard, Panasonic, Sony & Toshiba. Visit their websites for details. Various charities and non-profits accept donations of working electronics, including local Salvation Army and Goodwill stores. Always call ahead to ask if they can accept your item.

Electronic media (CDs, DVDs)

Do not add electronic media to your household recycling. CD cases easily shatter and the glass-like shards create hazards and other problems at the recycling facility. If selling or donating used media is not an option (some communities accept certain types via book donation programs), GreenDisk.com offers a fee-based, mail-in recycling option.



Eyeglasses

To donate your eyeglass frames and prescription lenses for reuse, look for a Lion’s Club eyeglass collection box in your local Post Office or wherever eyeglasses are sold, or mail to: Lions Clubs International Headquarters, 300 W. 22nd Street, Oak Brook, IL 60523. New Eyes for the Needy is another mail-in reuse option: www.new-eyes.org/join-the-vision. If reuse is not appropriate, eyeglasses should be placed in household trash, as they are not recyclable.

Fertilizers & Pesticides ☠️ (see “*Household Hazardous Waste*”)

Fire extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are considered hazardous because their contents are under pressure. Units manufactured prior to 1984 may contain dangerous chemicals. For disposal and recycling:

- Businesses & property managers can contact their fire control service provider.
- Residents can call their local fire department

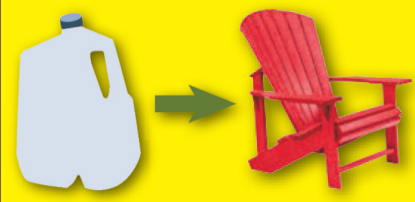
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**DHG
SPECIAL
SECTION**

for local disposal options.

- Some municipal transfer stations accept newer fire extinguishers for special recycling along with propane tanks; see pages 26-27 for local contact information.
- Some municipal hazardous waste collections may accept older fire extinguishers: ask before bringing them to a collection
- MA Fire Technologies accepts all types of fire extinguishers for a small fee (49 Heywood Ave, West Springfield; www.massfire.com; 800-244-6769).
- New England Disposal Technologies (Westfield, MA) accepts fire extinguishers year-round for modest fees (nedt.org; 866-769-1621).

Fireworks

Live fireworks are extremely dangerous, and must be disposed of with great caution; call your local Fire Department. Do not throw unused fireworks in the trash.

Flags

For the proper disposal of U.S. flags no longer in usable condition, contact the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), civic groups, senior centers or Scout troops.

Fluorescent bulbs & lamps  (see “Mercury & Mercury-containing Products”)

Food scraps (also see “Cooking Oil”)

Food scraps and leftovers are heavy to transport and contribute to climate change when they decompose in landfills; composting food waste makes better environmental sense. Local composting options include home composting, municipal transfer station programs (in Amherst, Bernardston, Conway, Deerfield, Greenfield, Leverett, New Salem, Northampton, Northfield, Orange, Wendell & Whately; and (where available) curbside pick-up by a private waste hauler. Find a hauler near you at: recyclingworksma.com. Many municipalities offer discounted purchase programs for countertop collection pails and home compost bins; see pages 26-27 for local contact information. For home composting instructions, visit Mass.gov and search for “home compost.”

Fruit snack pouches (see “Plastic Pouches”)

Furniture

Furniture in good condition can be sold or donated for reuse. Donating mattresses & box springs can be difficult, as most charities don't

accept them. When you purchase a new mattress, ask the retailer to take back and recycle the old one. See pages 26-27 for local disposal information.

Golf balls

Contact local golf courses or driving ranges to see if they will accept them for reuse.

Greeting cards

Cards are recyclable with paper if they do not contain foil or metallic inks. Remove electronics from singing greeting cards & recycle button batteries in battery recycling programs (see “Batteries”). St. Jude's Ranch for Children runs a greeting card reuse program (stjudesranch.org); mail cards to: St. Jude's Ranch for Children, 100 St. Jude's St., Boulder City, NV 89005.

Hearing aids

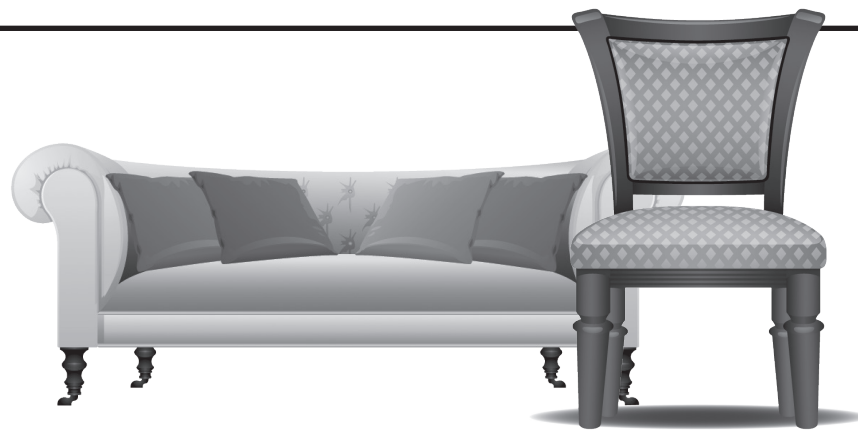
The Starkey Hearing Foundation operates a hearing device reuse program. Mail to: Starkey Hearing Foundation, ATTN: Hearing Aid Recycling, 6700 Washington Avenue South, Eden Prairie, MN 55344. (www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org/hearing-aid-recycling) If your hearing aid is not worth salvaging, remove & recycle the button battery in a battery recycling program (see “Batteries”), then place the device in the trash.

Household Hazardous waste

First, consider using up the product according to package directions, or giving it away to someone who will. Products with warnings & words like caustic, toxic, corrosive, poison, flammable, danger & “keep out of reach of children” on the label require special handling. See page 28 for information about local household hazardous waste collections in western MA. New England Disposal Technologies (Westfield, MA) accepts many household hazardous wastes year-round for modest fees (nedt.org; 866-769-1621). For safe alternatives to hazardous household products visit: www.lesstoxicguide.ca, or www.ecocycle.org/hazwaste/ecofriendly-cleaning.

Ink, printer & toner cartridges

Local schools & non-profit organizations often collect cartridges for fundraising purposes, and Staples accepts used cartridges for reuse or recycling (earn Staples rewards).



Other options may be found via a search on www.earth911, or find mail-in donation programs via an online search (“cartridge donations”).

Junk mail & catalogs

Unwanted mail & catalogs are recyclable, but it makes more sense to reduce them at the source:

- DirectMail.com – free service to remove your name from commercial mailing lists (www.directmail.com/mail_preference);
- Catalog Choice – free service to stop delivery of unwanted catalogs (www.catalogchoice.org);
- OptOutPrescreen.com – free service to end pre-approved credit card & insurance offers (www.optoutprescreen.com);
- Yellow Pages Opt Out – free service to take your name off phonebook mailing lists (www.yellowpagesoptout.com)

Keys

Old keys can be recycled via a scrap metal dumpster at a municipal transfer station (see pages 26-27 for local contact information), or brought to a local scrap metal dealer.

Latex Paint (see “Paint & Paint-related Products”)

Light bulbs

Old fashioned incandescent light bulbs and Halogen light bulbs are not recyclable. Carefully wrap them in used paper or plastic before placing them in the trash. Fluorescent bulbs & compact fluorescent bulbs [“CFLs”] contain mercury vapor and require special disposal (see “mercury & mercury-containing products”). LED light bulbs do not have to be recycled, but contain valuable materials and can be recycled with CFLs; see pages 26-27 for local contact information.

Light strings

Holiday light strings are NOT recyclable in municipal recycling programs because they get wrapped around sorting equipment. Some scrap

metal dealers and scrap metal dumpsters at transfer stations will accept them for recycling. Holiday LEDS has a mail-in recycling program and sends donors a discount coupon for a future purchase (www.holidayleds.com/christmas-light-recycling-program.aspx).

Mardi Gras beads

Mail Mardi Gras beads and trinkets to the Arc of Greater New Orleans' reuse program: 925 Labarre Road, Metairie, LA 70001 (www.arcgno.org; 504-837-5105).

Mattresses & box springs (see "Furniture")

Medications & Pharmaceuticals ☠

Disposal of unwanted medication must be done carefully for many reasons. Wastewater treatment plants & septic systems are not designed to remove pharmaceuticals from wastewater; drugs should NOT be poured down the drain or flushed down the toilet.

Many area police departments offer permanent drop-off boxes for free disposal of prescription and nonprescription drugs, vitamins, and veterinary medications: Agawam, Amherst, Ashfield, Athol, Belchertown, Bernardston, Buckland, Chicopee, Cummington, Deerfield, Easthampton, East Longmeadow, Erving, Goshen, Granby, Greenfield, Hadley, Hampden, Hatfield, Holyoke,

Leverett, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Monson, Montague, Northampton, Orange, Palmer, Pelham, South Hadley, Southampton, Southwick, Sunderland, Ware, West Springfield, Westfield, Whately, Wilbraham, and Williamsburg. You do not need to be a resident to use the drop boxes in any of these towns.

Accepted items: prescription and non-prescription drugs, vitamins and veterinary meds. NO liquids, syringes (see "Needles & Sharps" below), IV equipment or chemotherapy drugs. For more information visit northwesternda.org/drug-drop-boxes.

Some locations of national chain pharmacies are now offering free drop boxes for prescription medications. Call your local store or refer to the drop boxes for acceptable items.

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Days are normally scheduled for every April and October. The April 2020 event has been cancelled. These collections aim to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications. Find an upcoming collection by calling 1-800-882-9539 or by visiting www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback.

If you are unable to deliver medications to a drop box or a take-back day, medications may

be safely disposed of in the following manner: 1) Remove any personal info from labels that could be used to obtain refills; 2) Render medications unattractive to children, pets & thieves by dissolving pills or tablets in a small amount of water or rubbing alcohol (pour liquid medication into kitty litter or sand); 3) Place in two sealed plastic bags; and 4) Conceal the package in your trash. If you have large quantities of medications, consider disposing of them in smaller batches over time. Do not flush prescription drugs down the toilet or drain unless the

label or accompanying patient information specifically instructs you to do so.

Due to their small size, empty pill bottles are not recyclable. Be creative with reuse! For example, some animal shelters collect empty pill bottles to send medicines home with adoptees.

Mercury & mercury-containing products ☠

Mercury is highly toxic & requires special disposal. It is not hazardous when contained in a sealed device. Reduce exposure by placing items in sealed plastic bags & handling them carefully to avoid breakage. Never put mercury (or items containing mercury) in trash or recycling bins, or down a drain. Don't vacuum even the smallest spill. Instructions for handling mercury exposure can be found at: www.mass.gov; enter "mercury" in the search bar, or search the web for "broken CFL" or "mercury spill." Call the Mass DEP Mercury Hotline if you have questions about mercury or managing it safely: 866-9MERCURY (866-963-7287). See pages 26-27 for local disposal information for the following items, and see page 28 for household hazardous waste collections in western MA.

• **Fluorescent light bulbs** - All fluorescent light bulbs (even the low-mercury bulbs with green tips) contain mercury vapor. For assistance, businesses, residents and organizations can call the RecyclingWorks hotline at 1-888-254-5525 or email info@recyclingworksma.com. Recycling options vary based on the type of bulb:

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) fit in standard screw-type light sockets & are made of a glass tube. They come in a variety of shapes & styles, & can be encased by an outer glass bulb. See pages 26-27 for local disposal information. Free CFL recycling is offered at Home Depot, Lowes, and Solar Store of Greenfield.

Larger fluorescent tubes don't fit in standard screw-type sockets. These include long straight, circular or U-shaped tubes, tanning bed lamps, High Intensity Discharge (HIDs), & neon light tubing. Accepted at most municipal transfer stations and some Hazardous Waste Collections; see pages 26-27 for local disposal information. Straight lamps and others are accepted at Lowe's; handle carefully and hand to an employee.

• **Thermometers** - Many older household thermometers (fever, candy, meat, deep fry, oven, ambient temperature) contain liquid mercury-based indicators. A mercury thermometer can be identified by the presence of a silver bulb at the end of a glass tube. Accepted in special programs at many municipal transfer stations and some



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Waste Watchers

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

**For information about
hazardous waste disposal, composting,
recycling and more:**

413-772-2438 • www.franklincountywastedistrict.org

Please note our new office address: 117 Main St., 2nd Floor, Greenfield, MA 01301

MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD)

The District is an equal opportunity service provider.

Hazardous Waste Collections; see pages 26-27 for local disposal information. If the bulb is red, blue, purple or green, it is not a mercury thermometer and can go in the trash.

• **Thermostats** - Updating to a programmable thermostat? Don't throw away your old wall-mounted thermostats: they contain a significant amount of liquid mercury. Leave thermostats in one piece, place in a sealed plastic bag, and handle carefully to avoid breakage. In addition to municipal collection programs (see pages 26-27) mercury thermostats are accepted for free recycling at many plumbing retail stores (search by zip code using "Plumbing Supplies"). For more locations, go to www.thermostat-recycle.org.

• **Ballasts** - Most fluorescent light fixtures produced before 1979 contained ballasts with PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), a highly toxic substance. PCB-free ballasts are marked "No PCBs." PCB ballasts are typically collected at the same sites as larger fluorescent tube-type bulbs. Non-PCB ballasts are safe to go into trash, but are not accepted in scrap metal recycling bins. See pages 26-27 for local disposal information.



Microwaves (see "Scrap Metal")

Moth balls ☠ (see "Household Hazardous Waste")

Motor oil & filters ☠ (see "Automotive Products")

Musical instruments

Donate used musical instruments to Hungry for Music (hungryformusic.org), and they will distribute them to underserved children in the US & abroad. Buy reused instruments locally by searching online.

Needles & sharps ☠

MA Sanitary Code states that it is illegal to dispose of sharps (hypodermic needles, syringes, lancets, & all other "sharps") as trash. Never put a container full of sharps in your recycling bin. Collection programs are available in many towns; call your Health Department or see a listing of all the sharps programs in the state, go to www.mass.gov and type "needle disposal" in the search bar. Several mail-in disposal programs are available; search online for "sharps mail-in programs." Stericycle is an example of a company that picks up sharps for safe disposal from

businesses that generate sharps: www.stericycle.com or 888-989-0338.

Packaging materials (also see "Plastics")

Online purchasing has increased the amount of packaging in the waste stream. Most of these materials are reusable; some are also recyclable:

- Cardboard boxes can be reused, & flattened boxes can be recycled in municipal recycling programs.
- Foam peanuts: see "plastics"
- Cornstarch peanuts may be composted in a backyard bin, reused, or placed in the trash. However, these are not accepted by commercial composting facilities or at packing shipping stores.
- Styrofoam blocks & shapes: see "plastics"
- Packing paper is reusable as well as recyclable.
- Plastic sealed air packaging is reusable. Once deflated, it can also be recycled with plastic bags (see "plastics" for retail store recycling programs).
- Amazon's plastic envelope mailers are recyclable with plastic bags (see "plastics" for retail store recycling programs). Remove or cut out paper labels.

Paint & paint-related products ☠

If your unwanted paint was purchased

Continued on page 23

NO FOOD OR LIQUID IN RECYCLING



EMPTY ALL CONTAINERS

Food and liquid can ruin other recyclables.

Visit recyclesmartma.org for more details about household recycling.



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RECYCLING HAPPENS IN WESTERN MASS

ROOM by ROOM

IN THE OFFICE

YES!



IN THE BATHROOM

YES!



ON THE HOLIDAYS

YES!



IN THE
KITCHEN
YES!

YES!



recently & it's in good condition, consider donating it for reuse instead of throwing it away. Many school/community theatre groups will accept quality paint products. You may also offer useable paint via an online sharing group (e.g. Freecycle.org or a Buy Nothing Facebook group). New England Disposal Technologies (Westfield, MA) accepts paint year-round for modest fees (nedt.org; 866-769-1621).

- Petroleum (oil-based) paints, stains, thinners, & varnishes are considered hazardous materials, requiring proper disposal (see "Household Hazardous Waste," or page 28).

- Latex paint & water-based stains can be thrown away when completely hardened. Speed up the process by adding latex paint hardener (available in hardware stores) or by stirring in clean kitty litter to the consistency of thick oatmeal & allowing the mix to harden. When the contents are no longer liquid, you can put the open paint can (without the lid) in your household trash.

Pallets (see wood under "Building & Remodeling Materials")

Pantyhose

Worn-out pantyhose, nylon knee-highs, and tights in any condition can be sent to Recycled Crafts; they use them to make pet toys, rugs, placemats, and table runners. Email recycledcrafts@live.com for donation information, or visit: savemyhosiery.yolasite.com.

Pellet stove fuel bags

Due to a lack of end markets, all local recycling programs for pellet bags have been stopped. Plastic bags should never go into municipal recycling programs. Some retail store plastic bag recycling programs will accept pellet bags (call first). Pellet bags must be dry and completely EMPTY. Flatten and stack empty bags, roll up the stack and place the roll in an empty pellet bag. Ask your supplier about bulk delivery (which eliminates bags), recycling programs, or take back programs.

Pet Food Bags, bird seed bags, animal Feed Bags

Plastic bags that contained pet food, animal feed, or bird seed are not recyclable in municipal recycling or plastic bag recycling programs in retail stores. Unfortunately, neither are paper feed bags because they are lined with plastic to keep moisture out of the feed. However, Terracycle offers a few pet food bag recycling programs, some of which have local drop-off points. Search www.terracycle.com using the brand name of the food. Local efforts

Continued on page 25

PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING IN RETAIL STORES ONLY:

YES - DO RECYCLE in stores:

- Bags MUST be empty, clean and dry without receipts, coins, or trash.
- Clean, dry plastic bags labeled #2 or #4: "HDPE," "PE-HD" OR , "LDPE," "LLDPE"

Including:

- Grocery & produce bags
- Newspaper bags
- Dry cleaning bags (no receipts/staples)
- Plastic cereal bags (if it tears like paper do not include)
- Sandwich/Ziploc bags and bread bags: no crumbs, oils, food (remove large zippers)
- Retail bags (#2 or #4) with string/hard plastic handles removed
- Plastic outer wrap from packages of toilet paper, paper napkins, paper towels, diapers, sanitary products
- Bubble wrap, air pillows, Tyvek/plastic envelopes (deflate air pillows/cut out labels)
- Case wrap from cases of water, canned pet food, soda, etc.
- Stretch wrap from furniture or electronics

NO - DO NOT RECYCLE in stores:

- NO bags with food or moisture
- NO garbage bags
- NO food or cling wrap (Saran)
- NO pet food product bags
- NO coffee bags
- NO prepackaged food bags (frozen food or prewashed salad)
- NO chip bags, granola bar/candy wrappers
- NO bags with paint or glue
- NO compostable plastic bags
- NO bag with a recycling symbol or # other than those described in the "yes" column
- NO soil or sand bags

What about pellet stove fuel bags? See "Pellet Bags" in this guide.

Keep These Plastics Out of Your Recycling Bin!

Some plastic items cost too much to recycle, cause problems at recycling facilities, are unwanted by manufacturers or are recyclable only through separate recycling programs. Please do not add these to your household or municipal recycling mix:

- Plastic bags, plastic wraps
- Black plastic (microwavable containers, food trays, etc.)
- Forks, spoons, knives & serving utensils
- Plastic plates, plastic cups that are opaque or colored (clear plastic cups now accepted in recycling)
- Tubes (e.g. toothpaste, cosmetics, hair products)
- Plastic containers greater than 2.5 gallons in size
- Plastic containers which once held toxic substances (e.g. automotive oil)
- Containers or cups labeled "biodegradable" or "compostable"
- Foam items (e.g. "aka Styrofoam®" cups, egg cartons, food containers & trays, packing material)
- Molded plastic packaging (the type that requires a sharp object to open)
- Binders, folders & plastic-coated (usually shiny) paper
- Compact disks and cases, video & audio tapes
- Plant pots & garden trays
- Six-pack rings (cut them up & then put in trash)
- Plexiglass
- PVC products (pipes, siding, etc.)
- Manufactured plastic wood (decking material)

Building Material Rescue

Why Deconstruction is Catching On

Americans produce an estimated 534 million tons of construction and demolition waste each year (EPA, 2014). We can help reduce waste by deconstructing our buildings instead of demolishing them.

Deconstruction involves careful dismantling of a building in order to reclaim reusable material. The practice also allows materials to be resold, making home improvement more affordable. But deconstruction and the donation of recovered material offers other positive impacts:

- Reducing climate-altering greenhouse gas emissions from landfills and incinerators.
- Mitigating construction and demolition waste.
- Preventing the harmful effects of natural resource extraction, transportation, and energy consumption required for new building materials.
- Bolstering the local economy by providing quality building materials for our community.

Stores selling deconstructed materials have popped up across the country and are becoming more popular. They typically rely on donations from contractors, architects, and community members, and accept a variety of materials, from small, highly portable ones like lighting fixtures, windows, and doors, to larger items like kitchen cabinet sets and bathroom vanities.

The largest New England retailer of reclaimed building materials is located right here in the Pioneer Valley: EcoBuilding Bargains in Springfield (see advertisement below). Operated by the local non-profit, the Center for EcoTechnology, EcoBuilding Bargains is able to serve nearly 20,000 people in our local community annually. The store also offers a training room, which serves as a public space for sustainability-focused presentations and other environmental education opportunities.

In response to COVID-19, EcoBuilding

Bargains is now offering virtual appointments in addition to limited open hours. An essential business, EcoBuilding Bargains is committed to being as safe as possible, following CDC guidelines and limiting the number of customers allowed in store. Customers who schedule a virtual appointment can also opt for contact-free, curbside pickup. EcoBuilding Bargains is also still accepting donations. A complete list of materials accepted and an online donation form can be found at ecobuildingbargains.org/donate.

No matter where you live, the next time you are in the market for a bathroom sink or a light fixture, or remodeling your kitchen or bathroom, consider visiting a home improvement store that specializes in reclaimed material. You will be surprised at the options, can save considerable money, and your project will have a lighter environmental impact than it would using all new material.



The image shows the exterior of the EcoBuilding Bargains building. The building is a large, light-colored structure with the words "ECOBUILDING BARGAINS" and "CENTER FOR EcoTechnology" visible on its side. A flag with the word "OPEN" is flying in front of the building. In the foreground, a person's hands are holding a smartphone, displaying a video of a person working on a project. The background shows green trees and a clear blue sky.

Remodeling? Find reclaimed building materials for every room at EcoBuilding Bargains!

Visit us 11am-4pm Tuesday-Saturday
Virtual Appointments with contact-free pickup also available:
ecobuildingbargains.org/virtualappointment

ecobuildingbargains.org | 83 Warwick Street, Springfield

such as The Bag Share Project accept certain types of feed bags for reuse: www.thebagshare.org.

Photographs

Traditional, glossy photographs are not acceptable in recycling because of the photographic chemical coatings in the paper. Old photographs are safe to throw in the trash. More modern photographs may or may not be recyclable depending on the printing process and the type of paper used. Home-printed photographs are acceptable in recycling.

Pizza boxes

Grease is a real problem for recycled paper. Only clean and food-free paper portions of pizza boxes can be recycled. The greasy portions must be discarded as trash or composted. In the following communities, residents with transfer station access may deposit soiled pizza box material in municipal compost programs: Amherst, Conway, Bernardston, Deerfield, Greenfield (open to non-residents), Leverett, New Salem, Northampton, Northfield, Orange, Wendell & Whately (see pages 26-27 for contact information).

Plastics

Many people assume that all plastic items are recycled, but recycling is demand-based; only those plastics that can be made cost-effectively into new products are collected. Please note that plastic containers from food, beverage, soap and personal care products are the ONLY type of plastic suitable for your household recycling bin. All other forms of plastic must go to a separate, special collection or into the trash.

Containers from food, soap and personal products

The following items are welcome in your household recycling bin: plastic containers from food, beverage, soap or personal care products in the form of bottles, jars, jugs, and tubs (less than 2.5 gallons in size) and clear clamshell-type containers. Plastic bottle caps & plastic tub lids are also recyclable, but they must be attached to the container (not loose). When possible, flatten containers before affixing caps & lids (push caps inside container if they won't stay on). As of July 1, 2020, clear plastic cups are now accepted in municipal recycling in the 65 communities that send recyclables to the Springfield MRF. Rinse the clear cups clean and place lids and straws in the trash. If a clear cup is labeled compostable, it should not go in recycling. Visit springfieldmrf.org

for details and user-friendly graphics about household container recycling.

Do not put plastic bags, Styrofoam, black plastic, compostable serving items, and containers that held hazardous materials (such as automotive oil or degreasers) in your household recycling. See "Keep These Plastics out of the Recycling Bin" for additional details.

Bags & wrap (Do NOT place in household recycling bin)

Never place plastic bags or wrap in a household, municipal, or commercial recycling mix. Because of the safety hazards, machinery malfunctions, and environmental problems they create, they are only collected separately in retail and grocery store programs.

Clean and dry plastic bags and some forms of clear plastic film (such as bubble & case wraps) are recyclable only via special bins inside grocery stores and other retailers (e.g. Big Y, Stop & Shop, Target, Walmart, Lowe's, Staples). In general, plastic bags and wraps are recyclable if they are: 1) clear or translucent; 2) moderately stretchy; and 3) free of all paper and food residue. An important exception to this criteria is household food or "cling" wrap (Saran® and Glad® wrap), which are not accepted in these programs and must be placed in the trash. See the table, "Plastic Bag Recycling," in this guide, or visit plasticfilmrecycling.org for additional details.

Dispose of the following bags & wrap in your trash: soiled (dirt, food residue), greasy, wet, painted or embellished (glitter, paper labels), non-stretchy or crinkly food bags (e.g. from pre-washed lettuce, grapes frozen foods, Legos), and bags from heavy items such as soil, mulch and driveway salt. Any bags labeled compostable should be composted or placed in the trash.

Bulky, rigid plastic objects (Do NOT place in household recycling bin)

Many items are reusable until broken or damaged; offer them for free on an online sharing group (e.g. Freecycle.org or a Buy Nothing Facebook group). Only clean, molded, rigid plastic pails, bins, crates, baskets, totes, barrels, wheeled trash toters (metal and wheels removed), and rigid plastic lawn furniture are recyclable via specialized collection programs. Ask your community representative (see pages 26-27) about opportunities near you.

All other bulky plastic items belong in the trash or bulky waste if unusable, including toys, outdoor play structures, clothes hangers, shelving, kiddie pools, plant pots and nursery/garden trays.

Foam (Do NOT place in household recycling bin)

The recycling market for rigid foam material (aka Styrofoam® or expanded polystyrene) is growing, but only a few varieties are accepted for recycling. Rigid foam products may be divided into the general categories of shipping peanuts, large chunks, and food-related serve ware (cups, plates, trays):

- Large, rigid foam chunks: clean and dry pieces of hard, white, foam are only recyclable only via a special, separate collection. Some communities collect this foam at municipal transfer stations or at special collection events and transport it to a special foam recycling facility. Gold Circuit E-Cycling in Palmer (888-283-0007, goldcircuitcycling.com) accepts white chunk foam from the public for a fee.
- Foam shipping peanuts: Although difficult to recycle, foam peanuts are highly reusable. Some local retail shipping outlets accept clean & dry peanuts (call first; search for a store near you at www.theupsstore.com). Or, offer them for local reuse via an online sharing group such as Freecycle.org or a "Buy Nothing" Facebook group. The Amherst Transfer Station operates a free shipping peanut exchange for permit holders.
- Foam cups, plates, and trays: not currently accepted at any recycling facilities. Place in trash.

Plastic pouches

Flexible plastic pouches, that applesauce/fruit, yogurt, baby food, and health/beauty products, are NOT recyclable in municipal recycling programs. Terracycle runs several different mail-in recycling programs for pouches and caps; go to: www.terracycle.com and type "pouches" in the search bar. Please remove all residual food and liquid.

Pressure-treated lumber (see "Building & Remodeling Materials")

Propane tanks ☠

Larger varieties of propane tanks can be refilled, and many businesses that sell propane will accept tanks for reuse under specific conditions. Tanks are recyclable in special programs at transfer stations or recycling centers. Do not put tanks in scrap metal dumpsters or household recycling or trash. Do not puncture. Close the valves on barbeque grill size tanks. Some recyclers also accept small camping type tanks. Local municipal recycling info is found on pages 26-27; find commercial options at www.earth911.com.

COMMUNITY RECYCLING INFORMATION

"The open hours and accepted materials listed below are normal operating hours and may not apply to locations that have temporarily closed or changed their hours or accepted items due to the COVID-19 crisis."

Hampshire County

Drop-off locations, often municipal Transfer Stations, may only be open to residents of that community; some require annual permits and "Pay As You Throw" trash bags. Fees may apply for some items. Call the contact number for more information. For definitions of abbreviations, see glossary box below. For more information about materials, see "What Do I Do With...?" on pages 14-31 of this guide.

	Contact	Phone	Curbside or Drop Off	Drop Off Location	Hours of Operation	Municipal Recycling	Scrap Metal	TVs and Electronics	Motor Oil	Yard Waste	HHW Collection	Mercury/CFLs	Tires	Propane Tanks	Bulky Waste
Amherst	DPW	413-259-3050, x 0	Both	740 Belchertown Rd	Tues, Thurs, Sat 8-2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Belchertown	DPW	413-323-0415; 413-323-0416	Drop Off	135 Hamilton St	Tues-Sat 7:30-3:15 (Th: 7:30-5:15)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	call	✓	✓		✓
Chesterfield	HRMC	413-685-5498	Drop Off	69 Willicut Rd	Sat 8-2:45; Summer: Wed 3:30-6:15	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cummington	HRMC	413-685-5498	Drop Off	10 Fairgrounds Rd	Wed 5:30-7:30, Sat 7-11	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Easthampton	DPW	413-529-1410	Drop Off	30 Northampton St	1st & 3rd Sat 8-12	✓	✓	✓	✓	call	call	✓			
Goshen	HRMC	413-685-5498	Drop Off	Wing Hill Rd	Sat 8:30-4:15	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Granby	Town Hall	413-467-7177	Curbside			✓	call	call	DPW	DPW	call	call	call	call	DPW
Hadley	SWS	413-498-0099	Drop Off	North Branch Rd	Mon 12-6, Wed 1-6 Sat 7-4	✓	✓			✓	586-2390	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hatfield	DPW	413-247-9200 x106	Drop Off	10 Straits Rd	Wed 12-5, Sat 8-3	✓	✓	✓	✓	DPW	annual	annual	✓	✓	✓
Huntington	HRMC	413-685-5498	Drop Off	90 Mill St.	Tues 3-6:45 Sat 8-4:45	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Middlefield	HRMC	413-685-5498	Drop Off	Bell Rd.	Winter: Sat & Sun 10-1; Summer: Wed 5-8 and Sun 10-1	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northampton	DPW	413-587-1570 x 4306	Drop Off	125 Locust St	Call for hours	✓	✓		✓		annual	✓			
Northampton	DPW	413-587-1570 x 4306	Drop Off	170 Glendale Rd	Call for hours		✓	✓		✓	annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pelham	1. Amherst TS 2. Town Offices	1. 413-259-3049 2. 413-253-7129	Two Drop Offs:	1. 740 Belchertown Rd (Amherst TS) 2. 45 Amherst Rd Pelham	1. Tues, Thurs, Sat 8-2 2. Recycle only: 1st Sat of Month (9am-12pm) @ Elementary School	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	call	✓	✓	✓	✓
Plainfield	HRMC	413-685-5498	Drop Off	184 E. Main St (Route 116)	Sat 9-1, Sun 4-6	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
South Hadley	DPW	413-538-5033	Both	10 Industrial Drive	Wed & Sat 8-3	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Southampton	DPW	413-527-3666, 413-529-2352	Drop Off	Moose Brook Rd	Wed & Sat 7-5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	annual: 529-1003	✓	✓	✓	✓
Westhampton	HRMC	413-685-5498	Drop Off	52 Hathaway Rd	Wed 6-8, Sat 9-3	✓	✓	✓	✓		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Williamsburg	HRMC	413-685-5498	Drop Off	27 Mountain St Haydenville	Wed 9-4, Sat 9-4	✓	✓	✓		✓	annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Worthington	HRMC	413-685-5498	Drop Off	64 Huntington Rd	Sat 8-4; Summer: Wed 3-7; Winter: Wed 12-4	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓

Glossary of Terms:

Annual or call: Once or twice a year collection days, might be at a location other than the drop off site: call contact # listed for more info.

Call: Call the contact number listed. The drop off location or transfer station may only accept the material listed on certain days, or this material may be accepted from residents at another location.

CFLs: Compact Fluorescent Lights; energy saving bulbs. All fluorescent bulbs must be disposed of properly. Many towns and Home Depot and Lowe's recycle CFLs for free.

Drop Off: Municipal Transfer Station or other municipal drop off site.

DPW: Department of Public Works

FCSWMD: Franklin County Solid Waste Management District - www.franklincountywastedistrict.org; 413-772-2438

HHW Collection: Many municipalities offer Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection days. For more information, please call the contact phone number listed for your town, or see page 28.

HRMC: Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative - www.hrmc-ma.org; 413-685-5498

Municipal Recycling: Paper, cardboard, bottles, cans, cartons, and containers that are sent to the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) - springfieldmrf.org

COMMUNITY RECYCLING INFORMATION

"The open hours and accepted materials listed below are normal operating hours and may not apply to locations that have temporarily closed or changed their hours or accepted items due to the COVID-19 crisis."

Franklin County

	Contact	Phone	Curbside or Drop Off	Drop Off Location	Hours of Operation	Municipal Recycling	Scrap Metal	TVs and Electronics	Motor Oil	Yard Waste	HHW Collection	Mercury/CFLs	Tires	Propane Tanks	Bulky Waste
Ashfield	HRMC	413-685-5498	Drop Off	851 Ashfield Mountain Rd (Route 112)	Thurs 8-12, Sat 8-4, Sun 8-12	✓	✓	✓	✓		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bernardston	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	Nelson Drive	Thurs & Sat 7-5	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	call	call	✓	✓
Buckland	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	Hodgen Rd.	Tues & Sat 7-3	✓	✓	call	call		annual	✓	call	✓	call
Charlemont	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	159 North River Rd.	Wed 3-7, Sat 8-12	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	call	call	call
Colrain	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	7 Charlemont Rd.	Sat 8-4, Summer: Tues. 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	✓	✓	✓	✓		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Conway	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	186 Old Cricket Hill Rd.	Wed 10-6, Sat 9-5, Sun 8-1	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deerfield	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	42 Lee Rd.	Tues, Thurs, Sat 8:30-4	✓	✓	call	call	✓	annual	✓	call	call	✓
Erving	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Curbside	DPW: 16 Public Works Blvd.	DPW: Mon-Fri 7- 3:30; call 423-3500 for appt.	curb-side	annual	DPW	DPW	DPW	annual	call	DPW	call	annual
Gill	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Curbside	One-day events only	Varies	✓	call	call	call		annual	call	call	call	call
Greenfield	DPW	413-772-1528, x6106	Both	Wisdom Way @ Cumberland Rd.	Tues-Fri 11-2:30, Sat 7:30-2 (Winter: Sat 7:30-12)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	772-1539	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hawley	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	851 Ashfield Mountain Rd (Rt. 112), Ashfield	Ashfield TS: Thurs 8-12, Sat 8-4, Sun 8-12	✓	✓	✓	✓		772-2438	✓	✓	✓	✓
Heath	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	122 Branch Hill Rd.	Wed 9-5; Sat 8-4	✓	✓	call	call		annual	✓	call	✓	call
Leverett	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	15 Cemetery Rd.	Sat & Sun 10-1, Summer: Wed 4-7; Winter: Wed 2-5	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Leyden	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	Nelson Drive, Bernardston	(Bernardston TS) Thurs & Sat 7-5	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	call	call	✓	✓
Montague	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Both	11 Sandy Lane, off Turnpike Rd	Wed 7-2:30, Sat 7-12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
New Salem	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	20 Blueberry Hill Rd.	Wed 3-6, Sat 8-4	✓	✓	call	call		annual	✓	call	call	✓
Northfield	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	31 Caldwell Rd.	Wed & Fri 8-6, Sat 7-4	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	call	✓	call
Orange	Staff	978-544-1118	Drop Off	Jones St.	Tues, Thurs & Sat 8-2:45	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rowe	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	87 Zoar Rd.	Wed 7-10 am + 4-7 pm, Sat 8-2, Sun 8-12	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shelburne	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	159 N. River Rd, Charl.	Tues 10-7, Sat 12-5	✓	✓	call	call	call	annual	✓	call	call	call
Shutesbury	Staff	413-259-1235 413-259-1214	Curbside	One-day event; Leverett Transfer Station	varies	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	Town Hall	✓	✓	✓
Sunderland	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Private Haulers	One-day events only	-	Private haulers	call	call	call		annual	call	call	call	call
Warwick	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	Garage Rd.	Sat 8-3	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wendell	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	341 New Salem Rd.	Tues 12-6, Sat 7:30-3:30	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Whately	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	73 Christian Lane	Tues 12-5, Sat 7-5	✓	call	call	call		annual	✓	call	call	call

2020 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collections

Communicate with your municipality using the contact information below or on pages 26-27 to learn important details about your local household hazardous waste event. Participation in a different municipality’s event may be possible, but arrangements must be made through your own community’s representative.

A wide range of household products with warning labels (e.g. Danger, Flammable, Poison, Toxic, Caution, and “Keep Out of Reach of Children and Pets”) are accepted. Please refer to the list at the bottom of this page. Never pour hazardous products on the ground, down a drain or toilet, or place a full or partially full container of material in a trash or recycling bin. Completely empty household hazardous waste containers may be put in the trash; do not recycle them.

Pre-registration is always required, and registration deadlines apply. These events are conducted to collect household-generated hazardous waste. Small businesses may contact their community’s representative for options.

This schedule is subject to change. Events are tentative. Visit websites for updates and pre-registration.

DATE	PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITY	CONTACT	PHONE	WEBSITE; PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE
8/15/20	Northampton	Northampton DPW	413-587-1570, x4306	www.northamptonma.gov/reduce-waste Pre-register by 8/12/20
9/26/20	Athol, Barre, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Rowe, Royalston, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, Whately	Franklin County Solid Waste District	413-772-2438	www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html Pre-register by 9/18/20
10/24/20	Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington	Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative	413-685-5498	www.hrmc-ma.org Pre-register between 10/1/20 and 10/18/20
TBA	Amherst, Hadley, Pelham, Shutesbury	Steve Telega	413-259-3049	amherstma.gov/recycling Pre-registration required
Ongoing	Greenfield, Leyden	Water Pollution Control or Transfer Station	413-772-1539; 413-772-1528, x6106	https://greenfield-ma.gov/q/117/How-do-I-dispose-of-hazardous-wastes

- **New England Disposal Technologies (NEDT) in Westfield operates a year round, fee-based drop-off center; accepts latex paint: nedt.org.**
- **Most auto parts stores accept used motor oil for free recycling.**



Common Household Hazardous Waste

FROM YOUR YARD	FROM YOUR GARAGE	FROM YOUR WORKSHOP	FROM YOUR HOME
Flea powder Fungicides Herbicides Insect sprays Lighter fluid Muriatic acid No-Pest strips Pesticides Pool chemicals Rodent killers Root killers	Antifreeze Asphalt sealer Automobile batteries Brake fluid Carburetor cleaner Creosote sealer Engine degreaser Gas treatments Gasoline Kerosene Radiator flusher Refrigerants Solvents Transmission fluid Used motor oil	Aerosol cans (paint/haz.) Degreasers Lead & oil-based paints (No latex paint*) Paint thinners Photo chemicals Roofing tar Rust inhibitors Sealants Solvents Stains Varnish Wood preservatives Wood strippers	Arts & crafts supplies Batteries: button, lithium, & rechargeable Chemistry kits Drain cleaners Fluorescent light bulbs Furniture polish Mercury thermometers Mercury thermostats Metal polish Mothballs Oven cleaners Spot remover Toilet cleaners Upholstery cleaner

*LATEX PAINT is not hazardous. Latex paint & water-based stains are not accepted at local hazardous waste collections, but can be thrown away when completely hardened. Speed up the process by adding latex paint hardener (available in hardware stores) or by stirring in clean kitty litter to the consistency of thick oatmeal & allowing the mix to harden. When there are no free-flowing liquids, you can put the open paint can (without the lid) in your household trash.

Home Composting



Composting is easy! Over 50 western Massachusetts municipalities sell home compost bins at cost, ranging from \$25-\$50. Due to the ongoing social distancing situation, some offices and transfer stations may have limited open hours or services. To find out where to purchase a bin from your municipality or solid waste district, contact your community representative listed on the community information page on pages 26-27.

Compost bins are also available at local garden centers and online. Compost bins can be made from reused pallets. Please make sure the pallets are not the type that is treated with chemicals. Here is a guide for using pallets safely: www.1001pallets.com/pallet-safety

Over 25% of the Massachusetts waste stream consists of compostable waste, according to a 2019 MassDEP waste study. Residents of towns that require “Pay As You Throw” trash bags or stickers can save money by composting food and paper waste, rather than filling up their town bags with compostable waste.

Residents can save also money by using

homemade compost on their gardens and lawns instead of purchasing bagged fertilizers and topsoil. Composting reduces waste, slows climate change, and greatly improves soil structure and soil health.

In your kitchen, use a small pail to collect fruit and vegetable trimmings, eggshells, coffee grounds and filters, stale bread and leftover grains. (In the summer, some people store their compostables in the freezer to avoid fruit flies.) Add these “green” materials to your bin by making a hole in the center of the pile, dumping the kitchen scraps in the hole and covering the scraps with soil, leaves, or other carbon-rich materials. Burying the fresh kitchen scraps eliminates flies and odor and speeds up the compost process. Do not compost pet wastes, meat, bones, poultry, fish, dairy, and oily foods such as peanut butter or salad dressing.

Ideally, a home compost bin or pile should contain about 75% “brown” carbon-rich materials such as leaves, straw, used paper towels, napkins, ripped up egg cartons, paper bags, or newspaper, and 25% “green” nitrogen-rich materials such as food waste

and grass clippings. Add a couple shovelfuls of yard or garden soil to introduce helpful microorganisms.

The composting process needs oxygen; stir the pile occasionally with a shovel or pitchfork. Add water as needed to keep the contents as damp as a wrung out sponge.

Twelve local municipal transfer stations in the upper Pioneer Valley offer free food waste drop offs for their residents: Amherst, Bernardston, Conway, Deerfield, Greenfield, Leverett, New Salem, Northfield, Northampton, Orange, Wendell, and Whately. These municipal compost programs send material to commercial compost facilities, so they accept a wider range and larger volume of wastes. Acceptable items include ALL types of food waste, including items that are not recommended for backyard compost bins: meat, bones, dairy products, plus “compostable plastics,” soiled pizza boxes, and paper towels.

Finished compost can be added to gardens and lawns to enrich the soil. Compost reduces the need to water, again saving money and resources. For more information, go to mass.gov and search for “home composting.”

WESTERN MASS RECYCLES

What happens at your Materials Recycling Facility (MRF)?

The regional materials recycling facility (MRF) in Springfield sorts, bales, and sells recyclable paper and containers from over 73 Western Massachusetts communities. Owned by the State of Massachusetts and operated with guidance from the Department of Environmental Protection and a local advisory board, the Springfield MRF has processed over one million tons of Pioneer Valley recyclables since it opened in 1989.



**SORTED MATERIAL
READY FOR SALE**



We process your household containers and paper.

PLEASE INCLUDE ALL OF THESE IN YOUR MRF BINS



**DO NOT
INCLUDE THESE,
THEY CAUSE
PROBLEMS:**



PLASTIC BAGS
CAN BE TAKEN
TO A GROCERY
STORE.



CLOTHING AND
TEXTILES CAN BE
DEPOSITED IN A
DONATION BOX.



GARDEN HOSES
ARE NOT
RECYCLABLE,
PLEASE PLACE IN
THE TRASH.

**Your Recycling Efforts
Don't
Go To Waste!**



**For details & downloadable signs, visit
SPRINGFIELDMRF.ORG**

Paid for by the Springfield MRF Advisory Board

Pyrex, ceramic and porcelain products

Offer for reuse. Do not recycle; dispose as trash. Colorful ceramic/porcelain items (even broken ones) are sometimes used by local arts centers or craftspeople, so a phone call, or a post to an online sharing group (e.g. Freecycle.org or a Buy Nothing Facebook group) may help extend their usefulness.

Scrap metal

Many metal items (like bicycles or BBQ grills) can be repaired, sold or donated to extend their useful life. Because of the usefulness & value of metal, state regulations prohibit throwing aluminum, steel, iron, lead, stainless steel, copper, brass, or bronze scrap in the trash. Some metal items, such as batteries, propane tanks, helium tanks, ballasts, air conditioners and refrigerators, and automotive parts require special handling due to toxic or pressurized materials. Many municipal transfer stations and recycling centers have scrap metal dumpsters for the recycling of scrap metal. See pages 26-27 for local municipal disposal information.

Or, search online under “metal recycling” for the scrap yard nearest you and its requirements. Suitable scrap items should be mostly metal by weight; if possible, plastics should be removed.

Shoes

Clean, gently used shoes are usually accepted for reuse and resale by organizations that collect clothing donations. Organizations that specialize in shoe reuse include soles4souls.org, rerunshoes.com, and oneworldrunning.com. Shoes in poor condition can be recycled into rubber playground material and other uses. Visit a donation organization’s website to discover if they accept worn shoes.

Shredded paper

As of July 1, 2020, shredded paper will no longer be acceptable in western Massachusetts’ household/municipal paper recycling program. Going forward, the best way to get your confidential documents recycled is to bring them to area businesses (e.g. copy shops, office supply, and shipping stores) for secure shredding. The material they generate moves directly to paper mills, which avoids the scattering and contamination that ensues at a household recycling facility. In addition, local banks often sponsor spring and fall shredding events. Otherwise, dispose of shredded paper as trash.

Smoke & carbon monoxide detectors

Remove all non-alkaline batteries and dispose of them appropriately (see “Batteries”).

Most household smoke detectors contain a small amount of a radioactive element, Americium-241. The quantity in each unit is considered harmless, but its presence is worrisome enough that retailer and manufacturer take-back programs exist. Ask at your local store or google the manufacturer’s name with “smoke detector recycling” for program and shipping details. Curieservices.com offers a fee-based, mail-in smoke alarm recycling program. Some communities allow smoke detectors to be thrown away in the bulky waste container at a recycling/transfer station. See pages 26-27 for local contact information.

Carbon monoxide detectors are not considered hazardous, and can be safely disposed of in the trash after removing (and recycling) all non-alkaline batteries.

Sports equipment

Sporting equipment exchange/donation options are found locally via charitable organizations such as schools, Scout troops, or the Lion’s Club. Sharing via online groups (e.g. Freecycle.org or a Buy Nothing Facebook group) has become very popular.

Styrofoam (see “Plastics: Foam”)

Televisions (see “Electronics”)

Tennis balls

Check with your local animal shelter or elementary school to see if they accept tennis ball donations (schools use them to reduce the noise and impact of chairs/desks on floors). A mail-in recycling program is available at tennisballrecycling.com.

Textiles (see “Clothing & Textiles”)

Thermometers & thermostats ☠ (see “Mercury & Mercury-containing Products”)

Toothpaste Tubes, Toothbrushes

These items are not recyclable in household/municipal recycling, but Terracycle.com runs a mail-in recycling program that accepts them, along with floss containers, and some packaging. Preserve® brand toothbrushes (and razors) can be dropped off at the Hadley Whole Foods’ customer service desk, or mailed in (visit www.preserve.eco for “Gimme 5” program details).

Trophies

Contact your local trophy shop to see if they can reuse your old trophies. A Wisconsin-based trophy organization offers a mail-in

reuse program (awardsmall.com...search for “recycling”), and a Massachusetts company accepts only sports medals/medallions (visit sportsmedalrecycling.com).

Tyvek envelopes

Tyvek envelopes (large, white envelopes that won’t rip: often from express shipments) are made of high-density polyethylene plastic and must be placed in the trash. Please do not put Tyvek material in municipal/household recycling.

Vases

Glass vases are not recyclable. Donate to a local garden club, swap shop, or local florist(s) for reuse (call first).

Vegetable oil (see “Cooking Oil”)

Vehicles

Old vehicles, even inoperable ones, are valued for spare parts and metal. Consider donating them to a charitable organization (might be tax deductible). Contact your favorite charity or search online for “auto (or vehicle/truck/motorcycle/boat) donation.” Alternatively, search the Internet under “Auto Wreckers & Salvage.”

Wood (see “Building & Remodeling Materials”)

X-Ray film

There are no special disposal requirements, but x-rays do contain a small amount of silver. Many hospital radiology departments will accept them for recycling.

Yard waste (Leaves, grass, brush, Christmas trees)

Throwing away leaf & yard waste as trash is prohibited by State regulations. Some communities collect organic yard waste for wood chip production or composting; ask your community representative for specifics (see pages 26-27). Goat farmers often accept bare Christmas trees as food. Visit mass.gov/composting-organics to learn about composting yard waste in your backyard.

Yoga mats

Yoga mats are not recyclable, but can be repurposed. Search the web for “yoga mat reuse,” or offer via an online sharing group (e.g. Freecycle.org or a Buy Nothing Facebook group).

Please help us to improve this guide for the next edition! If you encounter errors or have suggestions for changes or additions, contact us at PioneerValleyRRR@gmail.com. Thank you.

Problem solved!



With a Northampton Transfer Station permit, you have many environmentally-friendly options, including:

Free disposal & recycling



Container & paper recycling



Food scrap composting



Yard waste composting



Cooking & motor oil recycling

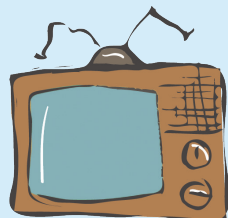


Bulky rigid plastic recycling

Fee-based disposal & recycling



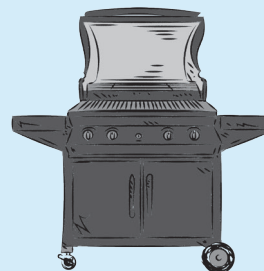
Household trash



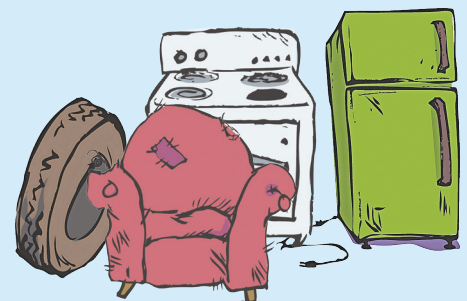
Electronic waste recycling



Fluorescent light bulbs



Scrap metal recycling



Bulky waste

Visit Northamptonma.gov/reduce-waste for more information.

Purchase your 2020-2021 permit online.

visit northamptonma.gov/reduce-waste

*Major credit cards & electronic checks accepted. Questions? Call 413-587-1570.
Permits grant access to transfer station services from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.*