

THE 16TH ANNUAL

Reduce Reuse Recycle

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

Your recyclables
are made into
everyday products!



Information valid through April 2024

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE DAILY HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE,
GREENFIELD RECORDER, ATHOL DAILY NEWS & AMHERST BULLETIN

WELCOME to the 2023

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Guide

Dear Western Mass Residents and Business Community,

The Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) Advisory Board is pleased to share this issue of the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle guide as we celebrate this 53rd anniversary of Earth Day. It is full of useful information. I encourage you to keep a copy handy so you can refer to it all year long.

The solid waste industry continues to change rapidly in 2023. Commodity markets values cycle up and down while trash disposal costs continue to rise as more trash is transported out of state. At the same time, materials recycling facilities (MRFs) are investing heavily in new technology to increase their sorting efficiency, and we are receiving media messaging with statements like “recycling is garbage.” *No wonder people are confused.* This Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Guide provides accurate information from local and regional sources to share the real story of recycling in western Massachusetts.

Motivated by all of these changes and the need for clearer and better information about recycling, for over a year the Springfield MRF Advisory Board has focused much of its time and resources creating broad and diverse

recycling education materials. Two projects are worth mentioning.

The first project consisted of updating, printing and distributing a variety of educational material in the form of postcards, brochures, magnets, decals, and signs. About 13,500 pieces of educational materials were recently distributed to towns all over western Mass. This material provides clear and direct information about the yes and no of recycling in our communities.

The second—and most ambitious—educational effort was our video project. The Springfield MRF Advisory Board produced five videos; *Me and My Bin* and four topic-specific videos to help viewers understand what happens to the materials they recycle. The videos are an antidote to misinterpretations recently shared in the news.

The topic-specific videos focus on container recycling, paper and cardboard recycling, what happens to recycled materials, and recycling’s most unwanted. The videos include interviews with recycling industry experts, footage of recyclables being sorted and baled, and information on the industries that purchase local recyclables for reuse. The

videos are available at springfieldmrf.org and on YouTube (www.youtube.com/@springfieldmrf4175), and will soon be available in Spanish, Russian, Turkish and Ukrainian. The videos send a clear message: **Recycling is important, and we each have a role to play.**

We are pleased to celebrate this 16th edition of the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Guide in partnership with The Daily Hampshire Gazette, Greenfield Recorder, Amherst Bulletin, and Athol Daily News, and send special thanks to the organizations and businesses that make production of this useful resource possible through their advertising support.

Sincerely,

Arlene C. Miller

*Chair, Springfield MRF
Advisory Board*



What's inside...

**Recycling is Happening
in Western Mass** Page 3

**What Do I
Do With...?** Page 12

Kids Activity
Page Page 23

**The Truth About Plastics
Recycling** Page 24

**Good Recycling News
for Earth Day!** Page 26

**RecyclingWorks Helps
Businesses Recycle and
Reduce Waste** Page 27

**Community Recycling
Info** Pages 28-29

**Household Hazardous
Waste Collections** ... Page 30



The bottles, jars, jugs, tubs and cans that residents put in recycling programs ARE recycled...even the ones with novelty labels. Pictured above are the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) Advisory Board members who were key contributors to this publication: Amy Donovan of Franklin County Solid Waste District (representing Franklin County), Susan Waite of MassDEP, Mary Stucklen of Tommy's Compost (representing Berkshire County), and Laurie Simmons of UMass Amherst Sustainability (representing Hampshire County).

Questions or comments about this guide?
Contact us at PioneerValleyRRR@gmail.com

Acknowledgements

This guide marks the 16th year of a collaboration between the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* and the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) Advisory Board, with support from local advertisers. This guide is produced annually in honor of **Earth Day (April 22)**.

It will also appear in the *Greenfield Recorder*, the *Athol Daily News*, and the *Amherst Bulletin*. It will be available online all year at springfieldmrf.org.



*These MRF Advisory
Board members provided
and reviewed content:*

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Waste Management District)*

Laurie Simmons

*(UMass Amherst Sustainability,
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Mary Stucklen

*(Tommy's Compost, representing
Berkshire County)*

Susan Waite

*(MassDEP Municipal Assistance
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Brooke Nash of MassDEP,
Cristina Ferrera (City of Springfield)
MassRecycle,
and **The Center for EcoTechnology**
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*In addition, these MRF
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Linda Cernik

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Tracy DeMaio

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Arlene Miller

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Michael Pattavina

(Franklin County Rep),

and **Rene Wood**

(Berkshire County Rep).



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Recycle Guide!**

RECYCLING is Happening in Western Mass

Don't believe the hype

You've heard the stories in the news, and the reports from NPR and Greenpeace, claiming that "only a small percent of plastic is recycled." Unfortunately, the data is being misunderstood. This percentage is based on an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) calculation that uses ALL plastics that are manufactured (even those that are not designed or intended to be recycled) as its basis of comparison. The data includes plastics used in items such as trash bags, shower curtains, carpeting, furniture, housewares, appliances, medical supplies, office supplies, and much more.

This figure is not intended to measure the percent of plastics that are actually recycled. It's not intended to imply that only a small amount of what resi-

dents put in recycling bins is recycled and the rest is trashed. The percentage recycled in Massachusetts is much, much higher.

95% is sent for reuse

The Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), sorts, bales and markets 95% of the incoming material from its 65 member communities. Due to the educational efforts of the MRF Advisory Board and the member communities, the Springfield MRF only needs to dispose of about 5% of incoming material as "contamination." Statewide, about 75-90% of the material that we put into recycling bins is recycled.

Model recycling programs like the Springfield MRF and its communities should be celebrated. At the same time, it is wise to encourage Extended

Producer Responsibility (EPR) legislation that requires manufacturers to take responsibility for the packaging they create and to design their products for recycling and reuse. For more information on the proposed legislation, see: <https://massrecycle.org/initiatives-events/massachusetts-product-stewardship-council/>.

In addition, waste reduction ("reduce") and reuse (as well as repair, repurpose, and rethink) should be encouraged and practiced.

5 short videos

The Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (SMRF) Advisory

Board recently released five short videos to help viewers understand what happens to the materials they recycle. *Me and My Bin* was the first; it uses humor and creativity to encourage residents of all ages to recycle, and gives a behind-the-scenes look at how materials are processed for recycling. Next, four material-specific videos focus on different topics: Container Recycling, Paper and Cardboard Recycling, What Happens to Recycled Materials, and Recycling's Most Unwanted. These videos were recently selected by the EPA to be part of their Municipal Toolkit for recycling education.

cling education.

Look for the colored boxes in the following pages, where we'll explore the topics covered in the videos. Find out what happens to your recyclables after they leave your bin, and how waste management companies, recyclers, and manufacturers value the material we recycle. Also see our special feature in this edition, "The Truth About Plastics Recycling" by Brooke Nash, the Branch Chief for Municipal Waste Reduction at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

VIDEO: ME AND MY BIN

IN A NUTSHELL:

- Follow an empty peanut butter jar as it leaves a home recycling bin.
- Me and My Bin playfully explains how materials are sorted and baled at a recycling processing facility.
- Me and My Bin is a fun recycling introduction for classrooms, community sustainability groups, family discussions, and other settings.



Watch Me and My Bin
by scanning the QR code
or going to:
<https://rb.gy/r657>



See all five videos at springfieldmrf.org

CONTAINER RECYCLING PAGE 4

PAPER AND CARDBOARD RECYCLING PAGE 6

WHAT HAPPENS TO RECYCLED MATERIALS? PAGE 8

RECYCLING'S MOST UNWANTED MATERIALS PAGE 9



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CONTAINER RECYCLING

Disposal is not an option

In Massachusetts, no matter if your recyclables are collected at the curb or at a transfer station, they end up at a facility that sorts, bales, and markets them for reuse. Sending loads of recyclables for disposal (trash) is banned in Massachusetts. Trash loads are inspected at trash transfer stations, landfills, and incinerators, and if they contain more than 10% banned materials such as recyclables, they are rejected.

So instead, the cans, bottles, jars, jugs, tubs, foil, and cartons that are collected in recycling programs are sent to a facility like the Springfield MRF to be sorted, baled, and sold to secondary recyclers and manufacturers.

Sorting recyclables

Our Container Recycling video opens with trucks delivering large loads of recyclables straight from the MRF's 65 member communities. Materials are "tipped," or dumped into a large pile and pushed onto a conveyor belt to begin the sorting process.

The first step in this process is removing materials such as plastic bags

and hoses ("contamination") that cause problems when they get wrapped around the sorting machinery or are too large to go through the sorting system. (To learn more about contamination, see the "Recycling's Most Unwanted" page and video.)

Next, a large rotating magnet attracts steel food cans and drops them into a giant bin. Once this bin is full, a door in the bottom of the bin is opened and the materials fall down a chute into a large baler that compresses the cans into a giant cube, or bale. This compressed bale is the most efficient way to transport recyclables.

Aluminum is sorted by an "eddy current separator," an electrical current that zaps items made of lightweight aluminum off the conveyor belt. Glass bottles and jars are heavier than other collected materials, so a "blower system" pushes the lighter material to another conveyor belt while the heavier glass items remain to be picked off the line by staff members.

Investments and Improvements

In 2021, the operator of the Springfield MRF Waste Management Recycle America, invested in a major equipment upgrade; a \$1.4 million "T-



Tech" sorting system with optical sorting capabilities for plastic. As MRF Manager Mike Moores explains, "This machinery can tell what's a PET bottle or a polypropylene (PP #5) tub lid and blow it into different categories." These types of large-scale investments show that the materials we recycle have value, and that proper sorting is important to waste management companies.

Sorted materials are compressed into bales, which are loaded onto trucks for transport to buyers. Material audits are performed regularly: staff members break open the sorted bales to find any items that should not be in a particular bale. If consistent mistakes are found, the equipment or processes will be adjusted and improved for the highest quality bales.

VIDEO: CONTAINER RECYCLING

IN A NUTSHELL:

- Recycle cans, bottles, jars, jugs, tubs, foil, and cartons
- Materials are separated with various sorting technologies and by hand
- Sorted recyclables are compacted into bales and purchased as commodities
- Recycling facilities are designed to handle certain materials



Watch Container Recycling
by scanning the QR code or going to:
<https://rb.gy/3i1z>

See all five videos at **springfieldmrf.org**



TO LEARN MORE: See the printable recycling guides on the Springfield MRF website:
springfieldmrf.org/whats-recyclable-at-the-mrf

What We Buy :

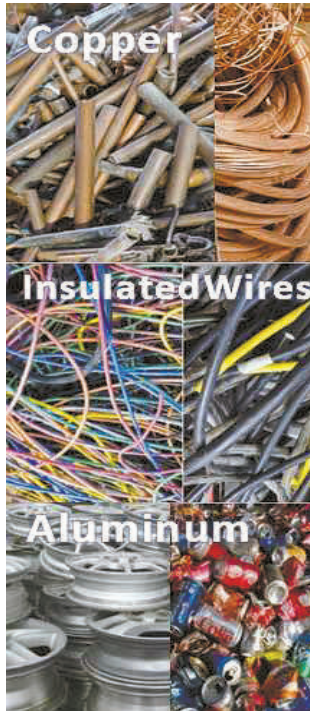
Ferrous Materials (Anything Magnetic)



Junk Cars



Non-Ferrous Materials (Non-magnetic)



Household Scrap

Yard Scrap

Aluminum awnings, gutters, sidings, metal roof & gates, propane tanks, siding

Office Scrap

Aluminum signs, pc towers metal file cabinets, chairs & shelves

Kitchen

Fridge, dishwasher, stove/oven, metal toasters, pots & cans, metal/silverware kitchen utensils

Miscellaneous

Bed frames, X-mas lights, coat hangers, rebar, wheelchairs, scooter, fans, hardware (nails, hinges), tools duct works, any metal

Bathroom

Cast iron tubs & sinks, piping, radiators

Basement

Washing machine, water heaters, dryer

Living Room

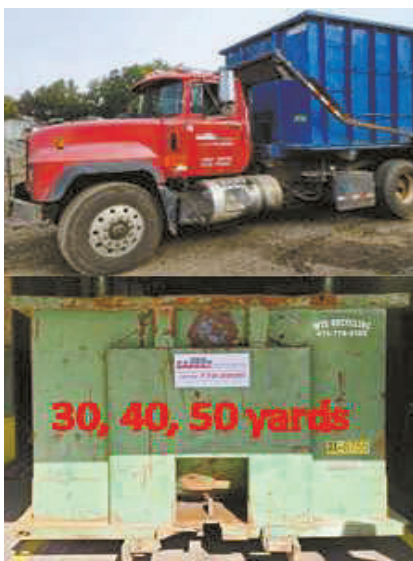
A/C. metal (table, blinds & chairs), appliances, futon frame, cable, fans

Garage Scrap

Metal ladders, metal wires compressors, weights, generators, furnaces, bicycles, boats, cages, engine blocks, transmission, oil tanks, auto parts, metal drums, lawn mower, propeller, tent pegs & poles, snow plows, starters

Services we offer:

Roll-off Dumpster service



Commercial/ Manufacturing/ Industrial Metal Collection Services

wTe Recycling provides scrap metal collection containers that are designed specifically for the needs of CNC Machine Shops & Manufacturing companies.



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Social Media: www.facebook.com/wterecycling - www.linkedin.com/in/wterecycling/

PAPER AND CARDBOARD RECYCLING

In the paper recycling video, we tour a recycling facility where MRF manager Mike Moores explains the sorting process. At the Springfield MRF, the mixed residential paper is separated from cardboard with “star screens” that allow paper to fall between the rotating discs while cardboard rides along the top.

The paper and cardboard that we use every day is recycled; this includes junk mail, office paper, newspaper, magazines, cereal boxes, empty pizza boxes (really!) and shipping boxes. Items that cannot be recycled include shredded paper and the following paper items that are coated with plastic: paper cups, frozen food packaging, soda and beer case packaging.

Pizza boxes

The pandemic highlighted the key role that recycling plays in supplying raw materials for manufacturing. Cardboard box makers could barely keep up with demand for new shipping and pizza boxes. The mixed paper, paperboard, and corrugated cardboard (“fiber”) that was collected in western Mass helped to meet the demand.

Pizza boxes are recyclable: a 2020 study (tinyurl.com/pizzaboxes2020) by West Rock, a major US corrugated cardboard manufacturer, found that grease on pizza boxes does NOT cause problems for recycled paper manufacturers, as previously thought. It is now OK to put the ENTIRE pizza box into recycling...but it MUST be empty (no crusts, food, foil, plastic, or waxed paper).

A short loop

Rand Whitney Containerboard in Montville, Connecticut buys baled cardboard from the Springfield MRF and other MRFs throughout the Northeast. This facility produces linerboard made of 100% recycled content. Linerboard is used for the flat parts of corrugated cardboard (the outside and inside of the box).

When the linerboard leaves the Connecticut facility, it goes on a short trip to Worcester, where it is finished into cardboard for...more boxes. So, from your town’s curbside collection or transfer station to Springfield MA to Montville CT, then to Worcester MA; that’s a pretty short loop for a cardboard box!



Mixed residential paper is baled and sold to a paper mill in Ohio that produces cardboard linerboard and medium for new boxes as well as other products like the rolled floor protection paper used for interior painting.

Investments in US mills

Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) has been watching closely as North American paper mills open or expand in response to China’s 2018 National Sword policy that banned foreign scrap imports. NERC’s 2022 report “Summary of

Announced Increased Capacity to Use Recycled Paper” found that 28 new or expanded paper mills are coming on line in the near future, with 17 already completed.

Brooke Nash, Branch Chief at Mass Dept of Environmental Protection, states “The silver lining of the Chinese ban was that there has been a resurgence in activity and investment in the recycling economy and our recycling mills right here in the United States and that means jobs, good jobs, and products being made here on our shores.”

VIDEO: PAPER AND CARDBOARD RECYCLING

IN A NUTSHELL:

- Paper recyclables end up at a facility that sorts, bales, and markets them for reuse
- Recyclable paper includes junk mail, newspaper, magazines, cereal boxes, empty pizza boxes, and shipping boxes.
- Mixed residential paper is separated from cardboard (OCC) and marketed separately



Watch Paper Recycling
by scanning the QR code or going to:
<https://rb.gy/4p42>

See all five videos at springfieldmrf.org



TO LEARN MORE: See the printable recycling guides on the Springfield MRF website: springfieldmrf.org/whats-recyclable-at-the-mrf

C.R. PLASTIC PRODUCTS

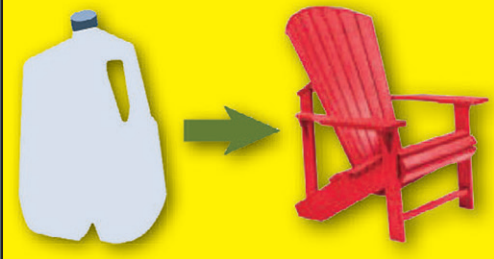
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Composting is Easy!

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)
- Small wooden fruit crates

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WHAT HAPPENS TO RECYCLED MATERIALS

Our recyclables have value

In fiscal year 2022, through the sales of recyclables to commodity markets, the Springfield MRF paid its 65 member communities a combined revenue share of \$375,500.

The plastic bottles, jars, jugs, tubs, and other containers that we put into recycling programs are sold to commodity buyers who process them further and send them to manufacturers to make new products. Plastics are recycled into a wide range of products, from carpeting and vehicle interiors to bottles and jugs for shampoo, soaps, automotive fluids and laundry detergent, automotive parts, pipes, plastic lawn furniture, 5-gallon pails, recycling bins, compost bins, storage containers, reclosable plastic paint cans and on and on.

Every time a manufacturer uses post-consumer recycled material in their products, the use of raw materials is reduced. Recycling also creates jobs, conserves energy and natural resources, and saves space in landfills and incinerators for the materials that can't be recycled.

North American buyers

For decades, the Springfield MRF Advisory Board has encouraged the sale of recyclable material from western Mass to domestic recyclers; current plastics buyers include Unifi Recycling in Reidsville NC and KW Plastics in Troy, AL.

Baled postconsumer plastics are commodities that have significant value. For example, at the Springfield MRF, plastics comprise only about 12% of the residential recycling stream, but provide 53% of its value, subsidizing the lower value glass and paper. And no wonder, as HDPE Natural (milk and water jugs) rose to its highest value ever in 2021, \$2000/ton, and is currently at around \$1,500/ton.

Chris Lucarelle, Area Director of Recycling Operations at Waste Management Recycle America, the company that manages the operations at the Springfield MRF, writes: "There has been a lot of news suggesting that plastic recycling is broken, and this is terribly misleading. While we certainly have a long way to go to create circular solutions for all plastics



that are produced, the plastics collected in household recycling programs have a home. Not only are all of the bottle, jar, jug, tub, and lid plastics we manage recycled exclusively in North America, but they end up in some exciting new products. Beverage bottles can go from bottle to bottle or into polyester fiber for carpeting and clothing, detergent and milk jugs go back into bottles and jugs, and polypropylene (PP, #5 plastic, such as yogurt tubs) is used in everything from auto parts to consumer goods."

Economics and investments

Simple economics ensures that material handlers will extract as much value as they can from the material they collect or pay for. Other-

wise, they have to pay to dispose of it, which greatly affects their bottom line (and is not allowed in Massachusetts.)

In the past few years the US recycling industry has made major investments into improved recycling infrastructure. Frank M Antonacci of USA Waste and Recycling writes: "As a local, family owned company we are committed to increasing recycling and reducing waste. This commitment spurred us to build a new \$40 million All-American Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Berlin, Connecticut. This new facility is one of the largest and most technologically advanced recycling facilities in the world, and it is helping us to deliver greater quantities of extremely high quality paper, cardboard, glass, and plastics to manufacturers and end-users."

VIDEO: WHAT HAPPENS TO RECYCLED MATERIALS?

IN A NUTSHELL:

- Glass is sent to SMI in CT. There it is cleaned, sized, decontaminated and sold to be melted into new products.
- Buyers are paying to have materials shipped to them
- Sorted and baled plastics are sold to markets in the Southeastern part of the US.
- Many MRFs are now using robotics as well as optical sorting technologies.



Watch What Happens to Recycled Materials by scanning the QR code or going to: shorturl.at/qBGK5

See all five videos at springfieldmrf.org



TO LEARN MORE AND GET UPDATES:

Follow Springfield MRF on social media: facebook.com/SpringfieldMRF, instagram.com/smrf_recycles

Follow RecycleSmartMA on social media: facebook.com/recyclesmartma, instagram.com/recyclesmartma

Sign up to receive the RecycleSmart Newsletter via email: <https://recyclesmartma.org>

The Recycling Partnership: Solving for Circularity: <https://recyclingpartnership.org>

RECYCLING'S MOST UNWANTED

Most Wanted: the right stuff

Materials recycling facilities sort, decontaminate and bale tens or hundreds of tons of recyclables per day. For sorting to work effectively, the acceptable items in recycling programs are limited to rigid containers such as plastic bottles, jars, jugs, tubs, clear plastic clamshell containers, clear plastic cups, aluminum or steel cans, aluminum trays and foil, glass bottles and jars, and milk and juice cartons. This packaging is from food, beverages, and soap/personal care products such as laundry detergent, dish soap, hand soap, shampoo, conditioner.

The products we've described above are of similar size, and their 3-D shape makes them easily sortable. (This is one reason why we prefer that recyclables are not flattened or crushed.) Specialized mechanical equipment uses optical sorting technologies, magnets, eddy currents, blowers, and other methods to sepa-

rate materials into different streams. Staff members also perform hands-on sorting and decontamination (removing items that are not accepted).

Recycling's Most Unwanted

A materials recycling facility cannot sort random, un-similar products like plastic bags and films, metal objects ("scrap metal"), medical supplies, electronic waste, clothing, laundry baskets, or bowling balls.

Items that are too small (under 3") can either fall through the equipment, get jammed in equipment, or contaminate other material streams. Caps should be placed back on their "parent" bottle. On the other hand, items that are larger than 2.5 gallons pose the risk of becoming jammed in the equipment and blocking the flow of materials, so they are not accepted.

"Tanglers" such as plastic bags and wraps, hoses, light strings,

ropes, dog leashes, shower curtains, and tarps are not accepted in mixed recycling because they get wrapped around the sorting machinery. These entanglements cause expensive shutdowns and threaten worker safety when staff members have to climb onto the equipment to strip away the bags, films, and other tangles.

Some materials can be dangerous for sanitation workers and MRF staff, so they should never be put in recycling bins: syringes (needles), knives or other sharp metals, medical waste, light bulbs of any type, hazardous waste, batteries, diapers, or trash.

How to prepare recyclables

Recyclables should be free of solid food, another type of recycling contamination. A quick rinse removes most types of food residue.

For stuck-on foods like peanut butter, try scraping out the residue with a rubber cake frosting spatula. Recy-

clables do not have to be clean enough to eat off of, just have most of the food removed.

Recyclables should not be contained in plastic bags, as the bags need to be opened by hand. This is a safety hazard for workers, so bagged materials have to be put in the trash. Labels do not need to be removed. Put caps back on bottles and recycle; no need to flatten them.

Recyclables sorted into 11 categories

If all this sounds daunting, don't worry, the MRFs of today can handle it. The Springfield MRF expertly sorts mixed containers into nine different material streams that are baled and transported to various domestic facilities. Paper is sorted into two different grades and sent to end markets in Connecticut and Ohio.

VIDEO: RECYCLING'S MOST UNWANTED

IN A NUTSHELL:

- "Tanglers" (plastic bags and wraps, hoses, light strings, etc.) get wrapped around sorting machinery.
- Wishcycling is putting something in the bin without knowing if it is acceptable and hoping or "wishing" it will be recycled.
- Wishcycling is a negative drain on the system.



Watch Recycling's Most Unwanted by scanning the QR code or going to: shorturl.at/cuF25
See all five videos at springfieldmrf.org

TO LEARN MORE: See the printable recycling guides on the Springfield MRF website: springfieldmrf.org/whats-recyclable-at-the-mrf

- Not sure if an item is accepted in recycling? Visit recyclesmartma.org and search the Recyclopeda, a 700-item search tool with Massachusetts-specific recycling information.
- Also see "What Do I Do With...?" and "Recycle in Western Mass" in this guide.

RECYCLING'S MOST UNWANTED

Please keep these items out of household recycling. At the recycling facility, plastic bags, hoses and holiday lights cause safety hazards and shutdowns when they wrap around conveyor belts and equipment.



For a complete YES & NO list of what can be recycled, visit www.springfieldmrf.org or call the recycling hotline: 413-755-2239.

5 Facts about Textile Recovery in Massachusetts

1

Clothing and textile products make up 6% of all material entering U.S. landfills and incinerators... That's 230,000 tons/year in MA alone!

2

"Textiles" include: clothing, footwear, bedding, towels, curtains, fabric, and similar products.

3

Textile disposal is now banned in MA! Residents must bag unwanted clothing, towels, and bedding and bring to a textile drop-off site.

4

Most municipal transfer stations host textile drop boxes (see the Community Recycling Info page in this guide) or visit MassDEP's Beyond the Bin tool: RecycleSmartMA.org/beyond-the-bin. Businesses can use RecyclingWorksMA.com to find a textile recycler.

5

Reuse Spotlight: Swanson's Fabrics, Turners Falls Swanson's is the no-kill shelter for all your unused fabrics. They accept all materials & tools related to the fiber arts, but **please do not bring clothing** or items that smell bad. Pick up arrangements are possible! swansonsfabrics.com

See also: Paper City Fabrics, Holyoke papercityfabrics.com

Need more?? Visit mass.gov/guides/textile-recovery



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RECYCLING

HAPPENS IN WESTERN MASS

Room by Room

IN THE OFFICE

YES!



No



IN THE BATHROOM

YES!



No



ON THE HOLIDAYS

YES!



No



IN THE KITCHEN

YES!



No



Lists are not all-inclusive. Some of the items marked as "No" are recyclable in separate programs. Please see "What Do I Do With...?" in this guide. For more information and downloadable guides like this one, see springfieldmrf.org.

What Do I Do With...?

This A-Z disposal guide was designed to provide reuse, recycling or disposal options for items that are not accepted in municipal recycling, or to provide more information for some of the accepted items. For information on what to put in recycle bins, and what to leave out, see the “Recycle in Western Mass” graphic in this guide and at springfieldmrf.org/docs/postcard-mar23.pdf

☠ = Items that are hazardous or require special handling.

AEROSOL CANS ☠

Empty aerosol cans belong in the trash, unless they contain hazardous material (e.g. paint, insecticide), in which case they are household hazardous waste (see the Household Hazardous Waste Event page in this guide). A handful of transfer stations/recycling centers accept *completely empty*, non-hazardous aerosol cans in scrap metal dumpsters (empty cans are completely silent when the button is pushed). See the Community Recycling Information table in this guide for local disposal information. More info: mass.gov/info-details/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 roasting pans, and clean aluminum foil (ball it up). The “foil” lids from yogurt containers should not be included, as they contain a layer of plastic that causes issues when the

aluminum is melted down.

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 considered hazardous and should be brought to a hazardous waste collection. Always check the label before tossing in the trash. See the Household Hazardous Waste Event page in this guide for information on local hazardous waste collections. Crazycrayons.com offers a crayon recycling program and terracycle.com offers mail-in programs for many art supplies, markers, and pens.

ASBESTOS ☠

There are strict removal & disposal requirements for asbestos. Contact the Western Region of the Mass Department of Environmental Protection: David Slowick; david.slowick@mass.gov, 413-348-7186. To find licensed asbestos contractors, go to mass.gov and type “Asbestos Contractors” into the search bar.

AUTOMOBILES (see “Vehicles”)

AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS ☠

Automotive products contain hazardous materials & must be handled with care. Do not dispose of in the trash, on the ground or down the drain. Empty plastic automotive product jugs belong in the trash (replace caps first). *Do not recycle them.*

Many towns accept automotive products at transfer stations or hazardous waste collections. See the Community Recycling Information table and Household Hazardous Waste Event pages in this guide.

■ **Motor oil**
Even a small amount of im-

properly disposed of motor oil will contaminate water & soil. In Massachusetts, retailers that sell motor oil 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 and quick oil change chains 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. For assistance, call the MassDEP Used Oil Hotline at 617-556-1022.

■ Motor oil filters

Some auto supply stores (e.g. AutoZone) or auto repair shops accept oil filters for free recycling. Some municipal transfer stations accept motor oil filters. Oil filters may be thrown away or recycled in scrap metal collections *only when the oil has been completely drained* (while filter is still warm, puncture the dome top & drain into a collection container. Collect oil drips and dispose of properly as used motor oil; see above entry).

■ Antifreeze

Antifreeze is not only hazardous; its deceiving color & sweet taste may attract children, pets & wild animals. Consider having your vehicle’s radiator flushed at a service station to avoid the responsibility associated with proper storage & disposal. Some auto supply stores accept antifreeze for free recycling. Antifreeze should be brought to a household hazardous waste collection; see the Household Hazardous Waste Event page in this guide.

■ Brake fluid

Brake fluid is hazardous and must be brought to a household hazardous waste collection.

BABY FOOD POUCHES (see “Plastic Pouches”)

BAGS (see “Plastics”)

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



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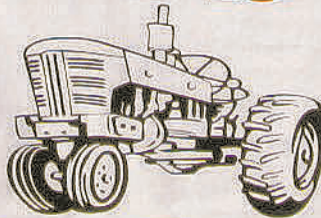
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BATTERIES

Never put batteries of any type in a regular recycling bin. 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. (Before disposal or storage, put plastic packing or electrical tape on the contacts of 9-volts and lantern batteries.) Check labels carefully; some batteries that require special handling resemble alkaline batteries.

ALL other battery varieties contain hazardous materials and require special disposal. Never put these batteries in recycling or trash bins.

There are many free, convenient drop-off options for batteries, such as municipal transfer stations, Staples, Home Depot, and Lowe's Stores. See the Community Recycling Information table in this guide or search online with your zip code at earth911.com. Some hazardous waste collections accept batteries; see the Household Hazardous Waste Event page in this guide.

More options for specific batteries:

■ **Button batteries** (found in watches, hearing aids, electronics & some toys) are accepted free of charge at watch/jewelry shops or audiologist offices.

■ **Lead acid batteries** (found in vehicles, boats, motor-

cycles, 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. Many transfer stations accept them.

■ **Lithium batteries** (single use battery often used for cameras) can resemble alkaline batteries, but these should be recycled properly: some municipalities accept them. Check all batteries carefully before disposal; look for "Lithium" on the label.

■ **Rechargeable batteries** contain heavy metals and can start fires; they should never be put in trash or recycling bins. Rechargeable batteries are found in rechargeable electronics such as cell phones, cordless phones, power tools, laptops, tablets, digital cameras, camcorders, UPS battery back-ups, rechargeable toys, baby monitors, robotic vacuum cleaners, emergency medical equipment, e-bikes, rechargeable devices such as toothbrushes, razors, flashlights and hand-held vacuum cleaners, plus batteries that can be recharged with a battery charger. Most transfer stations have special pails or boxes for rechargeable batteries, as do Home Depot, Lowes, and Staples stores. Rechargeable battery chemistries are Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion), Nickel-Zinc (Ni-Zn), and small Sealed Lead Acid (Pb) batteries (up to 11 pounds). A label on a battery that has "mAh" or "RECYCLE - RBRC" in a circle indicates a

rechargeable battery. For more information and options for recycling rechargeable batteries, go to call2recycle.org. Lithium batteries pose fire risk: if a lithium battery becomes swollen or damaged, handle carefully and bag separately, then place battery in a metal canister or glass jar surrounded by clay kitty litter or speedy dry. Bring to your town's transfer station or hazardous waste site.

BEER AND SODA PACKAGING

It may look recyclable, but beer and soda cartons or cases contain plastic or bonding chemicals so that they stay strong when wet. The plastic and chemicals contaminate recyclable paper. Please place all "paper" beer and soda packaging in the trash.

Plastic six-pack rings and four-pack "snap top" can carriers are not accepted in household recycling. Flexible plastic six-pack rings get wrapped around sorting equipment at recycling facilities and pose a danger to wildlife. Cut up rings and put in the trash or collect and mail six-pack rings to the RingRecycleMe program (ringrecycleme.com).

"Snap top" six or four-pack can carriers are often made with 100% recycled plastic, which provides a market for recycled plastic. However, snap tops are not acceptable in recycling because their size and shape make them challenging to sort. Mass Brew Bros has established a can carrier reuse

program; save your snap tops and find a drop off location near you at: massbrewbros.com/can-carrier-recycling and paktech-opi.com.

BICYCLES

Working bicycles in good condition may be gifted to individuals via an online sharing group (e.g. a "Buy Nothing" Facebook group or Freecycle.org), or offered to charities (search online via "bicycle donation") and other organizations that will use them. For recycling options, see "scrap metal."

BOATS

See disposal suggestions under "Vehicles." Metal boats are accepted at scrap metal dealers, while other varieties are sometimes accepted as bulky waste at municipal transfer stations (call to inquire, see local contact info in the Community Recycling Information table in this guide). All engine-type fluids must first be drained and properly disposed of.

BOOKS

Books in good condition may be sold (used bookstores, tag sales), donated (public libraries, fund-raising sales, drop boxes at transfer stations), or shared (book exchanges, swap shop). "Little free libraries" have grown in popularity; find one near you at: littlefreelibrary.org/map. Reader to Reader, an Amherst-based non-profit, collects library-quality books and distributes them to U.S. schools and public libraries (readertoreader.org). Roundabout Books, a Greenfield-based bookstore accepts dry

books in any condition and can recycle unsalable hardcover books (roundaboutbookstore.com).

Paperback books & phone-books are considered recyclable in small quantities, as are *only the pages* of hardback books. Rip pages out and recycle those. Covers and spines from *hardcover* books must be placed in the trash.

BOTTLE CAPS & LIDS

Plastic caps & lids are recyclable only when fastened to a plastic bottle/jar/jug/tub. Loose plastic tops should be placed in the trash as they can create safety hazards and shutdowns at recycling facilities. Metal screw-top lids from glass jars (e.g. pasta sauce, pickle jar) should be attached to the container. Loose metal food can lids are acceptable, but it is best to push them inside the can prior to recycling.

BOXES

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

Pizza Boxes are recyclable, as long as they are empty. A 2020 study found that greasy pizza boxes do NOT cause problems for recycled paper manufacturers. It is now OK to put the entire *empty* pizza box into recycling (remove all crusts, food, foil, plastic, or waxed paper). Link to the study: tinyurl.com/pizzaboxes2020

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

RECYCLE in WESTERN MASS

Yes please recycle these papers & containers:



Paper: envelopes with windows, magazines, newspapers, inserts, junk mail, post-it notes, business cards, catalogs, white and colored paper, corrugated cardboard, paperboard (for example, cereal boxes), empty pizza boxes (no food or liners), paperback books, construction paper, gift wrap/bags/tissue paper and greeting cards (no metallic inks, foil, wire, glitter, batteries)

Empty and clean all containers. Replace lids and caps.

Aluminum: cans, foil, pie pans

Steel: (tin) cans, beverage and pet food cans

Cartons: milk, juice, soup, soy milk and drink boxes

Glass: food, beverage bottles and jars

Check the guide below to find out what to recycle, and what not to recycle. For more recycling guides, or to print this one or its Spanish version, go to springfieldmrf.org/whats-recyclable-at-the-mrf

Plastics: (2.5 gallons or less) food containers—margarine, yogurt, cooking oil, condiments, peanut butter; beverage bottles and jugs—soda, water, juice, milk; clear plastic clamshells, clear plastic egg cartons, clear plastic cups; personal care bottles—shampoo, soap, conditioner; detergent bottles

No

Plastic bags, color or opaque plastic cups, automotive fluid bottles, black plastic, plastics over 2.5 gallons, paper frozen food packaging, Styrofoam™, textiles, batteries*

*For a complete YES & NO list of what can be recycled, visit www.springfieldmrf.org.



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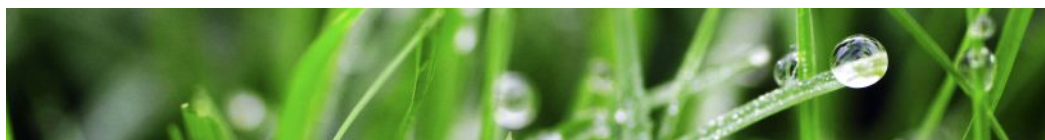
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Frozen food boxes, ice cream cartons, case boxes from soda or beer, and kitty litter boxes should be placed in the trash as they are not acceptable in recycling or composting. These boxes are made with “wet strength paper,” which contains plastic or bonding chemicals that help the boxes to stay strong when wet. The plastic and chemicals contaminate recyclable paper.

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 many recycling/transfer stations; for more information, call the phone number listed for your town in the Community Recycling Information table in this guide. Vehicles with a capacity greater than 5 cubic yards are subject to strict disposal requirements for C&D wastes in MA. For more information: mass.gov/lists/managing-construction-demolition-cd-wastes.

Used building materials in good condition can be donated to a reuse store such as Eco Building Bargains. Call prior to delivery to confirm that your materials will be accepted, or to arrange for free pickup. Items might be tax-deductible. EcoBuilding Bargains, 83 Warwick St., Springfield, MA (413-788-6900; ecobuildingbargains.org)

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), 360 Recycling (Westfield: 413-562-0193).

Note: pressure-treated wood should only be disposed of in a landfill. Do not put it in a backyard compost pile, a brush or chipping pile; do not burn it or send it to a waste incinerator for disposal. For bulky waste disposal at local transfer stations, see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide.

CAMERAS

Staples stores, Best Buy stores, and many electronic waste (e-waste) recycling programs accept digital cameras for free 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 (flor.com/recycle). Some nonprofit organizations accept relatively clean carpet for reuse. For local disposal information, see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide.

CARTONS & DRINK BOXES

This category includes “gable top” refrigerated cartons used for milk and orange juice, plus shelf-stable “aseptic packaging” for almond milk, soup, and juice boxes. Cartons are acceptable in single stream recycling programs in western Mass. In dual stream recycling programs, cartons should be recycled along with bottles, cans, and containers. Rinse cartons, discard straws; plastic caps & spouts may remain on carton. Do not flatten.

Ice cream cartons are not accepted in recycling. Don’t include foil drink pouches (e.g., Capri Sun, Honest Kids) in municipal recycling. See “Plastic Pouches” in this guide for recycling options.

CARTRIDGES

(see “Ink, Printer & Toner Cartridges”)

CELL PHONES

Cell phones should not be put in the trash due to their reuse value & hazardous/recyclable components. Never put cell phones in recycling bins. Numerous charitable & for-profit organizations accept cell phone donations. Search online using “cell phone donation.” Stores that sell cell phones also accept them for free recycling, and many cell phone manufacturers offer buy-back programs through the mail. Many municipal transfer stations also accept them for special recycling programs, as do Lowes and Staples stores. For locations, search with your zip code at call2recycle.org/locator or earth911.com.

CHRISTMAS TREES

(see “Yard Waste”)

CIGARETTE BUTTS

Terracycle’s Free Cigarette Waste Recycling Program (terracycle.com/en-US/brigades/cigarette-waste-recycling) accepts extinguished cigarettes, filters, loose tobacco pouches, outer plastic and inner foil packaging for recycling into plastic lumber and other products.

CLAMSHELLS & CLEAR MOLDED PLASTICS

(see “Plastics”)

CLEANERS

(see “Household Hazardous Waste”)

CLOTHING & TEXTILES

As of November 1st 2022, textiles are banned from the trash in Massachusetts. There are many local reuse & donation opportunities for all textiles & shoes. Deliver **CLEAN & DRY** textiles & clothing to drop-off boxes serviced by organizations such as the Salvation Army (easternusa.salvationarmy.org) and Bay State Textiles (baystatetextiles.com/locations) & donation centers such as Goodwill Industries (goodwill.org). Many municipal transfer stations host textile drop boxes. **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 wiping cloths and 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, toss pillows, light comforters, sheets, towels, and stuffed animals in any condition. Some animal shelters also accept old sheets, blankets, pillowcases, bedspreads, throw rugs & towels for reuse (call first).

To find local clothing consignment stores or quality used clothing, go to thethriftshopper.com. See also thredup.com, swap.com, poshmark.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: brarecycling.com; 480-988-2283.

Some local non-profit organizations target specific types of clothing to benefit those in need, such as professional clothing (westernmass.dressforsuccess.org).

COAT HANGERS

Do not put hangers of any type in recycling bins: hangers get caught in machinery at recycling facilities. Metal hangers are accepted for reuse by some dry cleaners & are also accepted in scrap metal recycling dumpsters at most recycling/transfer stations. Unfortunately, plastic hangers are not recyclable and should be put in trash when they are no longer useable. Hangers are reusable; offer via an online sharing group (e.g. freecycle.org, "Buy Nothing" Facebook group). Some charitable organizations accept hangers for reuse or resale.

COMPACT FLUORESCENT LAMPS (CFLS) ☠

(*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, lifecyclerenewables.com. Lifecycle Renewables' used cooking oil is transformed into replacements for fossil fuels. Western Mass Rendering provides dumpsters for large collections: westernmassrendering.com; 413-569-6265.

CORKS

Corks should never be put in recycling bins, carts, or dumpsters; remove corks from bottles before recycling. *Natural* corks can be composted via municipal/commercial composting programs or chopped up & added to a backyard compost bin. ReCORK recycles natural wine & champagne corks (no plastic corks); multiple local drop off sites are listed at recork.org. River Valley Co-op stores in Northampton and Easthampton host "Cork ReHarvest" drop boxes for natural corks (no plastic). There are no local recycling options for plastic corks. Terracycle offers a fee-based recycling program for corks of any type: terracycle.com. Reuse is an option; wine corks can be reused in many creative ways (search online for "cork art").

COSMETICS CONTAINERS

Not recyclable in municipal recycling programs. Mail-in recycling programs for empty cosmetics containers can be found at terracycle.com and maccosmetics.com/giving_back/back_to_mac.html

CUPS

Clear plastic cups are the *only* type of cups accepted in household recycling (rinse; lids and straws go in the trash). Other types of plastic cups are NOT acceptable for recycling: "Styrofoam"/polystyrene (#6 plastic), colored keg cups, and opaque plastic cups. Mail-in recycling programs for #6 cups can be found at terracycle.com.

If a clear cup is labeled "compostable," it should NOT go in recycling. Compostable cups are accepted in most municipal or commercial compost programs. "Compostable plastic" products are not designed to compost in home compost bins or piles.

Paper cups, including traditional paper coffee cups, are not recyclable. Plastic coffee cup lids are too small to be recycled. Cardboard sleeves are recyclable. Some paper coffee cups (and some lids) are designed to

be compostable in municipal/commercial compost programs; check for text that says "BPI certified" or "compostable."

EGG CARTONS

Clear plastic egg cartons are recyclable. Paper & Styrofoam™ egg cartons are not accepted in recycling, 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 the trash. Most municipal transfer stations offer electronics recycling programs, although disposal fees may apply; see your town's website or call town hall for pricing. Electronics that are mostly metal, such as computer towers, DVD players, and stereo components can also go in scrap metal recycling at transfer stations and recycle centers.

Staples stores accept computer-related electronic waste for free recycling; call your local store for details. Staples does not accept TVs. Best Buy accepts TVs for a fee, and also accepts a wide range of electronic waste for free recycling. For more information, call your local store or visit their website and search for "recycling." Computer manufacturers sometimes offer electronics recycling or trade-in programs; 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, VHS, Cassette Tapes)

Do not put electronic media or cases in your household recycling, put them in the trash. CD cases easily shatter, and the glass-like shards create hazards 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 and terracycle.com (enter "media" into search bar) offer fee-based, mail-in recycling options.

EYEGLASSES

Contact your local Lion's Club (lionsclubs.org) for the nearest collection box or mail eyeglass frames and prescription lenses to: Lions Clubs International Headquarters, 300 W. 22nd Street, Oak Brook, IL 60523. In addition, eyeglasses may be dropped in a collection box at a participating Walmart Vision Center. If eyeglasses can't be reused, put in the 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, and units manufactured prior to 1984 may contain dangerous chemicals. For disposal and recycling:

■ Businesses & property managers can contact their fire control service provider.

■ Some municipal transfer stations accept newer fire extinguishers for special recycling along with propane tanks; see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide for local contact information.

■ Some municipal hazardous waste collections may accept older fire extinguishers: ask before bringing them to a collection.

■ MA Fire Technologies (West Springfield, MA) accepts fire extinguishers for a fee (massfire.com, 800-244-6769).

■ New England Disposal Technologies (Westfield, MA) accepts fire extinguishers for a fee (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 or household recycling.*

FLAGS

To properly dispose of U.S. flags no longer in usable condition, contact the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), your town hall, or scout troops. Other flags may be recycled in textile recycling programs.

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 locally makes better environmental and economic sense. Local composting options include home composting, curbside pick-up by a private waste hauler, and municipal transfer station compost programs (in Amherst, Bernardston, Charlemont, Conway, Deerfield, Greenfield, Hadley, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northampton, Northfield, Orange, Shelburne, Warwick, Wendell & Whately). Find a private hauler near you at: recyclingworksma.com. Many municipalities offer discounted purchase programs for counter-top collection pails and home compost bins; see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide for local contact information. For home composting instructions, visit mass.gov and

search for "home compost."

As of November 2022, Massachusetts businesses, organizations and institutions that create ½ ton of food waste per week will be required to keep it out of the trash and instead reduce it, donate it, or send it out for animal feed, composting, or anaerobic digestion. RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts provides free assistance, food waste estimation tools, hauler lists, and more at: recyclingworksma.com

FRUIT SNACK POUCHES

(*see "Plastic Pouches"*)

FURNITURE

Furniture in good condition can be sold, donated for reuse, or offered via an online sharing group (e.g. freecycle.org or a "Buy Nothing" Facebook group). If not reusable, see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide for disposal information ("bulky waste"). As of November 2022, mattresses and box springs may no longer go in the trash. See "Mattresses" for more information.

GOLF BALLS AND CLUBS

Golf balls can't be recycled, but they may be reused. Contact local golf courses or driving ranges to see if they will accept them or donate them, along with clubs, to First Tee-Massachusetts programs to empower kids and teens through golf (firstteemass.org; click on "donate"). Some thrift stores will accept clubs for resale.

GREETING CARDS

Cards are recyclable with paper if they do not contain metallic inks, glitter, foil, or batteries. Remove electronics from singing greeting cards & recycle button batteries in battery recycling programs (see "Batteries"). St. Jude's Ranch for Children runs a mail-in greeting card reuse program; note restrictions on certain brands: stjudesranch.org/recycled-card-program.

HANGERS

(*see "Coat Hangers"*)

HEARING AIDS

The National Hearing Aid Project accepts used hearing aids for refurbishment and distribution to those that need them: hearingaid donations.org, 816-895-2410. Also check with your hearing aid specialist for reuse options. If your hearing aid is not worth salvaging, remove the button battery and recycle it in a battery recycling program (see "Batteries"), then place the hearing aid 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 label warnings & words

like caustic, toxic, corrosive, poison, flammable, danger & “keep out of reach of children” all require special handling. See the Household Hazardous Waste Event page in this guide 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). Empty containers that once contained hazardous wastes are NOT accepted in recycling; replace cap and put empty containers in trash. For safer alternatives to hazardous household products visit: lestoxicguide.ca, or turi.org/Our_Work/Community.

INK, PRINTER & TONER CARTRIDGES

Staples and Best Buy stores accept used cartridges for reuse or recycling (and possibly earn store rewards). Other options may be found via a search on earth911.com or find mail-in donation programs online by searching “cartridge donations.” Many manufactures have their own take back programs with free mailing labels. Search online for “(name of manufacturer) cartridge recycling program.”

JUNK MAIL & CATALOGS

Unwanted mail & catalogs are recyclable, but it makes more sense to reduce them at the source. Here are four free services to do so:

- Remove your name from commercial mailing lists: directmail.com/mail_preference;
- Stop delivery of unwanted catalogs, enter catalog name at catalogchoice.org;
- End pre-approved credit card & insurance offers: optoutprescreen.com;
- Take your name off phone-book mailing lists: yellowpagesoptout.com

KEYS

Unwanted keys can be recycled via a scrap metal dumpster at a municipal transfer station (see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide,) or brought to a local scrap metal dealer:

LATEX PAINT

(see “Paint & Paint-related Products”)

LIGHT BULBS

Light bulbs of all types should be kept out of recycling bins. Fluorescent bulbs, including “CFLs” should be kept out of trash.

■ Fluorescent bulbs, including compact fluorescent bulbs (“CFLs”) and the green tipped “low mercury” type contain mercury vapor and require special disposal. See “mercury & mercury-containing products” in this guide for more information. Handle carefully to avoid breakage.

■ LED light bulbs can go in the trash but contain valuable materials and may be recycled with CFLs, if a collection site accepts them (see “mercury & mercury-containing products”).

■ Incandescent light bulbs and halogen light bulbs are not recyclable. Wrap incandescent light bulbs in used paper or plastic before placing them in the trash.

LIGHT STRINGS

Holiday light strings are NOT accepted in municipal recycling programs because they get wrapped around sorting equipment at recycling facilities, causing hazards for workers. Light strings are often accepted at scrap metal dealers and in scrap metal dumpsters at transfer stations. Broken string lights can be mailed to Christmas Light Source (christmas-light-source.com) or Holiday LEDs (holidayleds.com) for a discount on a future order.

MARDI GRAS BEADS

Mail unwanted Mardi Gras beads and trinkets to the Arc of Greater New Orleans’ reuse program: ArcGNO, 925 Labarre Road, Metairie, LA 70001 (arcgno.org; 504-369-4033).

MATTRESSES & BOX SPRINGS

As of November 2022, mattresses and box springs may no longer go in trash or Bulky Waste. Mattress recycling is now mandatory in MA, except for mattresses that are contaminated. Some charities will accept mattresses & box springs in very good condition; call first. When you purchase a new mattress, ask the retailer to take back and recycle the old one. Some transfer stations in western MA accept mattresses for recycling; fees may apply. For local recycling information, search on your town’s website or call your town’s contact number in the Community Recycling Information table in this guide. If your municipality does not have a collection program, call a private junk hauler to pick up your mattress. For more information, visit mass.gov and search for “mattress.”

MEDICATIONS & PHARMACEUTICALS

Disposal of unwanted medication must be done carefully for several important reasons. Medications should NOT be poured down the drain or flushed down the toilet. Wastewater treatment plants & septic systems are not designed to remove pharmaceuticals from wastewater. Medications should not be thrown in the trash; see below for disposal options.

Help protect the environment and stop prescription drug misuse and abuse. Bring your unwanted, expired, or unused medications to one of the sites below for safe disposal.

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 in police station boxes: 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/addiction-recovery/pages/drug-drop-boxes.

National chain pharmacies host free drop boxes for prescription medications. Call your local store for availability or search a DEA listing of disposal sites at tinyurl.com/deadisp. For acceptable items, see signage on the drop boxes, call stores or visit pharmacy websites. Some stores that do not have drop boxes offer the DisposeRX program: disposerx.com

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Days are scheduled for every April and October. DEA's next National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is April 22, 2023 from 10 am to 2 pm. Find dates and locations for upcoming collections by visiting deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback

If you are truly 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 a container of 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 or bringing to a collection or drop box. **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 and other factors, empty pill bottles are not recyclable. Be creative with reuse! For example, some animal shelters collect washed, empty pill bottles to send medicines home with adoptees.

MERCURY & MERCURY-CONTAINING PRODUCTS

Mercury is highly toxic and 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, on the ground, or down a drain. Don’t vacuum even the smallest spill. Instructions for handling mercury exposure can be found at: mass.gov; enter “mercury” in the search bar or search the web for “broken CFL” or “mercury spill.” If a mercury spill does occur, follow the Mass-DEP’s guide on safely cleaning it up: mass.gov/guides/mass-dep-mercury-information. Call the Mass DEP Mercury Hotline if you have questions about mercury or managing it safely: 866-9MERCURY (866-963-7287).

For local disposal information for the following mercury items, see the Community Recycling Information table and the Western Mass Household Hazardous Waste Event pages in this guide.

■ Fluorescent light bulbs

All fluorescent light bulbs (even the low-mercury bulbs with green tips) contain mercury vapor; never put fluorescent light bulbs in trash or recycling. For local disposal information see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide. In addition:

- Businesses can see a list of vendors who can pick up larger quantities at recyclingworksma.com.
- Residents can refer to the MassDEP’s Mercury Disposal Map: tinyurl.com/MassMercuryMap
- For assistance with disposal outlets, dial the MassDEP Mercury Hotline at: (866) 9-MERCURY

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 and styles and can be encased by an outer glass bulb. CFLs are accepted at most municipal transfer stations (handle carefully and hand to attendant) and some Hazardous Waste Collections. For local disposal information see the Community Recycling Information table and the Household Hazardous Waste Event pages in this guide. Free recycling for CFL bulbs is offered at Home Depot and Lowe’s Stores. New England Disposal Technologies (Westfield, MA) accepts fluorescent bulbs year-round for various fees (nedt.org; 866-769-1621).

Larger fluorescent tubes are the types of bulbs that do not fit in standard screw-type sockets. These include long straight tubes, circular or U-shaped tubes, tanning bed lamps, High Intensity Dis-

charge (HIDs), & neon light tubing. Accepted at most municipal transfer stations and some Hazardous Waste Collections; see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide for local disposal information. Straight lamps and all others are accepted free of charge at Lowe’s Stores. Handle carefully to avoid breakage; do not tape bulbs together. New England Disposal Technologies (Westfield, MA) accepts fluorescent bulbs year-round for various fees (nedt.org; 866-769-1621).

■ Thermometers

Many older household thermometers (fever, candy, meat, deep fry, oven, temperature) contain liquid mercury. 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 Hazardous Waste Collections; see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide for local disposal information. Handle carefully and seal in a plastic bag. If the thermometer liquid and bulb is red, blue, purple or green, it is not a mercury thermometer and it 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 special municipal collection programs (see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide), mercury thermostats are accepted for free recycling by some plumbers and plumbing retail stores. For local drop-off locations, go to 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 in special programs at transfer stations or other sites that collect larger fluorescent tube-type bulbs. Electronic and other non-PCB ballasts are safe to go into trash or bulky waste, but are often not accepted in scrap metal recycling bins. See the Community Recycling Information table in this guide for local disposal information.

MICROWAVES

(see “Scrap Metal”)

MOTH BALLS

(see “Household Hazardous Waste”)

MOTOR OIL & FILTERS

(see “Automotive Products”)

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 65 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.

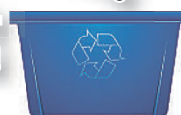


CLOTHING AND
TEXTILES CAN BE
DEPOSITED IN A
DONATION BOX.



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

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Hungry for Music (hungryformusic.org) accepts used musical instruments. They distribute instruments 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 medical “sharps”) as trash. Never put a container 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 mass.gov and type “needle disposal” in the search bar. Sharps containers are available for purchase at pharmacies, and they often include disposal options. 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: stericycle.com or 866-783-7422.

PACKAGING MATERIALS

(also see “Plastics”)

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

■ **Cardboard boxes** can be reused. Cardboard boxes should be recycled in municipal recycling programs; flatten if possible.

■ **Packing paper** is reusable as well as recyclable.

■ **Amazon’s paper mailer** that says “Recycle this mailer just like a box” is recyclable in municipal recycling programs.

■ **Plastic envelope mailers** (single layer or bubble wrap) used by online retailers such as Amazon are recyclable with plastic bags (see “plastics”) in grocery/retail store recycling programs only. Do not put plastic mailers, bags, films, or other “soft plastics” in household recycling.

■ **Plastic sealed air packaging and bubble wrap** are reusable and are accepted for reuse by some pack & ship stores. Deflated air pillows and bubble wrap can be recycled with plastic bags (see “plastics”) in grocery store recycling programs. Do not put in household recycling.

■ **Paper envelopes** with bubble wrap on the inside are not accepted in recycling programs. Reuse or put in the trash.

■ **Meal delivery kits use thermal box liners** (e.g. “Renewliner,” “QLiner,” “ClimateCell”) to keep food fresh. This packaging might claim recyclability, but it is not accepted in household recycling programs. Reuse, refuse (send back to

company), or put in the trash.

■ **Styrofoam™ blocks & shapes:** not accepted in recycling; see “Plastics”

■ **Foam peanuts:** not accepted in recycling; 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.

PAINT & PAINT-RELATED PRODUCTS

If your unwanted paint was purchased recently & it’s in good condition, consider donating it for reuse. Many school or 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).

■ **Petroleum** (oil-based) paints, stains, thinners, & varnishes are considered hazardous materials, requiring proper disposal. See the Community Recycling Information table and Household Hazardous Waste Event pages in this guide.

■ **New England Disposal Technologies** (Westfield, MA) accepts all types of paint year-round for modest fees (nedt.org; 866-769-1621).

■ **Latex paint & water-based stains** can be put in the trash 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

Recycled Crafts recycles pantyhose, nylon knee-highs, and tights into pet toys, rugs, placemats, and table runners. They accept clean hosiery in any condition, even those with rips and snags. Email recycledcrafts@live.com for donation information, or visit: savemyhosiery.yolasite.com. Hosiery is also accepted in textile recycling programs, see “Clothing & Textiles.”

PELLET STOVE FUEL BAGS

Plastic bags should never go into municipal recycling programs. Some retail and grocery stores will accept EMPTY pellet bags in their plastic bag recycling programs (call first). Pellet bags must be dry and completely EMPTY. Turn inside out, shake out, flatten and stack empty bags, roll up the stack and place the roll in an empty pellet bag. Ask your pellet supplier about bulk delivery (avoids bags), recycling programs, or bag 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 in plastic bag recycling programs at retail stores. Unfortunately, neither are paper feed bags because they are lined with plastic to keep moisture out of the feed. Terracycle offers a few pet food bag recycling programs, some of which have local drop-off sites; go to terracycle.com and type “pet food bags” in the search bar. The Bag Share Project, a local group, may accept certain types of feed bags for reuse, and provides instructions on how to make bags: 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 that are printed on regular paper are acceptable in recycling.

PIZZA BOXES

A 2020 study by West Rock (a major US corrugated cardboard manufacturer) found that grease on pizza boxes does NOT cause problems for recycled paper manufacturers, as previously thought. It is now OK to put the ENTIRE pizza box into recycling...but it MUST be empty (no crusts, food, foil, plastic, or waxed paper). Link to the study: tinyurl.com/pizzaboxes2020

PLASTICS

Many people assume that all plastic items are accepted in recycling, but recycling is demand-based; only those plastics that can be made cost-effectively into new products are on the “yes” list. *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 in the trash or, when available, to a separate special recycling program.* See the box “Keep These Plastics out of the Recycling Bin” for additional details.

Containers from food, beverages, 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**. Plastic bottle caps & plastic tub lids are recyclable, if attached to the container (not loose). Plastic items that are smaller than a credit card or

KEEP THESE PLASTICS OUT OF YOUR RECYCLING BIN!



Some plastic items cause mechanical problems at recycling facilities, cost too much to recycle, 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, to-go containers, etc.)
- Forks, spoons, knives & serving utensils
- Plastic items that are smaller than a credit card (e.g. loose caps, straws, condiment cups, Rx bottles)
- Plastic containers larger than 2.5 gallons in size
- Plastic plates and colored/opaque plastic cups (clear plastic cups are accepted in recycling unless labeled “Compostable”)
- Containers or cups labeled “biodegradable” or “compostable”
- Foam (aka Styrofoam™) items (cups, egg cartons, food containers/trays, & packing material)
- Tubes (e.g. toothpaste, cosmetics, hair products)
- Plastic containers which once held toxic substances (e.g. motor oil)
- Molded plastic packaging (the stiff type that requires a sharp object to open)
- Binders, folders & plastic-coated (usually shiny) paper
- CDs, DVDs and cases, video & audio tapes
- Plant pots & garden trays
- Six-pack rings (cut them up & then put in trash)
- Hoses, light strings, cords, leashes
- Plexiglass
- PVC products (pipes, siding, etc.)
- Manufactured plastic wood (decking material)

PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING IN GROCERY/RETAIL STORES ONLY:

Never place plastic bags of any type in your home recycling bin!

YES - DO RECYCLE in stores:

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

Including:

- ✓ Grocery bags, 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
- ✓ Plastic shipping envelopes
- ✓ Bubble wrap, air pillows, plastic (deflate air pillows)
- ✓ Case wrap from cases of water, canned pet food, soda, etc.
- ✓ Stretch wrap from furniture, electronics, etc.

NO - DO NOT RECYCLE in stores:

- ✗ NO bag with a recycling resin code other than #2 (HDPE) or #4 (LDPE)
- ✗ NO crinkly grape bags, Lego bags, apple bags (often marked #5)
- ✗ NO bags with receipts, coins, trash
- ✗ NO bags with food or moisture
- ✗ NO food or cling wrap (e.g. Saran)
- ✗ NO prepackaged food bags (frozen food or prewashed salad)
- ✗ NO pet food, animal feed, bird seed bags
- ✗ NO coffee bags
- ✗ NO chip bags, granola bar wrappers, candy wrappers
- ✗ NO bags with paint or glue
- ✗ NO compostable plastic bags
- ✗ NO Tyvek™ envelopes

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

For more about plastic bag recycling, and to see pictures of acceptable items, see: plasticfilmrecycling.org

Trex is the major buyer of plastic film; more resources at: nextrex.com

Clip and hang this sign over your plastic bag recycling collection at home, in the workplace, at school, or other locations.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

larger than 2.5 gallons are not acceptable because they cannot be sorted effectively. Bottle pumps should go in the trash. Please note that black plastics are not accepted because they can't be sorted with optical sorting technology.

Other items on the recycling "yes" list are clear plastic cups, clear plastic clamshells, and clear plastic egg cartons. Cups should ideally be rinsed before recycling; put lids and straws in the trash. If a clear cup is labeled compostable, do not put it in a recycling bin. Visit springfieldmrf.org for details and graphics about household container recycling.

Bags & wrap

(Do NOT place in household recycling bin)

Plastic bags, plastic films, and plastic wrap ("soft plastics") create safety hazards, machinery malfunctions, and environmental problems at recycling facilities. Some of these materials are accepted in retail and grocery store collection programs (e.g. Big Y, Stop & Shop, Target, Walmart, Lowe's, Staples). In general, clean and dry plastic bags and wraps are recyclable if they are: 1.) clear or translucent; 2.) moderately stretchy; 3.) marked #2 or #4; and 4.) empty and free of food residue. Two important exceptions are household food or "cling" wrap, which must be placed in the trash, and bags labeled "Compostable," which

can be placed in commercial or municipal composting or trash. See the accompanying table, "Plastic Bag Recycling" or visit plasticfilmrecycling.org for additional details.

Bulky, rigid plastic objects

(Do NOT place in household recycling bin)

Many rigid plastic 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).

Some communities offer specialized bulky rigid plastic (BRP) collection programs. Ask your community representative (see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide) about opportunities near you. BRP collections are *highly selective* and accept only clean, molded, rigid plastic pails, bins, crates, baskets, totes, barrels, wheeled trash totes (metal and wheels removed), and plastic lawn furniture.

Foam (Do NOT place in household recycling bin)

The recycling market for rigid foam material (aka Styrofoam™ or expanded polystyrene/EPS) is growing, but only certain blocky foams are accepted for special recycling programs. Rigid foam products may be divided into the general categories of shipping peanuts, blocky packing material, and food-related serve ware (cups, plates, trays):

■ Foam shipping peanuts: Foam peanuts are not recyclable, but they are highly reusable. Some

local retail shipping outlets accept clean & dry peanuts (call first; search for a store near you at theupsstore.com). Or offer them for local reuse via an online sharing group such as Freecycle.org or a "Buy Nothing" Facebook group.

■ Large, rigid foam blocks and sheets: Clean and dry pieces of foam packing materials and coolers are only recyclable through a separate collection. Some communities collect this foam at municipal transfer stations or at special collection events and transport it to a foam recycling facility. Gold Circuit E-Cycling in Agawam (413-328-3187, goldcircuit.io; recycleyourfoam.com) accepts various types of foam from the public for a fee.

■ Foam cups, plates, and trays: Even if they have a recycling symbol, food-related Styrofoam™ materials are not currently accepted at any recycling facilities. Place in trash.

PLASTIC POUCHES

Flexible plastic pouches that contained applesauce, fruit, kids drinks, yogurt, baby food, and health/beauty products, are NOT recyclable in municipal recycling programs. Terracycle has several different mail-in recycling programs for pouches and caps; go to: 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

Most propane tanks can be refilled; many businesses that sell propane will accept tanks for reuse under specific conditions. Do not put tanks in household recycling, trash, or scrap metal dumpsters. Tanks are recyclable in special, separate programs at transfer stations or recycling centers. Do not puncture. Close the valves on barbecue grill size tanks. Some recyclers also accept small camping type tanks. Local municipal recycling info is found in the Community Recycling Information table in this guide; find more options at earth911.com.

PYREX™, CERAMIC AND PORCELAIN PRODUCTS

Offer for reuse. Not accepted in recycling; dispose of in the trash (wrap up broken pieces). 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 local "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 and value of metal, state regulations prohibit throwing aluminum, steel, iron, lead, stainless steel, copper, brass, or

bronze scrap in the trash. Some metal items require special handling due to toxic or pressurized materials and should not be put directly into scrap metal dumpsters: this includes lead acid batteries, propane tanks, helium tanks, fluorescent light ballasts, air conditioners, refrigerators, and automotive parts. Many municipal transfer stations and recycling centers have scrap metal recycling dumpsters; see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide. Some scrap metal dealers will pay for metal items. 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, plastic parts should be removed.

SHOES

Shoes, along with other textiles, are now a banned waste item in MA trash (as of November 2022). Bring CLEAN & DRY textiles & shoes to drop-off boxes serviced by organizations such as the Salvation Army (easternusa.salvationarmy.org), Bay State Textiles (baystatetextiles.com/locations) & donation centers such as Goodwill Industries (goodwill.org). Many municipal transfer stations host textile drop boxes. DO include clean & dry shoes that are well worn or with missing mates.

In addition, several organizations, such as One World Running (oneworldrunning.com),



DOING
THE MOST
GOOD®

Did You Know?

Your donations of clothing, furniture and other household items help The Salvation Army fulfill our promise of *Doing the Most Good®* to help the most people suffering the greatest need. Funds created from **The Salvation Army's Stores, donation boxes and donation centers go directly to helping people.** Your donation is tax-deductible, and receipts will be available on-the-spot for your gift. **Your donation to The Salvation Army saves lives** in your community by making it possible for men & women who need the support of a rehabilitation program. Clothing drives and other collection options have helped The Salvation Army become one of the planet's **largest and oldest recyclers of used clothing and other goods.** In fact, last year, donations to The Salvation Army in the Northeast U.S. kept over **100 million pounds of clothing out of landfills, incinerators, dumps and our oceans.**

The Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center

327 Liberty St Springfield Ma, 01104

Learn more at SATRUCK.org or call (413) 785-1921.

specialize in shoe reuse. Rerun Shoes accepts used running shoes at a Pioneer Valley drop spot, and can coordinate shoe drive fundraisers; visit rerunshoes.com or call (508) 944-2518. DSW Warehouse shoe stores host Soles4souls donation boxes: soles4souls.org.

SHREDDED PAPER

Shredded paper is no longer accepted in household/municipal recycling programs. To have confidential documents shredded and recycled, bring them to area businesses (e.g. copy shops, office supply, and shipping stores). Local banks often sponsor free shredding events in the spring and fall. The material that is shredded in these programs is delivered directly to paper mills, which avoids the scattering and contamination that ensues at a household recycling facility. Otherwise, dispose of shredded paper as trash. Paper shreds that are free of plastic and receipts can go in municipal compost programs, where allowed.

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 ex-

ist. Google the manufacturer's name with "smoke detector recycling" for program and shipping details. Curie Environmental Services offers a fee-based, mail-in smoke alarm recycling program, see curieservices.com. Some communities allow smoke detectors to be thrown away in the bulky waste container at a recycling/transfer station, see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide.

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. Consider sharing via online groups (e.g. Freecycle.org or a "Buy Nothing" Facebook group).

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 accepted in household recycling. Terracycle runs mail-in recycling programs for oral care items (terracycle.com). Preserve® brand toothbrushes can be mailed for recycling (preserve.eco).

TROPHIES

Contact your local trophy shop to see if they can reuse your old trophies. A Wisconsin-based trophy organization offers a fee based, mail-in reuse program; go to awardsmall.com and search for "recycling." A Massachusetts company accepts metal sports or academic medals/medallions for recycling; see sportsmedalrecycling.com.

TYVEK™ ENVELOPES

Tyvek™ envelopes (large, white envelopes that won't rip, often from express shipments) are not accepted in municipal/household recycling, or in the plastic bag recycling programs at grocery and retail stores. Tyvek™ envelopes can be stuffed into a box labeled "Tyvek Recycling" and mailed

to: CFS Meridian Recycling, 337 A Industrial Drive, Petersburg, VA 23803. For more information: (804) 732 1907 ext. 7327.

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. Some 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 waste bans. Some communities collect yard waste seasonally for wood chip production or composting; for local contact information, see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide. 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 online for "yoga mat reuse," or offer via an online sharing group (e.g. Freecycle.org or a "Buy Nothing" Facebook group).

Looking for something that is not on this list? Here are local resources with more information:

Springfield MRF's "What's Recyclable" page: springfieldmrf.org/whats-recyclable-at-the-mrf

MassDEP's Recycle Smart Recyclopedia: recyclesmartma.org

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!

Mom have too much fabric (or yarn)?

Swanson's can help...we are the no-kill shelter for your fiber stash!



Visit SWANSONSFABRICS.com to learn more and to shop our store

Donations accepted Weds-Sun 11-5 at 320 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Find us @SwansonsFabrics on  and  Phone coming soon - check website!

Email: YourFriends@SwansonsFabrics.com



**SWANSON'S
FABRICS**



LIVE and COMPOST GREEN

What is compost?

Composting is the process of recycling food scraps into soil.

How does it work?

Collect certain leftover food scraps and combine them with brown material

Why is it important?

If food scraps are put into the trash, they contribute to climate change. Instead, compost them and make beautiful soil for your garden.



Step 1

Add Three Parts
Brown Material:

Leaves, straw, shredded paper, cardboard, newspaper, or sawdust.



Step 2

Add One Part
Green Material:

Fruit and vegetable peels and scraps, grass clippings, eggshells, coffee grounds, and weeds that do not have seeds.



Step 3

Mix & Aerate:

After adding every 12" of material, be sure to mix and aerate your compost while also adding some rich garden soil. This adds microbes and in a few months, it will turn into "black gold"!

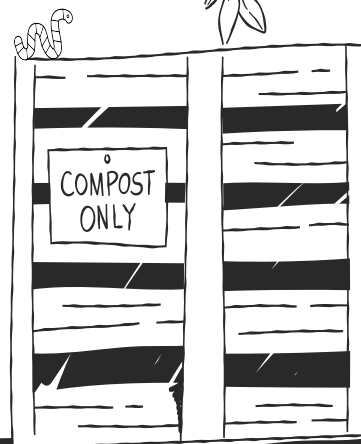


Using Your Compost

Use finished compost as mulch or mix into garden soil.

Avoid Composting These

Meat, Dairy, Bones,
Grease, Oil, and Weeds
with Seeds or Vines



Learn More About Composting Here: epa.gov/recycle/composting-home

The Truth About PLASTICS RECYCLING

You've probably seen the headlines or heard a story on the news. Plastic recycling is a "dead end" or even worse, a "dumpster fire." That only 5% of plastic gets recycled. You may be wondering if you're wasting your time, as these stories suggest, by sorting out your yogurt tubs, peanut butter jars and detergent bottles. We're here to set the record straight. Plastics recycling is alive and well in Massachusetts. News stories that say otherwise aren't telling the whole story and they don't reflect the reality of recycling in the Bay State.

Where Recycling Happens in Massachusetts

Massachusetts is home to nine Materials Recovery Facilities (MRFs) where more than 638,000 tons of plastic containers, paper, bottles and cans go for sorting every year.

Massachusetts' first MRF was built in Springfield in 1991 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Recently retrofitted to improve its sorting efficiency, the Springfield MRF (SMRF) uses near-infrared (NIR) technology to identify different plastic resin types and then sorts those resin types into



Inside Springfield MRF

distinct bales. In fiscal year 2022, the SMRF sent 1,752 tons of plastic bottles, jars, jugs and tubs to plastics recyclers, including Unifi and KW Plastics. Plastics recyclers pay MRFs for the sorted, baled plastic which they in turn wash, grind, and extrude into pellets called "post-consumer resin" (PCR). PCR is then sold to manufacturers that produce packaging, housewares, textiles, automotive, and agricultural products.

How Do We Know the MRFs Are Really Recycling?

Massachusetts regulations, called

waste bans, prohibit the disposal of glass, plastic, and metal containers and paper in landfills and incinerators. In other words, it's against the law for recyclables to be dumped in the trash. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) regulates the activities of MRFs, which are required to report annually, under penalty of perjury, the tons of material they recycled and upon request, where it was sent for recycling. When MassDEP inspectors visit MRFs, they look at the outbound commodities (paper, plastics, metal, glass) and they inspect the "residue" to ensure that it consists of things that are not recyclable. Setting the waste bans aside, ask yourself why a MRF would choose to send recyclable plastic to a landfill or incinerator at an average cost of \$100 per ton, instead of selling it for anywhere from \$180/ton (polypropylene tubs and lids) to \$1,500 ton (milk and water jugs) in today's markets. More than 90% of that plastic is reclaimed by North American recyclers according to the latest data for 2020.

Don't Believe the Naysayers

So where does the claim that "only 5% of plastics are being recycled" come from? It's a math thing. If all the plastic products produced in the U.S. – from car bumpers, medical devices and vinyl siding to appliances, playground equipment and polyester carpet (see image below) are lumped together and compared to the plastic containers and packaging collected from municipal and commercial recycling programs, you get a recycling rate of 5% (Greenpeace) or 8.5% (EPA).

This number is misleading because it gives the impression that all that durable stuff is designed and intended to be recycled. It isn't. The only plastics that are recyclable in our residential and commercial recycling programs are rigid plastic containers and packaging. News stories suggest that the plastic containers accepted by our local recycling programs are tossed in the trash. Quite the opposite, when we recycle the containers identified in the Smart Recycling Guide, we're part of a reverse supply chain that converts these materials into marketable com-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

www.GreeningGreenfieldMA.org

Sign up for our mailing lists!

Climate Action

Support affordable housing

Track hydro relicensing

Environmental Quality

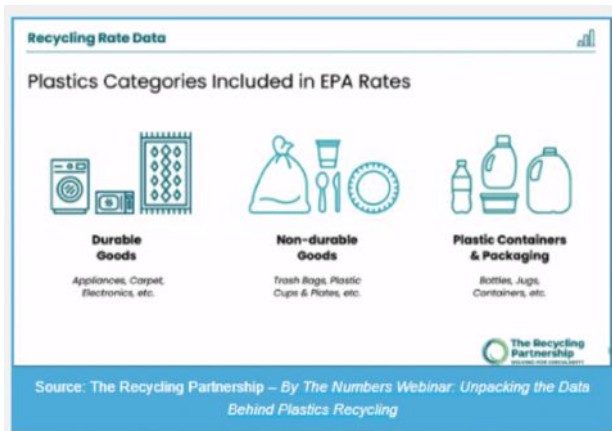
Economic Vitality

Social Equity



Reduce single-use plastic





CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

modities that become manufacturing feedstock for new products. And that's something to celebrate.

Where We Agree

We agree that our world has too much plastic in it. We need to produce and use less, especially the kind we can't recycle and for which there are better alternatives (like Styrofoam). We agree that a lot of perfectly good plastic bottles, jars, jugs and tubs end up in the household trash bin because not everyone with access to a recycling program participates in it. Then there are the more than 40 million U.S. households that don't have a recycling option at all. We agree that recycling rates need to improve. And we hope that negative recycling reports don't result in even less recycling. We agree that recycling is not a panacea for our waste problem, but it IS a valuable tool in the toolkit and should not be dismissed or disparaged. We agree that everything that CAN be recycled SHOULD be recycled.

So, What's Next?

It's time to redouble our recycling efforts and to tell our friends, neighbors, coworkers and family that recycling matters. The plastics recycling industry not only wants our plastic containers and has the capacity to recycle them, but experts say a shortage of recycled plastics will prevent major consumer brands from meeting their sustainable packaging goals and complying with new laws that require recycled plastic be used to manufacture specific items. At the same time, we need to support efforts to design packaging for recycling. Because there are still lots of plastic packages on our grocery store shelves that aren't recyclable. And that's got to change. The most powerful thing you can do is speak out. Email the company whose product you love, but whose package you can't recycle and ask them to change it. Now more than ever, consumer brands are listening to their customers' demands for sustainable products and packaging.

And Finally, Remember to Recycle Smart!

Don't let the headlines fool you. Recycling is a vital part of our state's economy. It also saves resources, energy and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

Use Recycle Smart MA's statewide Smart Recycling Guide and the Recyclopedia (recyclesmartma.org) to make sure you're putting the right stuff in your recycling bin or check the Springfield MRF's website (springfieldmrf.org).

Recycle Smart MA is an initiative of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Follow RecycleSmartMA on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and sign up for the newsletter for practical and insightful tips on how to reduce, reuse, repair, share, recycle and compost for a cleaner planet.

Brooke Nash is the Branch Chief for Municipal Waste Reduction at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection



WM is Your Recycling Partner

Every time you choose to recycle, you're giving that item a second life to serve a new purpose and save natural resources. Now more than ever, it's important that only the right items, free from contamination, make their way into your recycling bin.

Knowing these three basic rules and putting them into practice will help you recycle more efficiently. And it will help to ensure that everything that makes it into your bin finds a second life.

To learn more about Recycling services, visit wm.com or call (800) 972-4545. Services not available in all areas.



Recycle empty and dry bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.



Keep food and liquid out of your recycling.



No loose plastic bags and no bagged recyclables.

RECYCLE RIGHT

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To learn more, visit wm.com/recycleright



NE-415357



Waste Watchers

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

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

413-772-2438 • franklincountywastedistrict.org

info@franklincountywastedistrict.org

117 Main St., 2nd Floor, Greenfield, MA 01301

2023 Bulky Waste Collections: May 13 and October 21

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

The District is an equal opportunity service provider.

NE-414825

Good Recycling News FOR EARTH DAY!

Media coverage this winter condemned plastic recycling as a hoax. Impossible. Fraudulent.

Good news: Recycling is real! Recyclable plastics in your blue bin are being recycled. MassRecycle offers facility tours to the public, including tours of Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) where recycling is processed. Go to massrecycle.org/tours, sign up, and see recycling for yourself.

Recycled plastic is a commodity with value. Recently, big name brands have made commitments to using recycled plastic in their products. Recycled plastic bottles are made into new bottles, but they also are made into clothing, shoes, carpeting, and other durable goods that will last a decade or more. These items are being manufactured anyway; more recycled plastic means less new plastic production.

Less new plastic means less oil extraction. While we are talking about resources, keep in mind that recycling paper, cardboard, and metal saves forests and reduces min-



ing. For a deeper look at metal extraction, and other inside stories of the waste world, check out the MassRecycle Podcast. Recycling saves resources and reduces waste.

If you toss your recycling in with your trash, it gets landfilled or incinerated. Massachusetts has been making more trash than we can handle since the 1970's. We ship approxi-

mately ~2 million tons of trash to other states every year. We need to reduce our trash, and recycling is one way to cut down. MassRecycle also encourages everyone to use fewer disposable items and reuse whenever possible. Reuse, Reduce, and Recycle.

MassRecycle is working hard to spread the truth about recycling. We have invited news outlets into MRFs where recyclables are processed, and talked about the danger that "wishful recycling" can pose to the people who sort recyclables. Check out the recent Boston 25 News story *Common recycling mistakes can cause big problems*, and CBS News Boston's *What exactly goes into the recycling bin and what doesn't?*

To learn how to be a better recycler, go to MassDEP's website, recyclesmartma.org. While you are there, check out their Newsletter where you can read *All about Plastic* and *The Truth About Plastics Recycling*. You can also read the latter article, by Brooke Nash, in this guide.

We highly recommend it.

Finally, MassRecycle is working to address the source of non-recyclable plastics: this is where Extended Producer Responsibility legislation (EPR) comes in. EPR holds producers responsible for some of the cost of disposing their products, which incentivizes the production of recyclable products. MassRecycle has a dedicated committee devoted to advancing EPR: the Massachusetts Product Stewardship Council.

This Earth Day, resolve to find out more about EPR!

Keep recycling. Be informed. Learn more at MassRecycle.org.



Tours

Advocacy

Podcast

Webinars

Producer Responsibility

News from the Recycling World

Do you want to
know what's
really
happening with
recycling?



To learn more & get involved!
MassRecycle.org | @MassRecycle

RECYCLINGWORKS

Helps Businesses Recycle and Reduce Waste

RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts is a free recycling assistance program funded by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and delivered under contract by the Center for EcoTechnology that helps businesses and institutions reduce waste and maximize recycling, reuse, and food recovery opportunities. Waste reduction activities like recycling and composting can help decrease environmental impact, save money, improve employee morale, and respond to customer demands for sustainable practices.

RecyclingWorks experts are available to help businesses through a wide range of services.

RecyclingWorks can provide the tools to help you succeed. Whether you're looking to start a new program, recycle specific materials, find a service provider, or just explore waste reduction methods – RecyclingWorks can help you and your business become more sustainable!

RecyclingWorks services include:

- Direct technical assistance by phone, email, or virtually to help you

start a recycling or composting program.

- A searchable database to find local recycling haulers and processors in your area.

- Current information on the Massachusetts Waste Bans.

- Information about the most common recyclable and compostable materials.

- Compost Site Technical Assistance to composting facilities in Massachusetts that accept or plan to accept food materials.

- Information about the importance of reusing and buying recycled materials.

- Events and workshops for education and to connect with others in your community.

If you have any questions not answered on the RecyclingWorksma.com website, or need direct assistance for your recycling program, call the Recycling Hotline (888) 254-5525 or email info@RecyclingWorksMA.com – our waste experts are available to help you.



REMODELING?

Find reclaimed materials for all your projects at EcoBuilding Bargains, in-store and online!

ecobuildingbargains.org



EcoBuilding Bargains is an enterprise of the Center for EcoTechnology. Visit us at 83 Warwick Street in Springfield.



COMMUNITY RECYCLING INFORMATION

Hampshire County

Municipal Transfer Stations and other drop-off locations 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. For more information, call your town's contact number below. For definitions of abbreviations, see glossary below. For more information about materials listed below, see the “What Do I Do With...?” disposal listing in this guide.

LOOK!
NEW
RECYCLING
INFO!

	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	Textiles Recycling Box
Amherst	DPW	413-259-3050, x 0	Drop Off	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	✓				Hilltown School
Goshen	HRMC	413-685-5498	Drop Off	Wing Hill Rd	Sat 8:30-4:20	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Granby	Town Hall	413-467-7177	Curbside	DPW: 15 Crescent St.	Mon-Fri 7-3	curbside	call	call	DPW	bi-annual	annual	call	call	annual	DPW	DPW
Hadley	SWS	413-498-0099	Drop Off	20 North Branch Rd	Wed 1-6, Sat 7-4	✓	✓	✓	586-2390	✓	586-2390	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hatfield	DPW	413-247-5646	Drop Off	10 Straits Rd	Wed 12-5, Sat 7-3	✓	✓	✓	✓	DPW	call	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 9-1; Summer: Wed 4-8 & Sun 9-1	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northampton	DPW	413-587-1570	Drop Off	125 Locust St	Tues, Wed, Thurs, & Sat 7am-3:45pm	✓	✓		✓		annual	✓				✓
Northampton	DPW	413-587-1570	Drop Off	170 Glendale Rd	1st & 3rd Sat of month (yard waste 2nd & 4th Sat) call for hours		✓	✓		✓	annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pelham	Amherst TS	413-259-3049	Drop Off	740 Belchertown Rd. (Amherst TS)	Tues, Thurs, Sat 8-2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	call	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Plainfield	HRMC	413-685-5498	Drop Off	184 E. Main St (Route 116)	Sat 9-1, Sun 4-6 (Winter Sun 3-5)	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
South Hadley	DPW	413-538-5033	Both	10 Industrial Drive	Open by appointment only	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Southampton	DPW	413-527-3666, 413-529-2352	Drop Off	Moose Brook Rd	Wed & Sat 7-5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Call 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. See the Household Hazardous Waste page in this guide or 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, Home Depot and Lowe's Stores recycle CFLs for free.

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

DPW: Department of Public Works

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

HHW Collection: Many municipalities offer Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection events. For more information, see the Household Hazardous Waste page in this

guide or call the contact # listed above for more info.

HRMC: Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative - 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

Franklin County

LOOK!
NEW
RECYCLING
INFO!



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	Textiles Recycling Box
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	✓	✓	✓	✓
Buckland	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	Hodgen Rd. (aka Bailey 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, year-round; 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		TBA	curb-side	annual	TBA	call	TBA	annual	call	TBA	call	annual
Gill	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Curbside	One-day events only	Varies	✓	call	call	call	call	annual	call	call	call	call
Greenfield	DPW	413-772-1528	Both	Intersection of 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	✓	✓	✓	✓
Montague	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Both	11 Sandy Lane, off Turnpike Rd	Wed 7-1, Sat 7-2:30	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
New Salem	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	20 Blueberry Hill Rd.	Wed 3-6, Sat 8-4	✓	✓	✓	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.	Sat 12-5, year-round; Summer: Tues 10-7; Winter: Tues 10-4	✓	✓	call	call	call 625-0311	annual	✓	call	call	call
Shutesbury	Staff	413-259-1235 413-259-1214	Curbside	Bulky items at Leverett TS (LTS)	See Leverett hours above for bulky items	✓	LTS	LTS	call		annual	LTS	LTS	LTS	LTS
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, Summer: Wed 5-8	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Wendell	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	341 New Salem Rd.	Tues 12-5:50, 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

LOCAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) COLLECTIONS - 2023

Visit your municipality’s website below to learn important details about your local household hazardous waste event. Event locations are NOT listed below. Participation in a different municipality’s event may be possible, but arrangements must be made through your own community’s representative. If your town is not listed, call your town hall or the phone number for your town listed on the Community Recycling Information table in this guide.

Household Hazardous Waste events accept 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”). See the list of common items 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. Household hazardous waste containers that are completely empty may be put in the trash; do not recycle them.

Pre-registration is always required, and registration deadlines apply. Small businesses should contact their community’s representative for options.

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

DATE	PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES	CONTACT	PHONE	WEBSITE; PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE
5/6/23	South Hadley, Granby	Kevin Quesnel, South Hadley DPW	413-538-5030, x6500	southhadley.org/241/Solid-Waste-Division Pre-registration required; register now
9/9/23	Northampton	Bonnie Netto, Northampton DPW	413-587-1570	northamptonma.gov/1826/Hazardous-Waste Pre-registration required by 09/01/23
9/23/23	Amherst, Hadley, Pelham, Shutesbury	Steve Telega, Amherst DPW	413-259-3049	amherstma.gov/recycling Pre-registration required between 8/1/23 – 9/12/23
9/23/23	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	Jan Ameen, Franklin County Solid Waste District	413-772-2438	franklincountywastedistrict.org/p/24/ Pre-registration required between 08/16/23 and 09/15/23
10/21/23	Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington	Linda Cernik, Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative	413-685-5498	hrmc-ma.org Pre-registration required between 10/01/23 and 10/15/23
Ongoing	Greenfield, Leyden	Water Pollution Control or Transfer Station	413-772-1539; 413-772-1528	greenfield-ma.gov Call the numbers listed for information.

- New England Disposal Technologies (NEDT) in Westfield operates a year-round, fee-based collection center; accepts a wide range of hazardous waste plus latex paint: nedt.org.
- Auto parts stores accept used motor oil and vehicle batteries for free recycling, and some accept antifreeze and oil filters.

Common Household Hazardous Waste



FROM YOUR YARD

Flea powder
Fungicides
Herbicides
Insect sprays
Lighter fluid
Muriatic acid
No-Pest strips
Pesticides
Pool chemicals
Rodent killers
Root killers

FROM YOUR GARAGE

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

FROM YOUR WORKSHOP

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

FROM YOUR HOME

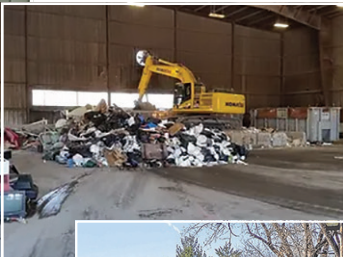
Arts & crafts supplies
Batteries: button, lithium, & rechargeable
Chemistry kits
Drain cleaners
Fluorescent light bulbs
Furniture polish
Mercury thermometers
Mercury thermostats
Metal polish
Mothballs
Oven cleaners
Spot remover
Toilet cleaners
Upholstery cleaner

*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 (with the lid off) in your household trash.

Still the easiest and most convenient place in the Valley to Recycle!



CONSTRUCTION & YARD WASTE



Local Recycling Company

HOUSEHOLD TRASH & RECYCLING

- **NO** cost for household recycling
- **\$2.50** per bag (up to 15 gal.)
- **NO** special bags required
- **NO** annual permit, **AND** everyone is welcome!



BULKY & ELECTRONIC ITEMS ACCEPTED

"Valley Blend" Mulch **\$20** per yard.

"Recycled Hardpack" for **\$9.75** per ton.

We Welcome Everyone to
VALLEY



RECYCLING & TRANSFER FACILITY

234 Easthampton Road (Rt. 10), Northampton • 413-587-4279
8am-4pm Monday - Friday, Saturday 8am-12pm • valley-recycling.us

Problem solved!

With a 2023-2024 Northampton Transfer Station permit,
you have many environmentally-friendly disposal 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



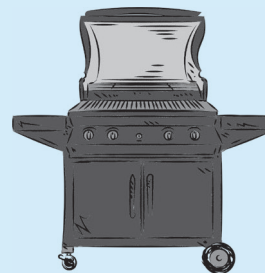
Household trash



Electronic waste recycling



Fluorescent light bulbs



Scrap metal recycling



Bulky waste

Purchase online at Northamptonma.gov/1830

Electronic checks & major credit cards accepted.

Means-based discounts are available.

Permits are valid July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024.

Questions? Call 413-587-1570.