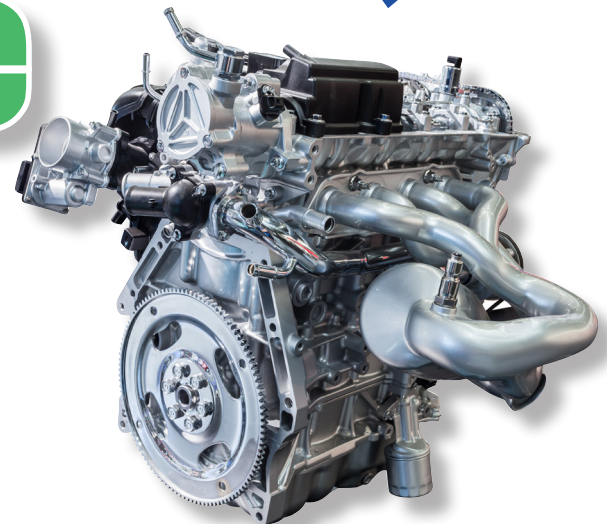


**DHG**  
SPECIAL  
SECTION



# Reduce Reuse Recycle

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



**Information valid through April 2022**

# Welcome to the 2021 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Guide

## Dear Residents and Business Owners,

What a year it has been! We hope that the 14th edition of this Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Guide finds you in good health and on the road to recovery. We also send special thanks to the western Massachusetts business owners that make production of this Guide possible through their advertising support. and we encourage you to support them in return during this difficult time.

Silver linings are not easy to identify during a global pandemic, but it turns out that staying home, shopping online, and eating lots of take-out pizza has been helpful for the U.S. recycling industry. Our featured articles this year are about the recovery of the recycling market after a difficult three years. On page 10, Brooke Nash, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's Waste Reduction Branch Chief, explains the role of cardboard boxes in that recovery, and on

page 3 you will learn about the bigger picture and the products your recyclables are being converted into.

Western Massachusetts recycling efforts have *never* gone to waste, but with the positive impact the recycling industry is having on the nations' economic recovery, our careful recycling efforts are more important than ever. Whether your household contributes its material in a single or dual stream, sending quality, desirable, recyclable material to processing facilities is helping to drive positive change.

Thank you for your recycling efforts. We can all be proud of our role in the current recycling surge...our careful recycling promotes a healthy recycling industry.

Arlene Miller  
Chair,  
Springfield MRF Advisory Board



As grateful as they are for video-conferencing technology, the writers and editors of this guide (City of Northampton Waste Reduction Coordinator Susan Waite and Franklin County Solid Waste Management District Program Director Amy Donovan) are hopeful that next year's guide will be produced under different circumstances.

## What's inside...

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## Acknowledgements

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In addition, **Brooke Nash** of MassDEP, **Peg Hall** of Greening Greenfield, The Hitchcock Center, and The Center for EcoTechnology contributed to the text, with special thanks to **Chris Lucarelle** and **Mike Moores** of WMRA, and the many representatives of the companies that purchase MRF materials.



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# Recycling's Rebound

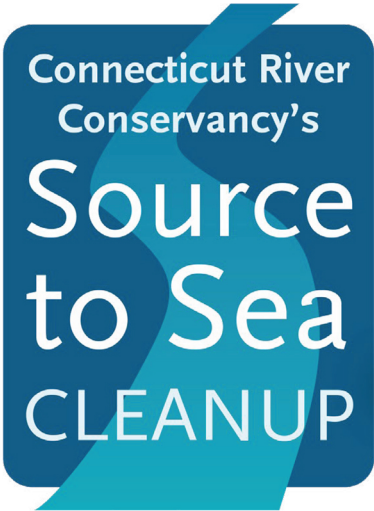
You've rinsed your bottles and washed your cat food cans, flattened the cardboard, and pulled out the plastic bag your spouse mistakenly put in the recycling bin. But what happens to this stuff? Does it really get recycled? And that recycling story on the news last night gave you a nightmare. We're with you. (It kept us up at night too.)

Over the past few years, recycling has been the topic of some in-depth press coverage. If you saw recent news stories from PBS News Hour, CBS or HBO's John Oliver, we have some more encouraging news for you. In this article, we'll explain what happened in the recycling industry, show how recycling's future is improving, and provide examples of what products western Massachusetts recyclable material is turned into.



Baled HDPE milk jugs ready to be recycled. Credit: KW Plastics

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



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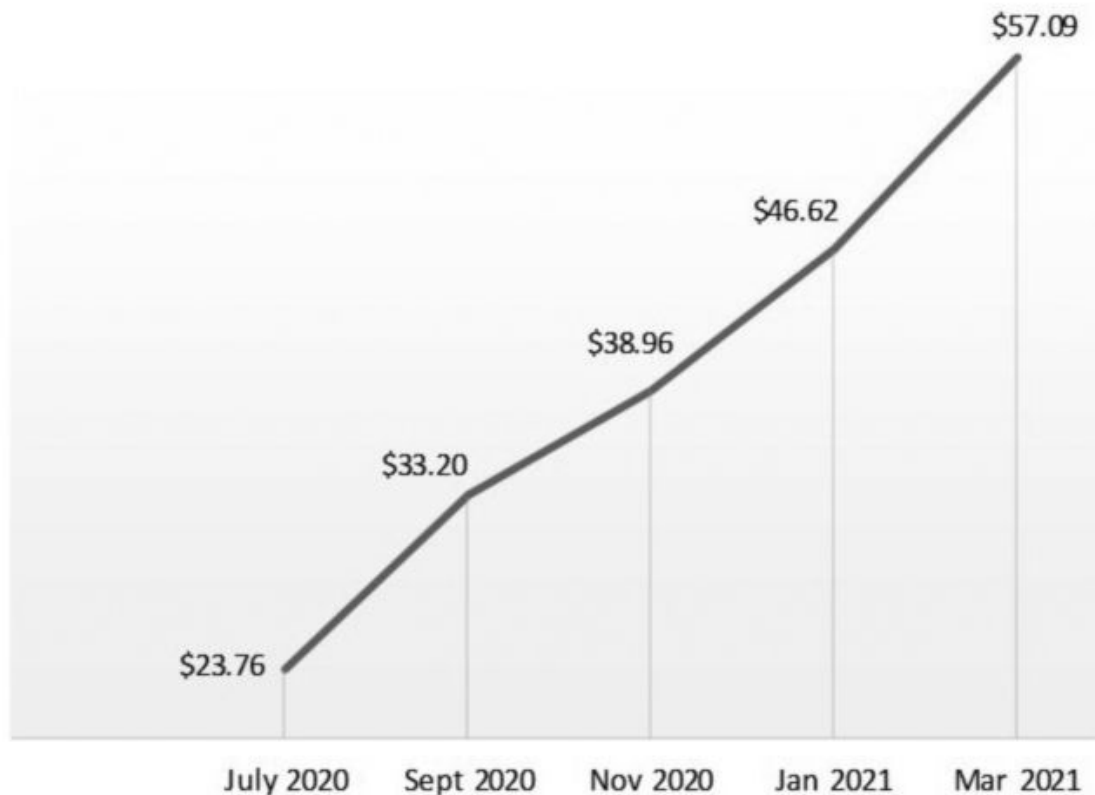
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## The Growing Value of Our Recyclable Material



### The U.S. recycling market is recovering!

When China stopped buying recyclable material from the U.S. in 2018, a market glut followed, and market values plummeted. The Springfield MRF (a regional processing facility) changed its fee structure. Municipalities are now charged a per-ton processing fee, which is reduced based on the average market price of the processed material. This graph highlights the increasing value of material from the Springfield MRF over time, from an average market value of \$23.74 per ton in July 2020, to \$57.09 per ton in March 2021—an increase of 140%.

### The recycling market crash of 2018

For many years, US recycling brokers sold bales of poorly sorted recyclable material to feed China's manufacturing demands. Inexpensive shipping and labor made China an easy outlet for trash-laden bales of recyclables from US recycling programs. In January 2018, China's "National Sword" policy closed its ports to over 7 million annual tons of imported recyclables.

When China stopped buying, bales of recyclables piled up and overwhelmed US recycling facilities, and the value of recyclables plummeted.

When the supply became so much greater than the demand, the price manufacturers were willing to pay for recyclables hit rock bottom. The price drop impacted recycling programs all over the world, even those that did not routinely send materials to China. For example, our local Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) experienced significant revenue losses.

### Western Mass holds its own

The cornerstone of the Western Massachusetts Regional Recycling Program is the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF, pronounced

"Murph"). The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) owns the facility, an Advisory Board reviews operations and provides public education, and facility management is contracted to Waste Management Recycle America (WMRA). Currently, 65 western Massachusetts municipalities are under contract with the Springfield MRF. Ten additional communities remain under the MRF's educational umbrella.

The Springfield MRF Advisory Board has always encouraged WMRA to sell recyclable material from western Mass to recyclers in the US, and WMRA has delivered by selling much of the Springfield MRF's materials to

secondary recycling facilities in the Northeast and East Coast. That tradition continues; you'll find examples of current domestic buyers below.

In 2019, Waste Management, Casella Waste Systems, and other recycling companies partnered with Greenpeace to pledge that they will no longer export any plastic waste outside of North America (<https://bit.ly/39dyLfT>). Casella Waste Systems processes recyclables from the City of Springfield.

### US recycling mills expanding

The American recycling industry learned some lessons from China's National Sword policy. One realization was that the US needed to build up its ability to process its own recyclable material instead of relying so heavily on other countries. Now that China is no longer a processing option, US investors, recyclers, and manufacturers have moved forward with new or expanded domestic recycling facilities.

For example, in January 2021 the Northeast Recycling Coalition (NERC) released a comprehensive report (<https://bit.ly/3wcN8uM>) that details the 28 new or expanded paper mills that are in the planning or opening stages across the US.

### Demand is steadily increasing

Pricing for recyclables is affected by supply and demand. As the COVID-19 pandemic created an increased demand for manufacturing feedstocks, the value of baled recyclables has steadily increased. New or expanded US recycling mills are making use of recyclable materials to manufacture cardboard shipping boxes, hand sanitizer bottles, and yes, even toilet paper.

The current average market value (AMV) of one ton of recyclables at the Springfield MRF is rising rapidly. See "The Growing Value" graph above to see how the material collected by MRF communities has grown in value over the last eight months." The Springfield MRF is experiencing a dramatic leap in the value of recyclables and the upward trend is likely to continue.

### Recycling education's role in recovery

Another lesson the US learned from National Sword is that we need to clean up our recycling programs. The best way to do that is to educate the public about what can - and cannot - be recycled.

A dramatic increase in recycling ed-



ucation has occurred across the country.

Here in Massachusetts, MassDEP launched its Recycle Smart website (<https://recyclesmartma.org>) in 2018, along with a searchable recycling guide called the “Recyclopedi,” which reveals whether an item should be placed in your recycling bin.

The Springfield MRF’s Advisory Board also offers educational materials on its website ([springfieldmrf.org](http://springfieldmrf.org), click on “What’s Recyclable at the MRF”). See Recycling’s Most Unwanted” on page 24 to learn about items that cause equipment jams, are not recyclable, or are unwanted by manufacturers, and look for the “Recycling in Western Mass” graphic on page 6 to learn which items are desired by manufacturers.

### Triggering industry change

Let’s not forget the most urgent message of PBS News Hour’s “The Plastic Problem.” According to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), 150 billion tons of single use plastics are manufactured worldwide each year. Many single use plastic products are not designed to be recycled. For example, multi-layer “stand



A Waste Management recycling worker cuts plastic bags and other “tangles” from sorting equipment. Credit: Waste Management Recycle America.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



**Copper**

**Scrap Wire**

**Junk Cars**

**Appliances**

**Steel**

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up” pouches used for products like nuts, snacks and baby food are not accepted in municipal recycling programs or plastic bag recycling programs in retail stores because the layers in these pouches cannot be effectively separated for recycling.

Recycling alone is not a cure-all for our disposable society. When performed as mindfully as we have done it in western Mass, it is an effective solution to reduce trash going to landfills and incinerators, and to replace virgin materials in manufacturing. But as PBS notes “Plastic pollution is now considered one of the largest environmental threats facing humans and animals globally.” How can countries, corporations, and citizens reduce plastic use?

A growing number of municipalities and environmental groups are calling for the US to join Canada, the European Union, and most other developed countries in requiring producers of products and their packaging to take more responsibility for the materials they create. Called “Extended Producer Responsibility or “EPR”, this form of Product Stewardship requires companies to include the costs of recycling

or disposal in the cost of the product, and to design more environmentally friendly products and packaging.

EPR packaging legislation has been proposed this year on the federal level (Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act) and in the state of Massachusetts (HD1553/SD1123, An Act to save recycling costs in the Commonwealth). For more information, visit [www.productstewardship.us](http://www.productstewardship.us), and <https://bit.ly/3rClzr9>.

## Disposal of recyclables is not an option

Massachusetts waste ban regulations prohibit the disposal of recyclable paper and glass, metal, and plastic containers. Municipalities and haulers cannot simply choose to send loads of recyclables for disposal in landfills or incinerators. The Mass DEP initiated these regulations decades ago because disposing of recyclables as trash is costly and lacks environmental benefits. Recycling saves energy, water, air quality, natural resources. Manufacturing products using recyclable material often emits fewer greenhouse gases than

manufacturing products from virgin materials.

Diverting recyclable (and compostable) materials from the trash also conserves our limited landfill space. The few remaining landfills in the state are expected to fill up and permanently close within a few years. Most of the waste-to-energy incinerators in Massachusetts are already operating at capacity, and sending trash to distant states raises costs and increases carbon emissions.

## What are our recyclables turned into?

At materials recycling facilities, recyclables are sorted by type, baled, and sold to secondary processors, or “end markets.” Where does material processed at the Springfield MRF end up?

### Cardboard and Paper

The global pandemic highlighted the key role that recycling plays in supplying raw materials for manufactur-

ing. 2020 was a record year for cardboard box makers as they were challenged to 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 growing demand.

Rand Whitney Containerboard in Montville, Connecticut buys paper fiber 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). Rand Whitney has invested in making the production process as clean and efficient as possible and uses 100% post-consumer wastewater, instead of fresh water from local water supplies.

### Aluminum

The Springfield MRF sells bales of aluminum beverage cans, aluminum take out containers and pie plates, aluminum foil, and cat food cans to Gottlieb, Inc. in Pittsburgh, PA. Current pricing for aluminum averages \$1,220

# 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 and phonebooks, construction paper, gift wrap, gift bags, cards and gift tissue paper (no metallic inks, foil, wire, glitter)

**Aluminum** cans, foil, pie pans

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

**Cartons** milk, juice, soup, soymilk and drink boxes

**Glass** food, beverage bottles and jars

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

**No**

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

\*For a complete YES & NO list of what can be recycled, visit [www.springfieldmrf.org](http://www.springfieldmrf.org)



per ton.

Matt Yount from Gottlieb explains “We have designed, built and implemented a unique MRF aluminum processing and melting operation in which we separate non-metallics from clean aluminum units. We melt the aluminum to make a necessary additive for the steel making process, which is sold to the steel industry. The non-metallics that we separate are sold back into the market.”

### Steel/Tin

Cans used for soup or dog food are often called “tin cans,” but they are really made of steel. These cans are valuable, easily sorted with magnets, and highly recyclable. The value of steel cans is surging, from \$80 per ton in February to \$230 per ton in March. In 2018, the price was \$200 per ton.

Steel cans from the Springfield MRF are sold to Triple M Metal, which operates 27 facilities across North America. Steel mills depend on a steady supply of inexpensive recycled scrap steel to blend with costly and energy intensive raw materials such as iron ore and coal. The final steel product is a flat rolled steel coil, which is purchased by manufacturers to make products for the automotive, appliance and construction industries. In other



words, your old soup cans probably end up in the engine or chassis of a new car!

### Cartons

This category includes “gable top” cartons for milk and orange juice, Tetra-Pak and other “aseptic packaging” for almond milk, soup, and juice boxes). At the Springfield MRF, “paper” cartons can be easily sorted from bottles, cans, and containers. If cartons go in paper recycling, they can harm the paper making process.

New end markets are emerging for cartons. Kelly Green Products in Waterbury, Connecticut is opening in a few weeks. This new facility will use heat and pressure to make 100% recycled roofing for flat roofs, which can replace gypsum. In other applications, the high quality paper fiber in cartons is recycled into paper towels, tissue and toilet paper.

### Glass

At the Springfield MRF, glass is sorted and crushed into “cullet.” About 40% of the MRF’s glass is recycled at Strategic Materials in South Windsor, Connecticut. The rest is sent to Carry All Products in Pennsylvania, where the ground glass is used as “Alterna-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

# Save our Mother with Greening Greenfield



*Reduce single-use plastics.*



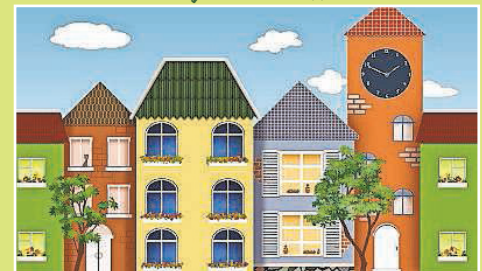
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Personal care bottles made of 25-100% post-consumer HDPE natural plastic.  
Credit: KW Plastics

tive Daily Cover” in landfills. This is not the same as throwing glass bottles and jars in the trash; glass is banned from the trash in Massachusetts. The crushed glass replaces valuable soil in covering “cells” of material in landfills, which is a daily requirement.

Over the past several years, local recycling outlets for glass had suffered a decline, but new initiatives and domestic outlets are on the horizon. New opportunities include using glass in fiberglass insulation, drainage and road projects.

## Plastic

Please note: below we have identified plastic types by the number (#) inside the chasing arrows symbol. This symbol is only intended as a resin identification code on plastic products; it is not a guarantee of recyclability.

When considering if a plastic item is recyclable or not, don’t rely on the number on the bottom of the container; recycle plastics by their shape. Recycling programs in Massachusetts accept plastic bottles, jars, jugs, tubs, clear clamshells, and clear plastic cups from beverages food, and non-toxic household and personal care products (detergents, cleaners, hand sanitizer, shampoo, etc.) For more information on what is and is not accepted in local recycling programs, see “Recycling in Western Mass,” and the “What Do I Do With...?” disposal guide in this publication.

## #1 Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) Plastic

The Springfield MRF is currently selling sorted and baled PET to Unifi Recycling in Reidsville, North Carolina. At one of the most advanced recycling facilities in the US, plastic bottles are sorted, washed, and chopped into plastic “flake.” The clean flake is spun into fibers that are used in the manufacture of automotive furnishings, home furnishings, performance apparel, North Face jackets, Patagonia backpacks, and more.

## #2 High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Plastic

As of March 18, pricing for “Natural” HDPE plastic (opaque milk and water jugs) is at an all-time high at 77 cents per pound, or \$1,540 per ton! This is almost three times the revenue that this material fetched back in 2016.

The MRF sells HDPE Natural to KW Plastics in Troy, Alabama, a major supplier of postconsumer plastic resin used in packaging for major national brands. The current high demand for HDPE Natural is primarily due to the pandemic; laundry detergents, household cleaners, sanitizing wipes, shampoo and body wash are some of the products that use KW’s resin. As the pandemic wanes, the demand is expected to continue, so KW Plastics has expanded capacity through equipment investments and additional staff.

End markets for colored HDPE

plastics (such as laundry detergent bottles) include recycling bins and crates; park benches and Adirondack chairs; and bottles for automotive products, cleaning products, laundry products, and hair care products. The value of color HDPE is rising and is currently valued at 24 cents per pound, up from 19 cents in February. The current pricing is higher than it was back in 2016.

## #5 Polypropylene (PP) Plastic

Polypropylene (PP) is swiftly becoming a hot commodity. Demand for this plastic used in yogurt cups, food storage containers and food packaging is rising and the price for a ton of baled PP is up to \$220/ton. KW Plastics of Alabama is a major purchaser of this material for their 100% recycled content paint cans.

**Exciting news!** This Spring the Springfield MRF is undergoing a major equipment upgrade; a \$1.4 million sorting system with optical sorting capabilities. Chris Lucarelle of Waste Management Recycle America explains: “With more types of containers in the (plastics) stream, growing domestic infrastructure, demand for plastic grades, and diminished interest in mixed plastic grades; we feel the timing couldn’t be better to upgrade the facility.”

This equipment upgrade will allow for a new, separate revenue stream of PP, as well as improved sorting of PET plastics, HDPE containers, and cartons.

## Other plastics

We’ve covered #1, 2, 5 plastics...what about the other resins? There are very few containers made with plastic resins #3 (PVC) or #4 (LDPE, used for plastic bags). #6 plastic, or polystyrene (PS), a category that includes colored solo cups and expanded polystyrene (commonly referred to as “Styrofoam”), is not accepted at most recycling facilities because it cannot economically be reused by manufacturers. That leaves #7 plastics, which make up a tiny percentage of the total recyclables received by a MRF. If clear “plastic” cups or containers are labeled #7, they are likely made of compostable corn-based polylactic acid (PLA) and only intended for commercial or municipal composting.

Due to the MRF Advisory Board’s educational efforts and municipal oversight of recycling programs, the Springfield MRF only has to dispose of about 5% of what comes into the facility. With the new more precise sorting equipment, that figure might rise to 6.5%, but it is still well below the national average.

When we carefully recycle material that is desired by manufacturers, it is purchased by secondary processors and made into a wide variety of new products for our homes, offices, vehicles, and more. That is a source of great pride for Springfield MRF employees, Advisory Board members, and the Pioneer Valley communities that participate in our program.



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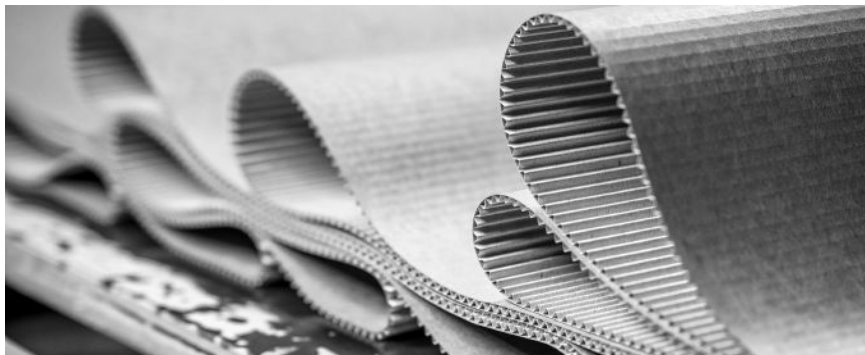
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# No Matter How You Slice It



Cardboard boxes, commonly referred to as "corrugated boxes" in industry speak, feature the characteristic wave shaped structure called flutes that provide strength and allow the boxes to easily stack and protect the contents inside.

**By Brooke Nash**  
Massachusetts Department of  
Environmental Protection

The recycling facility called... they want your pizza box. Ok, maybe you haven't received the call personally, but the U.S. box manufacturing industry wants Americans to know that their pizza boxes are a valuable feedstock for their factories. According to the Fiber Box Association there are approximately 3 billion (yes BILLION) pizza boxes used in the U.S. each year, which represents about 600,000 tons of badly needed cardboard boxes that should be recycled, not wasted.

Actually, the paper industry's appeal for your old pizza boxes is part of a larger need for more recycled paper and cardboard to feed the nation's paper and box-making industry as a whole. What's causing this increased need? COVID-19.

## COVID 19: The Great Disruptor

Like most of what we knew pre-COVID, the recycling industry has been disrupted by the pandemic. The pandemic created a big spike in demand for paper used to make consumer packaging for food, cleaning supplies, medical equipment, and the cardboard boxes to ship those items to homes and hospitals across the country. Panic buying of everything from canned goods and beverages to toilet paper and personal protective equipment put additional pressure on the

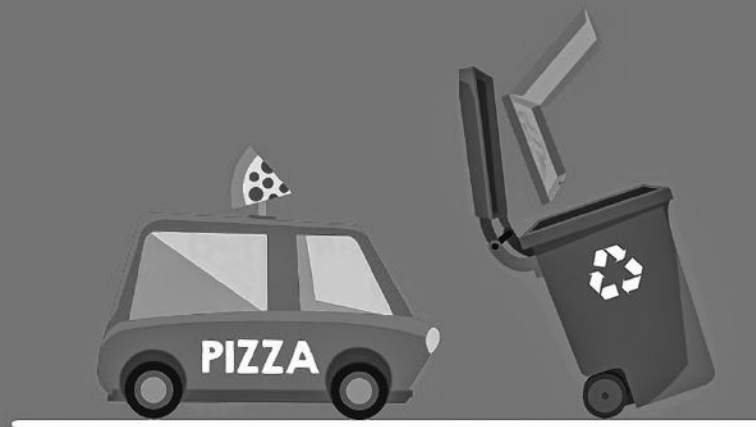
manufacturing sector. At the same time, a huge source of recycled boxes and paper practically disappeared overnight when restaurants, hotels, colleges and universities, malls and other retail shut down last spring.

In normal times, just under 50% of the nation's trash and recyclables comes from households and the rest comes from the commercial sector (businesses, institutions, manufacturing). When our homes suddenly became our offices, our schools, and where we eat all our meals, our recycling and trash bins bulged with packaging and other materials generated by a deluge of home deliveries of food, household goods, and cleaning supplies. Industry analysts describe the growth in online purchasing or "e-commerce" brought on by the pandemic as "a massive shift in consumer behavior; the type that traditionally takes decades to achieve". Predictions are that this shift will endure, even as we begin to emerge from the pandemic. A recent Forbes Magazine Industry Council post predicts "consumer behavior will never return to what it was pre-pandemic, but rather (will) take form under a new normal driven by convenience, flexibility and personalization — all of which can be accomplished through e-commerce".

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## Your Empty Pizza Boxes Can Become New Boxes



## IMPORTANT TIPS FOR CARDBOARD RECYCLING

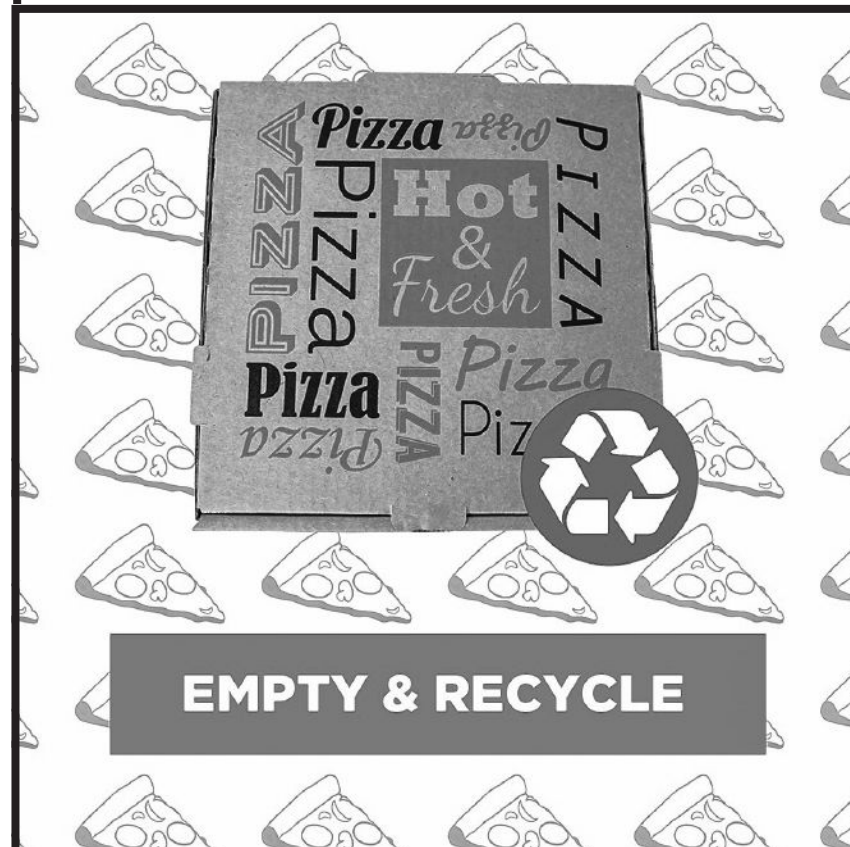
Remove all plastic packaging including:

- air pillows
- Styrofoam
- Packing peanuts

- Flatten boxes
- Tape is ok to leave on



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markets in the wake of China's National Sword policy, which upended the decades-long export of 40% of our paper and plastic, COVID's impact on the U.S. recycling industry has been compounded. That's one of the reasons recycling was deemed an "essential service" early on in the pandemic. A national recycling industry official explained that "instead of thinking about recycling as something that just happens in kitchens and garages, recycling is really the first step in the manufacturing process that we rely on for our grocery and health care items, among other things". Another industry official put it this way. "Recycling is not just beneficial, it's absolutely necessary, and despite the destructive nature of COVID-19, the pandemic can provide the impetus to build a brighter and better future for recycled products".

With five U.S. paper mills, Pratt Recycling makes 100% recycled cardboard boxes out of mixed paper (household mail, cereal boxes, newspapers, magazines) and cardboard that is collected in recycling programs across the nation. Pratt's president explained "we're essential because we need boxes to pack all the supplies that have to get to people... sanitary supplies like toilet paper and paper towels, food products and medical supplies all arrive to their destination in boxes". A



Moving box made at the West Rock Corrugated Packaging facility in Devens, MA

Grief Recycling executive put a finer point on it: "Critical products and tools needed to help those with COVID-19 and prevent its spread in the workplace and at home, would not be readily available without recycled fiber to help produce the packaging required".

### Our Essential Job: Recycling

The humble cardboard box is the backbone of our nation's packaging and delivery system that moves goods



Inside Pratt Industries' new (2019) recycled paper mill and corrugating facility in Wapakoneta, Ohio where cardboard boxes are made with 100% recycled content.

to businesses, hospitals, and more than ever, to our homes. The nation's box manufacturing industry has long depended on a steady supply of "recovered fiber" (aka old cardboard boxes and paper) to make new boxes. Under COVID-19, U.S. box making factories are literally working overtime to make new boxes from old ones. That's why we need to work harder to recycle our boxes and paper to ensure they get the raw materials they depend on. So, the next time you wonder if recycling really matters, you know the answer. The

boxes and paper packaging you put in your curbside recycling bin or take to the transfer station are literally creating the boxes for your next home delivery of pet food, cleaning supplies or groceries. Thank you for continuing to do the essential work of recycling, every single day.

*Brooke Nash is the Branch Chief for the Municipal Waste Reduction Program at MassDEP where she leads the Recycle Smart MA recycling education initiative.*

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\*Gasoline  
Kerosene  
Oil-based paint  
Solvents  
Paint thinner

#### IN YOUR HOME

Oven cleaner  
Furniture polish  
Metal polish  
Moth balls  
Arts & crafts supplies  
Upholstery cleaner  
Photo chemicals  
\*Ni-Cd batteries  
Spot remover  
\*Fluorescent light bulbs

#### IN YOUR WORKSHOP

Rust inhibitors  
Wood preservatives  
Wood strippers  
Wood stains  
Paint thinner  
Lead paint  
Oil-based paint  
Solvents  
Degreasers  
Sealants

\*These items may be accepted at the Locust St. Transfer Station. Call for details.

**To preregister, visit [Northamptonma.gov/1826](http://Northamptonma.gov/1826).**

Questions? Call 413-587-1570 ext. 4306.

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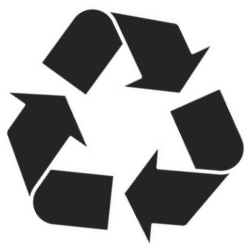
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# What Do I Do With...?

## An A to Z disposal guide

☠ = Items that are hazardous or require special handling.

### AEROSOL CANS ☠

As of July 1, 2020, aerosol cans of all types are not accepted in western Mass municipal recycling programs. Check with your local transfer station or recycle center to determine if EMPTY aerosols (press the trigger until no “hissing” sound can be heard) are accepted in scrap metal recycling. Aerosol cans with hazardous material in them should be brought to a household hazardous waste collection (see page 30). For additional information, visit: [www.mass.gov/info-details/safely-manage-hazardous-household-products](http://www.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).

### ALUMINUM SIDING (see “Scrap Metal”)

### AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES

Call your Police Department for proper disposal instructions.

### ANTIFREEZE ☠ (see “Automotive Products”)

### APPLIANCES (see “Scrap Metal”)

### ARTS, CRAFTS & HOBBY ITEMS ☠

Some paints, solvents and related materials are hazardous and should be brought to a hazardous waste collection. Always check the label before tossing in the trash. See page 30 for information on local hazardous waste collections. Visit [www.crazy-crayons.com](http://www.crazy-crayons.com) for information about crayon recycling. Terracycle offers several different mail-n programs for art supplies, markers, and pens: [www.terracycle.com](http://www.terracycle.com). Crayola ColorCycle, which accepts all brands of plastic markers, highlighters and dry erase markers, is paused for the duration of the pandemic ([www.crayola.com/colorcycle](http://www.crayola.com/colorcycle)).

### 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](mailto:david.slowick@mass.gov), 413-755-2246. To find licensed asbestos contractors, go to [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) and type “Currently Licensed Asbestos Contractors” into the search bar.

### ATHLETIC SHOES (see “Shoes”)

### AUTOMOBILES (see “Vehicles”)

### AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS ☠

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

#### ■ Motor oil

Even a small amount of improperly disposed of motor oil will contaminate water & soil. In MA, retailers are required by law to accept up to two gallons of used oil at no charge with an original sales receipt. Many auto supply stores, auto repair shops & gas sta-

tions will accept used oil even if you didn't buy it from them. Many towns accept motor oil at transfer stations or hazardous waste collections. See pages 28 and 29 for local disposal information, or see page 30 for hazardous waste collections. Or call the Mass-DEP Used Oil Hotline at 617-556-1022.

#### ■ Motor oil filters

Some auto supply stores (e.g. Auto-Zone) or auto repair shops will recycle oil filters for free. Some towns accept motor oil filters at transfer stations. See pages 28 and 29 for local disposal information. Oil filters may be thrown away or recycled as scrap metal only when the oil has been completely drained (while filter is still warm, puncture the dome top & drain into a collection container. See above for oil disposal).

#### ■ Empty motor oil bottles

Empty motor oil containers are not recyclable; drain thoroughly so there are no drips, put the cap back on, and throw away in the trash.

#### ■ Antifreeze

Antifreeze is not only hazardous; its deceiving color & sweet taste may attract children, pets & wild animals.

Empty antifreeze bottles should be thrown away (do not recycle). Consider having your vehicle's radiator flushed at a service station to avoid the responsibility associated with proper storage & disposal. Antifreeze can be brought to a household hazardous waste collection (see page 30).

#### ■ Brake fluid

Brake fluid is hazardous and must be brought to a household hazardous waste collection (see page 30). Empty bottles from this material should be thrown away (do not recycle).

### BABY FOOD POUCHES (see “Plastic Pouches”)

### BAGS (see “Plastics”)

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

### BATTERIES

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

ALL other battery varieties contain hazardous materials and require special disposal. Never put these batteries in recycle or trash bins. Many communities have convenient drop-off options; see pages 28 and 29 for local disposal information or search online with your zip code at [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com). In addition:

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

■ Lead acid batteries (found in vehicles, boats, motorcycles, kids' ride-on toys, lawn mowers) will be accepted by the retailer from whom you buy a new one (they are required to take one back



# 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](http://SPRINGFIELDMRF.ORG)**

Paid for by the Springfield MRF Advisory Board



at no charge). Scrap metal recyclers typically pay for lead acid batteries. Many transfer stations accept them.

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

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

## BEER AND SODA PACKAGING

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

## BICYCLES

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

## BOATS

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

## BOOKS

Books in good condition may be sold at used bookstores, donated to little free libraries, public libraries, or a book exchange, or dropped off at your

local recycling/transfer station’s swap shop (may be closed due to pandemic) or book donation box. Reader to Reader, an Amherst-based non-profit, provides library-quality books to U.S. schools and public libraries ([www.readertoreader.org](http://www.readertoreader.org)). Roundabout Books (Greenfield) accepts books in any condition; donations are sorted for local and mail-order sale and all types of unsalable books (including hardcovers) are recycled at a local paper mill. Also accepted: CDs, DVDs, and vinyl records in working condition ([www.roundaboutbookstore.com](http://www.roundaboutbookstore.com); 413-773-0820).

Paperback books & phonebooks unsuitable for reuse CAN be recycled in municipal recycling programs. However, the covers and spines from hardcover books are NOT recyclable; rip the pages out and recycle those; place the spine and covers in the trash.

## BOTTLE CAPS & LIDS

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

## BOXES

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

■ 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. If your community delivers recyclables to the Springfield MRF, 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). Check with your community for their latest guidelines. Link to the study: <https://tinyurl.com/pizza-boxes2020>

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

## BUBBLE WRAP & INFLATED PLASTIC PACKAGING (AIR PILLOWS)

(see “Plastics”)

## BUILDING & REMODELING MATERIALS

Construction & demolition (“C&D”) waste includes asphalt, asphalt shingles, bricks, cement, cinder blocks, clapboard, concrete, doors, flooring, insulation, lumber, mortar, plaster, plywood, roofing, sheetrock, tiles, windows & wood. Fee-based disposal options are available at most recycling/transfer stations; call your community representative (see pages 28 and 29) for more information. Vehicles with a capacity greater than 5 cubic yards are subject to strict disposal requirements for C&D wastes in MA. For more information: [www.mass.gov/lists/managing-construction-demolition-cd-wastes](http://www.mass.gov/lists/managing-construction-demolition-cd-wastes).

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

■ EcoBuilding Bargains, 83 Warwick St., Springfield, MA (413-788-6900; [ecobuildingbargains.org](http://ecobuildingbargains.org))

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

Wooden pallets can be reused or recycled as “clean wood waste.” Disposal options for large quantities include (but are not limited to) Martin’s Farm (Greenfield: 413-774-5631), Index Packaging (NH: 800-662-3626), 360 Recycling (Westfield: 413-562-0193).

Note: pressure-treated wood should only be disposed of in a modern landfill. 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. See pages 28 and 29 for bulky waste disposal at local transfer stations.

## CAMERAS

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

## CANNING JARS

Canning jars (e.g. mason jars) are not recyclable because of the thick, heat resistant glass. Reuse, give to a friend who can use them, put in a tag

sale or swap shop at a transfer station, or place in the trash.

## CARPET

Flor® offers a free mail-back recycling program for carpet squares ([www.flor.com/recycle](http://www.flor.com/recycle)). Some non-profit organizations accept relatively clean carpet for reuse. See pages 28 and 29 for local disposal information.

## CARTONS & DRINK BOXES

This category includes “gable top” cartons for milk and orange juice, Tetra-Pak and other “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, “paper” cartons should be recycled with bottles, cans, and containers. Rinse cartons. Discard straws; plastic caps & spouts may remain on carton.

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. Do not put cell phones in recycle bins. Numerous charitable & for-profit organizations accept cell phone donations. Search online using “cell phone donation” or check out [www.recyclingforcharities.com](http://www.recyclingforcharities.com), [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org) or [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com). Stores that sell cell phones will also accept them for free recycling, and many cell phone manufacturers offer buy-back programs through the mail. Many municipal transfer stations (see pages 28 and 29 for local contact information) also accept them for special recycling, as do Home Depot, Lowes, and Staples stores.

## CHRISTMAS TREES

(see “Yard Waste”)

## CIGARETTE BUTTS

Terracycle’s “Cigarette Waste Brigade” ([Terracycle.com](http://Terracycle.com)) accepts extinguished cigarettes, filters, loose tobacco pouches, outer plastic and inner foil packaging for recycling into plastic pallets and other products.

## CLAMSHELLS & CLEAR MOLDED PLASTICS

(see “Plastics”)



## CLEANERS

(see “Household Hazardous Waste”)

## CLOTHING & TEXTILES

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

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

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

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

## COAT HANGERS

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

## COMPACT FLUORESCENT LAMPS ☠

(“see Mercury & Mercury-containing Products”)

## COMPUTERS & TV'S

(see “Electronics”)

## CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION WASTE

(see “Building & Remodeling Materials”)

## COOKING OIL

Never pour cooking oil down the drain. Liquids should be kept out of trash, recycling, and municipal compost bins. Lifecycle Renewables accepts vegetable oil by appointment from individuals. It also provides containers and pays for the oil at food service providers: 888-461-9831, https://lifecyclerenewables.com . Lifecycle Renewables' used cooking oil is transformed into replacements for fossil fuels. Western Mass Rendering provides dumpsters for large collections: www.westernmassrendering.com; 413-569-6265.

## CORKS

Corks should not be put in recycling bins, carts, or dumpsters. Natural corks can be crumbled & added to a backyard compost bin or put in municipal/commercial composting. ReCORK (www.recork.org) recycles natural wine & champagne corks (no plastic or metal corks); Ryan & Casey Liquors in Greenfield is a ReCork collection site. River Valley Co-op in Northampton has a Cork ReHarvest collection box (www.corkforest.org/cork-reharvest). 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 www.terracycle.com and www.maccosmetics.com/giving\_back/back\_to\_mac.tmpl..

## CUPS

If your community sends their recyclables to the Springfield MRF for processing, rinsed clear plastic cups may now be included in household recycling (no lids or straws). Other types of plastic cups are NOT acceptable for recycling: polystyrene (#6 plastic), colored keg cups, and opaque plastic cups.

If a clear cup is labeled “compostable,” it should NOT go in recycling. Compostable cups may go in municipal or commercial compost programs. These products are not designed to compost in home compost bins or piles.

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

that says “BPI certified” or “compostable.”

## EGG CARTONS

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

## ELECTRONICS ☠

State regulations prohibit disposal of screen-based electronics such as laptops, tablets, iPads, Kindles, flat screen TVs, monitors and CRTs (cathode ray tubes) in household trash. Most municipal transfer stations offer electronics recycling programs, although disposal fees may apply; see pages 28 and 29. Electronics that are mostly metal, such as computer towers and DVD players, 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 a wide range of electronic waste for free recycling, and also offers a trade-in reuse program. Best Buy accepts TVs for a fee. 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)

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

## EYEGLASSES

Due to the pandemic, Lion's Club eyeglass collection boxes have been removed from Post Office lobbies. Eyeglass frames and prescription lenses can be mailed 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 reuse is not ap-

propriate, eyeglasses should be placed in household trash, as they are not recyclable.

## FERTILIZERS & PESTICIDES ☠

(see “Household Hazardous Waste”)

## FIRE EXTINGUISHERS ☠

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

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

- Some municipal transfer stations accept newer fire extinguishers for special recycling along with propane tanks; see pages 28 and 29 for local contact information.

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

- MA Fire Technologies accepts all types of fire extinguishers for a small fee (49 Heywood Ave, West Springfield; https://massfire.com, 800-244-6769).

- New England Disposal Technologies (Westfield, MA) accepts fire extinguishers year-round for modest fees (www.nedt.org; 866-769-1621).

## FIREWORKS ☠

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

## FLAGS

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

## FLUORESCENT BULBS & LAMPS ☠

(see “Mercury & Mercury-containing Products”)

## FOOD SCRAPS

(also see “Cooking Oil”)

Food scraps and leftovers are heavy to transport and contribute to climate change when they decompose in landfills; composting food waste makes better environmental sense. Local composting options include home composting, municipal transfer station programs (in Amherst, Bernardston, Conway, Deerfield, Greenfield, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northampton, Northfield, Orange, Wendell & Whately); and (where available) curbside pick-up by a private waste hauler. Find a hauler near you at: https://recy-



clingworksma.com. Many municipalities offer discounted purchase programs for countertop collection pails and home compost bins; see pages 28 and 29 for local contact information. For home composting instructions, visit [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) and search for "home compost."

#### FRUIT SNACK POUCHES (see "Plastic Pouches")

#### FURNITURE

Furniture in good condition can be sold or donated for reuse. Donating mattresses & box springs can be difficult, as most charities don't accept them. When you purchase a new mattress, ask the retailer to take back and recycle the old one. Some transfer stations in western MA accept mattresses for recycling; fees apply. See pages 28 and 29 for local disposal information.

#### GOLF BALLS

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

#### GREETING CARDS

Cards are recyclable with paper if they do not contain foil or metallic inks. Remove electronics from singing greeting cards & recycle button batteries in battery recycling programs (see

"Batteries"). St. Jude's Ranch for Children runs a greeting card reuse program; note restrictions on certain brands: <https://stjudesranch.org/recycled-card-program>.

#### HEARING AIDS

The National Hearing Aid Project accepts used hearing aids for refurbishment and distribution to those that need them: <https://hearingaid donations.org>, 816-895-2410. 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 warnings & words like caustic, toxic, corrosive, poison, flammable, danger & "keep out of reach of children" on the label require special handling. See page 30 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 ([www.nedt.org](http://www.nedt.org); 866-769-1621). For safe alternatives to hazardous household products visit:

<https://www.lesstoxicguide.ca>, or [www.ecocycle.org/hazwaste/](http://www.ecocycle.org/hazwaste/) ecofriendly-cleaning.

#### INK, PRINTER & TONER CARTRIDGES

Local schools & non-profit organizations sometimes collect cartridges for fundraising purposes, and Staples accepts used cartridges for reuse or recycling (earn Staples rewards). Other options may be found via a search on [earth911.com](http://earth911.com) or find mail-in donation programs via an online search ("cartridge donations").

#### JUNK MAIL & CATALOGS

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

- DirectMail.com provides a free service to remove your name from commercial mailing lists ([www.direct-mail.com/mail\\_preference](http://www.direct-mail.com/mail_preference));

- Catalog Choice is a free service to stop delivery of unwanted catalogs ([www.catalogchoice.org](http://www.catalogchoice.org));

- OptOutPrescreen.com offers a free service to end pre-approved credit card & insurance offers (<http://www.optoutprescreen.com>);

- Yellow Pages Opt Out provides a free service to take your name off phonebook mailing lists ([www.yellow-pagesoptout.com](http://www.yellow-pagesoptout.com))

#### KEYS

Old keys can be recycled via a scrap metal dumpster at a municipal transfer station (see pages 28 and 29 for local contact information), 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 mixed recycling programs. Fluorescent bulbs and compact fluorescent bulbs ["CFLs"] contain mercury vapor and require special disposal (see "mercury & mercury-containing products"). LED light bulbs do not have to be recycled, but contain valuable materials and can be recycled with CFLs; see pages 28 and 29 for local programs and contact information. Old fashioned incandescent light bulbs and Halogen light bulbs are not recyclable. Carefully 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. Some scrap metal dealers and scrap metal dumpsters at transfer stations will accept them for recycling. Broken light

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**Contact: Kathleen A. Casey, HRMC Administrator**

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## Waste Watchers

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

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

**413-772-2438 • [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org)**

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

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

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Monday - Friday 8 - 5:30, Saturday 8 - 12



strings can be mailed to Christmas Light Source (<http://bit.ly/2qkCIMu>) or Holiday LEDs (<http://bit.ly/2sJqSMJ>) 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 ([www.arcgno.org](http://www.arcgno.org); 504-324-1919).

## MATTRESSES & BOX SPRINGS

(see "Furniture")

## 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.

Help 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: 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 [www.northwesternda.org/addiction-recovery/pages/drug-drop-boxes](http://www.northwesternda.org/addiction-recovery/pages/drug-drop-boxes).

Many national chain pharmacies have free drop boxes for prescription medications. Call your local store for availability or search a DEA listing of disposal sites at <https://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: <https://dispose-rx.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 24, 2021, from 10AM to 2PM. Find an upcoming collection by visiting [www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback](http://www.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, empty pill bottles are not recyclable. Be creative with reuse! For example, some animal shelters collect empty pill bottles to send medicines home with adoptees.

## MERCURY & MERCURY-CONTAINING PRODUCTS ☠

Mercury is highly toxic 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: [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov); enter "mercury" in the search bar, or search the web for "broken CFL" or "mercury spill." Call the Mass DEP Mercury Hotline if you have questions about mercury or managing it safely: 866-9MERCURY (866-963-7287). See pages 28 and 29 for local disposal information for the following items, and see page 30 for household hazardous waste collection events in western MA.

### ■ Fluorescent light bulbs

All fluorescent light bulbs (even the low-mercury bulbs with green tips) contain mercury vapor. For assistance, businesses, residents and organizations can call the RecyclingWorks hotline at 1-888-254-5525 or email [info@recyclingworksma.com](mailto:info@recyclingworksma.com).

Recycling options vary based on the type of bulb:

Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) fit in standard screw-type light sockets & are made of a glass tube. They come in a variety of shapes and styles, and can be encased by an outer glass bulb. Accepted at most municipal transfer stations (hand to attendant) and some Hazardous Waste Collections; see pages 28 and 29 for local disposal information. Free CFL recycling is offered at Home Depot and Lowe's Stores.

Larger fluorescent tubes are the types that do not fit in standard screw-type sockets. These include long straight, circular or U-shaped tubes, tanning bed lamps, High Intensity Discharge (HIDs), & neon light tubing. Accepted at most municipal transfer stations and some Hazardous Waste Collections; see pages 28 and 29 for local disposal information. Straight lamps and others are accepted at Lowe's: handle carefully and place in the collection box that is located in Lowe's lobby.

### ■ Thermometers

Many older household thermometers (fever, candy, meat, deep fry, oven, temperature) can 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 pages 28 and 29 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 pages 28 and 29,) mercury thermostats are accepted for free recycling at many plumbing retail stores (search by zip code using "Plumbing Supplies"). For more locations, go to [www.thermostat-recycle.org](http://www.thermostat-recycle.org).

### ■ Ballasts

Most fluorescent light fixtures produced before 1979 contained ballasts with PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), a highly toxic substance. PCB-free ballasts are marked "No PCBs." PCB ballasts are typically collected in special programs at the same sites as larger fluorescent tube-type bulbs. Non-PCB ballasts are safe to go into trash or bulky waste, but are often

not accepted in scrap metal recycling bins. See pages 28 and 29 for local disposal information.

## MICROWAVES

(see "Scrap Metal")

## MOTH BALLS ☠

(see "Household Hazardous Waste")

## MOTOR OIL & FILTERS ☠

(see "Automotive Products")

## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

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

## NEEDLES & SHARPS ☠

MA Sanitary Code states that it is illegal to dispose of sharps (hypodermic needles, syringes, lancets, & all other "sharps") as trash. Never put a container full of sharps in your recycling bin. Collection programs are available in many towns; call your Health Department or see a listing of all the sharps programs in the state, go to [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) and type "needle disposal" in the search bar. Sharps containers are available for purchase at pharmacies, and mail-in or pick up option is available. Several mail-in disposal programs are available; search online for "sharps mail-in programs." Stericycle is an example of a company that picks up sharps for safe disposal from businesses that generate sharps: [www.stericycle.com](http://www.stericycle.com) or 866-783-7422.

## PACKAGING MATERIALS

(also see "Plastics")

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

■ Cardboard boxes can be reused, & flattened boxes can be recycled in municipal recycling programs.

■ Foam peanuts: see "Plastics"

■ Cornstarch peanuts may be composted in a backyard bin, reused, or placed in the trash. However, these are not accepted by commercial composting facilities or at packing shipping stores.

■ Styrofoam blocks & shapes: see "Plastics"

■ Packing paper is reusable as well as recyclable.

■ Plastic sealed air packaging and bubble wrap are reusable. Once deflated, they can be recycled with plastic bags (see "plastics" for retail store recycling programs). Accepted for reuse by some pack & ship stores.



■ Amazon's plastic envelope mailers are recyclable with plastic bags (see "plastics" for retail store recycling programs). Remove or cut out paper labels.

### PAINT & PAINT-RELATED PRODUCTS ♻️

If your unwanted paint was purchased recently & it's in good condition, consider donating it for reuse instead of throwing it away. 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 "Household Hazardous Waste," or page 30).

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

### PALLETS

(see wood under "Building & Remodeling Materials")

### PANTYHOSE

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: save-myhosiery.yolasite.com. Hosiery is also accepted in textile recycling programs, see "Clothing & Textiles."

### PELLET STOVE FUEL BAGS

Due to a lack of end markets, all local recycling programs for pellet bags have been stopped. Plastic bags should never go into municipal recycling programs. Some retail store plastic bag recycling programs will accept pellet bags (call first). Pellet bags must be dry and completely EMPTY. Turn inside 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 (which eliminates bags), recycling programs, or take back programs.

### PET FOOD BAGS, BIRD SEED BAGS, ANIMAL FEED BAGS

Plastic bags that contained pet food, animal feed, or bird seed are not recyclable in municipal recycling or 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. However, Terracycle offers a few pet food bag recycling programs, some of which have local drop-off points. Go to [www.terracycle.com](http://www.terracycle.com) and type "pet food bags" in the search bar. The Bag Share Project, a local group, accepts certain types of feed bags for reuse, and provides instruction on how to make bags: [www.thebagshare.org](http://www.thebagshare.org).

### PHOTOGRAPHS

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

### PIZZA BOXES

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. If your community delivers recycling to the Springfield MRF, 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). Check with your community for their latest guidelines. Link to the study: <https://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 collected. Please note that plastic containers from food, beverage, soap and personal care products are the ONLY type of plastic suitable for your household recycling bin. All other forms of plastic must go to a separate, special collection or into the trash. See "Keep These Plastics out of the Recycling Bin" for additional details.

#### ■ Containers from food, soap and personal products

The following items are welcome in your household recycling bin: plastic containers from food, beverage, soap

## Keep These Plastics Out of Your Recycling Bin!


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

- Plastic bags, plastic wraps
- Black plastic (microwavable containers, food trays, etc.)
- Forks, spoons, knives & serving utensils
- Plastic plates and colored/opaque plastic cups (clear plastic cups are accepted in recycling unless labeled "Compostable")
- Tubes (e.g. toothpaste, cosmetics, hair products)
- Plastic containers greater than 2.5 gallons in size
- Plastic containers which once held toxic substances (e.g. motor oil)
- Containers or cups labeled "biodegradable" or "compostable"
- Foam (aka Styrofoam™) items (cups, egg cartons, food containers/trays, & packing material)
- 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)
- Plexiglass
- PVC products (pipes, siding, etc.)
- Manufactured plastic wood (decking material)

## PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING IN RETAIL STORES ONLY:

Never place plastic bags of any kind in your home recycling bin! Please clip and hang this sign over your plastic bag recycling collection at home, in the office, at school, or at a business.

### YES - DO RECYCLE in stores:

- Bags MUST be empty, clean and dry without receipts, coins, or trash.
- Clean, dry plastic bags labeled #2 or #4:   
"HDPE," "PE-HD" OR, "LDPE," "LLDPE"  
Including:
  - Grocery & produce bags
  - Newspaper bags
  - Dry cleaning bags (no receipts/staples)
  - Plastic cereal bags (if it tears like paper do not include)
  - Sandwich/Ziploc bags and bread bags: no crumbs, oils, food (remove large zippers)
  - Retail bags (#2 or #4) with string/hard plastic handles removed
  - Plastic outer wrap from packages of toilet paper, paper napkins, paper towels, diapers, sanitary products
  - Bubble wrap, air pillows, plastic shipping envelopes (deflate air pillows/cut out labels)
  - Case wrap from cases of water, canned pet food, soda, etc.
  - Stretch wrap from furniture or electronics

### NO - DO NOT RECYCLE in stores:

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

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

**For more about plastic bag recycling, and to see pictures of acceptable items, see:**  
**[www.plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org)**



or personal care products in the form of bottles, jars, jugs, and tubs (less than 2.5 gallons in size) and clear clamshell-type containers. Plastic bottle caps & plastic tub lids are recyclable, if attached to the container (not loose). Bottle pumps should go in the trash. When possible, flatten containers before affixing caps & lids (push caps inside container if they won't stay on). If your community sends their material to the Springfield MRF for processing, rinsed clear plastic cups may also be included in your mix (no lids or straws). If a clear cup is labeled compostable, do not put it in a recycling bin. Visit [springfieldmrf.org](http://springfieldmrf.org) for details and user-friendly graphics about household container recycling.

#### ■ Bags & wrap

(Do NOT place in household recycling bin)

Plastic bags or plastic wrap create safety hazards, machinery malfunctions, and environmental problems at processing plants. 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; and 3)

free of food residue and paper (e.g. labels and receipts). Two important exceptions are household food or "cling" wrap, which must be placed in the trash, and bags labeled "Compostable" (which should be placed in a commercial or municipal compost bin or placed in the trash). See this guide's table, "Plastic Bag Recycling" or visit [www.plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://www.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 pages 28 and 29) 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) is growing, but only a few varieties are accepted for special recycling programs. Rigid foam products may be divided into the general categories of shipping peanuts, large chunks, and food-related serve ware (cups, plates, trays):

■ Foam shipping peanuts: Although difficult to recycle, foam peanuts are highly reusable. Some local retail shipping outlets accept clean & dry peanuts (call first; search for a store near you at [www.theupssstore.com](http://www.theupssstore.com)). Or offer them for local reuse via an online sharing group such as Freecycle.org or a "Buy Nothing" Facebook group. The Amherst Transfer Station operates a free shipping peanut exchange for permit holders.

■ Large, rigid foam chunks: clean and dry pieces of hard, white, foam are only recyclable only via a special, separate collection. Some communities collect this foam at municipal transfer stations or at special collection events and transport it to a special foam recycling facility. Gold Circuit E-Cycling in Palmer (413) 328-3187, [www.recycle-ourfoam.com](http://www.recycle-ourfoam.com) accepts various types of foam from the public for a fee. Call for information. The transfer stations in Cummington, Plainfield, Westhampton

and Williamsburg accept clean, white, packing block EPS from their permit holders.

■ Foam cups, plates, and trays: not currently accepted at any recycling facilities. Place in trash.

#### ■ Plastic pouches

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

#### PRESSURE-TREATED LUMBER

(see "Building & Remodeling Materials")

#### PROPANE TANKS ☠

Larger varieties of propane tanks can be refilled, and many businesses that sell propane will accept tanks for reuse under specific conditions. Tanks are recyclable in special programs at transfer stations or recycling centers. Do not put tanks in scrap metal dumpsters, in household recycling, or trash. Do not puncture. Close the valves on

CONTINUES ON PAGE 25



**Composting Services**






**Leaves**



**All Food Scraps**



**Animal**



**Year Round**



**Clean Container**



**All Weather**

**[www.citycompost.com](http://www.citycompost.com) (978) 407-0234**

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## Make a Cozy Home for Native Bees Out of Newspaper!

### You will need:

- A newspaper
- An empty metal can with the top removed (ask a grown-up to check for sharp edges)
- Some string (2-4 feet long)
- Non-toxic glue

### (optional)

- Paints or markers
- Sticks or peat moss
- Duct tape (a few inches)

### How to build your bee house (or nest):

**1.** Cut your newspaper into strips. Make each strip the width of the can and about 12 inches long.

**2.** Roll each strip of paper loosely onto a pencil to make a sturdy newspaper straw. Glue the outside end of the paper so the straw stays rolled up. Be careful not to glue the paper to the pencil or crush the straw when you remove the pencil. Repeat with more strips of paper until you have enough straws to fill the can.

**3.** Put the can on a table (open end on top). Place a layer of liquid glue in the (inside) bottom of the can and gently place the paper straws into the can so they stand up. Gently fill any empty space of the can with more paper straws, sticks, or peat moss. Secure everything with glue, making sure not to squish the straws. Let the glue dry while the can is upright.

**4.** Tie the string around the middle of the can (use tape so it won't slip) so the can will hang sideways, parallel to the ground. Feel free to decorate the outside of the can--maybe even write "mason bee house" on it so other people know what it is.

**5.** Secure the can to a tree or bush with the string. The nest should be hung in the sun about three feet off the ground.

**A note on leaving your nest outside:** the string and the tin may not be biodegradable. This means that they will take a really long time to break down into dirt. Be sure to visit your Mason bee nest periodically to make sure that it does not fall off the tree and become litter. If you plan to hang your nest in a public space, think about if other people will accidentally think it is trash. Have a conversation with a grown up about what you think the responsible thing to do is.

# Marvelous Mason Bees!

Have you ever heard of a mason bee? There are many types of bees in Massachusetts and mason bees are the coolest! They are amazing pollinators (better than honey bees) and they super rarely sting. They live alone instead of in colonies, and they would love to be your neighbor.

## COLOR in this Mason Bee!



Just like humans are more resilient when we live in diverse communities, inviting a diverse community of pollinators into your yard, garden, or local park makes it a happier, more resilient place.

Did you know European settlers originally brought honey bees to America in the 1600s? Honey bees can even threaten mason bees when they compete for food.

Did you know if you live in a city it's even more important to provide homes and food for pollinators? Bees (and wasps and hummingbirds and butterflies) really appreciate a snack and a place to rest.

Mason bee on Aster  
3/22/2021  
Monya Relles



**Hitchcock Center**  
EDUCATION FOR A HEALTHY PLANET

Compiled by Hitchcock Center for the Environment's Environmental Educator, Monya Relles.



# Martin's Farm Compost has a big part in Western Mass. Organic Waste Diversion Plan

THE RECORDER'S  
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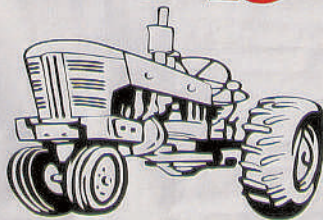
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at capacity

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our community  
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[www.martinsfarmcompost.com](http://www.martinsfarmcompost.com)



# New Life for Old Threads:

## Donate your clothing and linens for reuse and recycling!

It is a common situation: you are ready to clear out your old clothing or bedding, but it is so stained or worn that donating it for reuse is out of the question. In the past, the trash bin was a logical destination for this material, but the recycling industry has evolved: *all clean and dry clothing and household textiles, including items that are stained, worn, ripped, with missing mates, buttons, or broken zippers, are now welcome at major clothing donation centers for textile recycling.* These items have value to manufacturers. Only damp, moldy, or mildewed items, or items contaminated with hazardous substances (like motor oil) are unusable.

***Most textiles can be recycled if they are clean and dry. Only damp or moldy/mildewed items or items contaminated with hazardous substances (like motor oil) are unusable.***

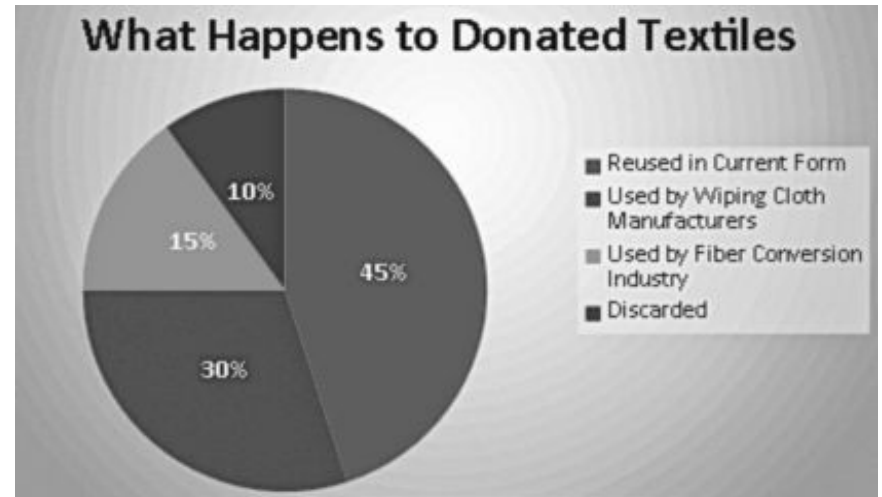
padding, sound proofing and other products. Clothing collection organizations sort, bale and then sell donated materials to recyclers, so these materials generate revenue for these non-profit organizations. This practice is called “textile recycling.”

When donating, keep items unlikely to be resold to consumers separate from resalable ones, and mark the bag as “textile recycling” or “ragstock.” Please note that many locally run charitable clothing resale shops do not have the physical space or volunteer power needed to handle large volumes of items that will not sell in their shop. Always confirm that a local resale shop accepts unsalable textiles for recycling before donating them.



About 45% of donated textiles are reused in their donated condition after they are collected from a donation box. 30% is sold to the wiping cloth industry, textile collectors and brokers, who sort, bale and export textiles to overseas markets and businesses like ERC Wiping Products in Lynn, MA where employees literally cut them into absorbent shop rags that are sold to garages and public works facilities. Whatever doesn't meet a rag manufacturer's criteria (about 15%) is sold to the fiber conversion industry. Manufacturers like Millbury Textile Recycling in Millbury, MA, shred it and turn it into carpet backing, insulation for cars, seat and cushion stuffing and more.

The Textile Recovery Initiative is a statewide effort of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), the Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association (SMART), and the Council for Textile Recycling (CTR). The initiative encourages Massachusetts residents to donate unwanted clothing, footwear and other textile products to collection containers, for-profit and charitable organizations. To learn more about textile recycling, visit [www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-textile-recovery#-textile-recovery-media-toolkit](http://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-textile-recovery#-textile-recovery-media-toolkit).



Source: Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association

***Always keep textiles separate from household recyclables and bring them to a convenient textile donation drop-off. Mixing textiles with household recycling renders them useless and creates sorting machinery problems and hazards for workers.***

## A SECOND LIFE FOR TEXTILES



Source: Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association



# Got food scraps?

Here are three easy ways to get them composted.

**21%** of the material we place in our household trash is organic food waste, according to a 2019 study conducted by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Removing it from the trash saves fuel, disposal expense, and frees it to be converted into a valuable soil additive. What's more, as food waste decays without oxygen—as it does in a landfill—it produces methane, a greenhouse gas that is 34 times more potent than carbon dioxide (although some landfills have special methane capture systems, many do not). Sending damp food waste to a waste-to-energy-incineration facility is not a great option either, because its water content cools the fire, reducing the incinerator's efficiency level.

Mindful composting converts organic matter into stable soil carbon and makes it available to trees and plants. Finished compost is also a valuable fertilizer. Because of these benefits, substantial cost savings, and the fact that healthy soil is important for our planet, governments are getting serious about pulling food and yard waste out of trash. Denmark has not sent biodegradable municipal waste to landfills in over 25 years, and the state of Vermont now requires all residents, businesses, and institutions to keep their food waste separate from trash so it can be processed into a rich soil additive. Here in Massachusetts, organizations that produce more than one ton of food waste per week are required to compost it. In time, that one ton threshold will get smaller, and more businesses will be affected (visit [RecyclingWorks.com/commercial-organics-waste-ban](http://RecyclingWorks.com/commercial-organics-waste-ban) to learn more).

Here are three simple ways to make sure your household's compostable food waste is part of the winning carbon mitigation, fertilizer production, and cost saving equation:

## 1 - BRING THEM TO YOUR LOCAL TRANSFER STATION

Some transfer stations offer food waste composting drop off, usually at no charge once you own a transfer station permit. Call your community representative to find out if this is an option for you. It is simply a matter of collecting food scraps in a bucket and emptying it into a large bin at the Transfer Station. One of the benefits of this method is that because the material is sent to a commercial composting facility, you can include meat, bones, and dairy in your mix. If you find that certain items get smelly, try storing them in a tub in your freezer. When it is time to visit the transfer station, pop out the food scrap ice cube and add it to your food waste mix.



Compost drop-off sites, like this one at the Montague Transfer Station, are available in many western Massachusetts communities.

## 2 - HIRE A CURBSIDE PICKUP SERVICE

Curbside compost pick up services are now available in many communities. With this option, periodic drop off trips to the transfer station are avoided completely, but there is a cost for the convenience in the form of a monthly or quarterly fee. Collected material also ends up at a commercial composting facility, so dairy, meat, and bones are usually accepted. Western Mass curbside composting options are location-dependent and are offered by several businesses, including: The Compost Cooperative, City Compost, The Pedal People, and USA Hauling & Recycling.

## 3 - START A BACKYARD COMPOST PILE

Some will say that this is easiest option, but it may not be the best for everyone. Composting bins are found in many forms and can be purchased from your municipality or waste district (call your community representative—see page 28 and 29—to learn more), online, or from your local garden center. You can also create your own bin or pile without purchasing a thing. Regardless of your setup, there are some important considerations:

The composting process is often referred to as “cooking,” because the right balance of ingredients—oxygen, carbon, nitrogen, and moisture—creates a chemical reaction that generates heat, which helps to break down the material and eliminate unpleasant smells. Oxygen is added by regularly “turning” the compost, carbon is introduced via dry material like brown leaves, shredded newspaper, marsh hay, or straw, and nitrogen is provided by wet fruit and vegetable scraps.

Backyard composting piles are much smaller than commercial com-



Regular curbside collection of kitchen scraps is sometimes available in large communities.



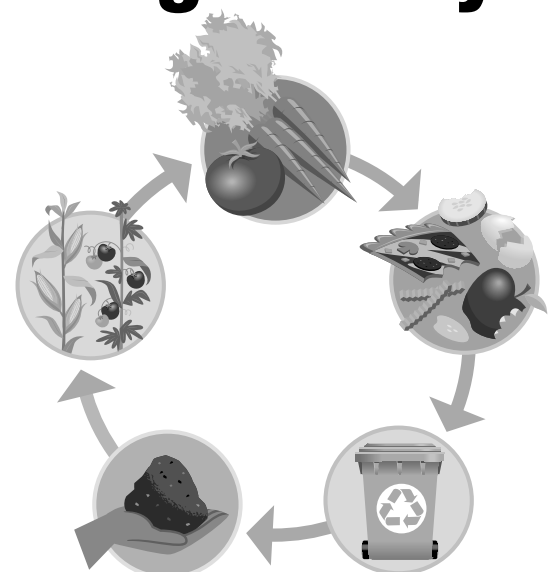
A home composting bin like this Earth Machine® enables backyard composting of vegetable and fruit scraps as well as leaves and yard waste.

posting piles and are not capable of generating the same amount of heat. Backyard piles rarely get hot enough to break down meat, bones, fats, and dairy items, so those materials are best avoided. Sticking with fruit and vegetable scraps will prevent many problems, including smells, animals, and pests.

People have been successfully composting for hundreds of years and it is not difficult to master. Great resources are available online and in your local library. Google “mass.gov composting” to find helpful resources from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

## 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

See hours of operation on our website: [www.greenfield-ma.gov](http://www.greenfield-ma.gov)



# 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 [springfieldmrf.org](http://springfieldmrf.org) and click on "What's Recyclable at the MRF."



The 12 items displayed here cause problems at recycling sorting facilities all over the country. Please do not include them in your curbside and drop off recycling bins! Visit [recyclesmartma.org](http://recyclesmartma.org) or [springfieldmrf.org](http://springfieldmrf.org) to learn which desirable items belong in your recycling bin. Unwanted items are costly in terms of employee and public safety, lost production time, and disposal costs. There are alternate collection methods for some of these items, and others belong in the trash.

**1. Plastic Bags** wrap around conveyor belts at sorting facilities, causing machinery shutdowns, and safety hazards as employees strip tangled bags from machinery. Some area retailers offer recycling collection bins for plastic bags. Visit [plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://plasticfilmrecycling.org) for more information. If a convenient collection site is not available, please put them in your trash bin.

**2. Bagged Material** is unwanted both because a plastic bag is involved (see above) and because sorting machinery is unable to open bags to access the contents. As a result, bagged material is thrown in the trash. Always keep household recycling LOOSE inside your bin.

**3. Items that Wrap and Tangle** are problematic for the same reasons as a plastic bag; they cause processing shutdowns and endanger employees. This category includes hoses, light strings, plastic rope, and anything that might wind around machinery. Please add them to your household trash.

**4. Syringes** are a biohazard and pose a serious health threat to workers. They do not belong in recycling or in your trash. Most municipalities offer a safe SHARPS disposal program through the Board of Health or the Department of Public Works. Visit [Recyclesearch.com](http://Recyclesearch.com) for local disposal information.

**5. Food Waste** does not belong in a recycling collection bin. It becomes a public health concern because of the smell and the vermin it attracts. Make sure your food containers are empty and rinsed before adding them to your bin.

**6. Hazardous Waste Containers** are unfit for recycling because hazardous chemicals leach into plastic. Place all empty containers which held hazardous chemicals in the trash.

**7. Styrofoam or expanded polystyrene (EPS)** is not accepted at local recycling facilities, as its bulk and light weight makes it too costly to ship. There are a few special processing facilities that compress EPS into blocks so that it can be shipped for recycling. Visit [Recyclesearch.com](http://Recyclesearch.com) for locations, or place it in the trash.

**8. Plastic cups** that are colored or opaque (such as the red Solo cups) are not desired by manufacturers and belong in the trash. Only crystal-clear drink cups that are not labeled compostable may be recycled.

**9. Light bulbs** are unwanted for many reasons. Even if *incandescent* glass bulbs do not break inside your bin, it is a very different type of glass from the variety used to make bottles and jars. This is also the case with *LED* and *Halogen* bulbs. Place them in a used plastic bag and put them in the trash. *Fluorescent* light bulbs contain mercury gas and should be properly recycled. Several large home improvement stores accept small numbers of fluorescent bulbs free of charge, and some municipalities collect them.

**10. Pots, pans, and scrap metal items** get caught in recycling facility conveyor belts. Please contact your municipality for reuse and scrap metal options (see pages 28-29).

**11. Dishes** are made of non-recyclable material, whether it be plastic, glass, porcelain, ceramic, or anything else. Please contact your municipality (see pages 29-29) for reuse options; otherwise place them in the trash.

**12. Electronics** often contain hazardous chemicals or leaded glass. Dispose of them properly through an electronics recycling program. Check with your municipality for options (see pages 28-29).



barbeque grill size tanks. Some recyclers also accept small camping type tanks. Local municipal recycling info is found on pages 28 and 29; find commercial options at [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com).

### PYREX, CERAMIC AND PORCELAIN PRODUCTS

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

### SCRAP METAL

Many metal items (like bicycles or BBQ grills) can be repaired, sold or donated to extend their useful life. Because of the usefulness 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, such as batteries, propane tanks, helium tanks, ballasts, air conditioners and refrigerators, and automotive parts require special handling due to toxic or pressurized materials. Many municipal transfer stations and recycling centers have scrap metal dumpsters for the recycling of scrap metal. See pages 28 and 29 for local municipal disposal information.

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

### SHOES

Clean, gently used shoes are usually accepted for reuse and resale by organizations that collect clothing donations. Several organizations, such as One World Running (<http://oneworldrunning.com>), specialize in shoe reuse; visit a donation organization’s website to discover if they accept worn shoes. Rerun Shoes accepts used running shoes at a Pioneer Valley drop spot, and can coordinate shoe drive fundraisers, visit [www.rerunshoes.com](http://www.rerunshoes.com) or call (413) 230-3032. DSW Warehouse shoe stores have Soles4souls donation boxes: <https://soles4souls.org>.

### SHREDDED PAPER

As of July 1, 2020, shredded paper is no longer accepted in western Massachusetts’ household/municipal recycling programs. To get confidential

documents shredded and recycled, bring them to area businesses (e.g. copy shops, office supply, and shipping stores) for secure shredding. In addition, Valley Green Shredding in Westfield offers drop-off services ([valleygreenshredding.com](http://valleygreenshredding.com); 413-461-3333). Local banks often sponsor free spring and fall shredding events. 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 exist. Ask at your local store or 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 [www.curieservices.com](http://www.curieservices.com). Some communities allow smoke detectors to be thrown away in the bulky waste container at a recycling/transfer station. See pages 28 and 29 for local contact information.

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

### SPORTS EQUIPMENT

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

### STYROFOAM

(see “Plastics: Foam”)

### TELEVISIONS

(see “Electronics”)

### TENNIS BALLS

Check with your local animal shelter or elementary school to see if they

accept tennis ball donations (schools use them to reduce the noise and impact of chairs/desks on floors). A mail-in recycling program is available at [tennisballrecycling.com](http://tennisballrecycling.com).

### TEXTILES

(see “Clothing & Textiles”)

### THERMOMETERS & THERMOSTATS

(see “Mercury & Mercury-containing Products”)

### TOOTHPASTE TUBES, TOOTHBRUSHES

These items are not recyclable in household/municipal recycling, but Terracycle runs mail-in recycling programs that accepts them, along with floss containers, and some packaging ([www.terracycle.com](http://www.terracycle.com)). Preserve® brand toothbrushes can be mailed for recycling ([www.preserve.eco](http://www.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 [www.awardsmall.com](http://www.awardsmall.com) and search for “recycling.” A Massachusetts company accepts only sports medals/medallions (visit [sportsmedalrecycling.com](http://sportsmedalrecycling.com)).

### TYVEK ENVELOPES

Tyvek envelopes (large, white envelopes that won’t rip: often from express shipments) are made of high-density polyethylene plastic. Do not put Tyvek material in municipal/household recycling, or in the plastic bag recycling programs at grocery stores.

Tyvek envelopes can be stuffed into a box or a Tyvek envelope and mailed to a recycler who can handle them. For quantities less than 25, mail to: CFS Recycling, 337 A Industrial Drive, Petersburg, VA 23803. For quantities larger than 25, call 1-800/44-TYVEK.

### 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.” Al-

ternatively, search the Internet under “Auto Wreckers & Salvage.”

### WOOD

(see “Building & Remodeling Materials”)

### X-RAY FILM

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

### YARD WASTE (LEAVES, GRASS, BRUSH, CHRISTMAS TREES)

Throwing away leaf & yard waste as trash is prohibited by State regulations. Some communities collect organic yard waste seasonally for wood chip production or composting; ask your community representative for specifics (see pages 28 and 29). Goat farmers often accept bare Christmas trees as food. Visit [www.mass.gov/composting-organics](http://www.mass.gov/composting-organics) to learn about composting yard waste in your backyard.

### YOGA MATS

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

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

Springfield MRF: <http://springfieldmrf.org>

MassDEP’s RecycleSmart Recyclopeda: <https://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](mailto:PioneerValleyRRR@gmail.com). Thank you.





# 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





# RecyclingWorks

## Helps Businesses Recycle and Reduce Waste

RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts is a 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.

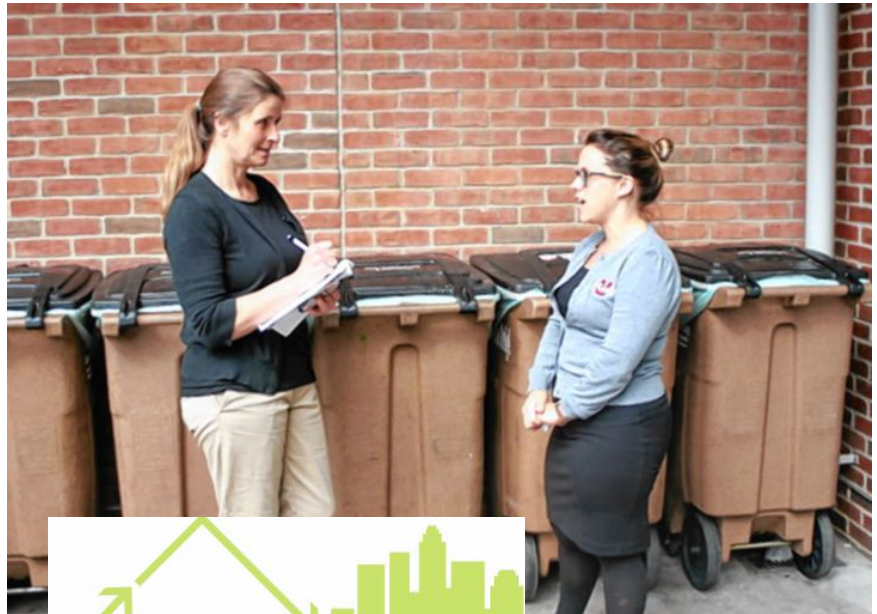
- Information about the most common recyclable and compostable materials.

- 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](mailto:info@RecyclingWorksMA.com) — waste experts are available to help you.



RecyclingWorks Massachusetts waste experts consult with businesses and institutions to help them reduce waste and maximize recycling, reuse, and food recovery opportunities.

### REMODELING? FIND RECLAIMED BUILDING MATERIALS FOR EVERY ROOM AT ECOBUILDING BARGAINS!

**We're open 7 days a week!**

9-5 Monday-Saturday  
11-5 on Sunday

Virtual appointments with contact-free pickup are also available:  
[ecobuildingbargains.org/virtualappointment](https://ecobuildingbargains.org/virtualappointment)



[ecobuildingbargains.org](https://ecobuildingbargains.org) | 83 Warwick Street, Springfield



# COMMUNITY RECYCLING INFORMATION

## Hampshire County

Drop-off locations, often municipal Transfer Stations, may only be open to residents of that community; some require annual permits and “Pay As You Throw” trash bags. Fees may apply for some items. Call the contact number for more information. For definitions of abbreviations, see glossary box below. For more information about materials, see “What Do I Do With...?” on pages 12-19 and page 25 of this guide.

	Contact	Phone	Curbside or Drop Off	Drop Off Location	Hours of Operation	Municipal Recycling	Scrap Metal	TVs and Electronics	Motor Oil	Yard Waste	HHW Collection	Mercury/CFLs	Tires	Propane Tanks	Bulky Waste
Amherst	DPW	413-259-3050, x 0	Both	740 Belchertown Rd	Tues, Thurs, Sat 8-2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Belchertown	DPW	413-323-0415; 413-323-0416	Drop Off	135 Hamilton St	Tues-Sat 7:30-3:15 (Th: 7:30-5:15)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	annual	✓	✓		✓
Chesterfield	HRMC	413-685-5498	Drop Off	69 Willicut Rd	Sat 8-2:45; Summer: Wed 3:30-6:15	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cummington	HRMC	413-685-5498	Drop Off	10 Fairgrounds Rd	Wed 5:30-7:30, Sat 7-11	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Easthampton	DPW	413-529-1410	Drop Off	30 Northampton St	1st & 3rd Sat 8-12	✓	✓	✓	✓	call	call	✓			
Goshen	HRMC	413-685-5498	Drop Off	Wing Hill Rd	Sat 8:30-4:20	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Granby	Town Hall	413-467-7177	Curbside	DPW: 15 Crescent St.	Mon-Fri 7-3	curbside	call	call	DPW	DPW	call	call	call	call	DPW
Hadley	SWS	413-498-0099	Drop Off	20 North Branch Rd	Wed 1-6, Sat 7-4	✓	✓			✓	586-2390	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hatfield	DPW	413-247-5646	Drop Off	10 Straits Rd	Wed 12-5, Sat 7-3	✓	✓	✓	✓	DPW	annual	annual	✓	✓	✓
Huntington	HRMC	413-685-5498	Drop Off	90 Mill St.	Tues 3-6:45 Sat 8-4:45	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Middlefield	HRMC	413-685-5498	Drop Off	Bell Rd.	Winter: Sat & Sun 9-1; Summer: Wed 4-8 & Sun 9-1	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northampton	DPW	413-587-1570 x 4306	Drop Off	125 Locust St	Tues, Wed, Thurs, & Sat 7am-3:45pm	✓	✓		✓		annual	✓			
Northampton	DPW	413-587-1570 x 4306	Drop Off	170 Glendale Rd	1st & 3rd Sat of month (yard waste 2nd & 4th Sat)		✓	✓		✓	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	Tues-Sat, 8-3; closed 12-1 for lunch	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	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: call contact # listed for more info.

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

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

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

**DPW:** Department of Public Works

**FCSWMD:** Franklin County Solid Waste Management District - [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org); 413-772-2438

**HHW Collection:** Many municipalities offer Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection days. For more information, please call the contact phone number listed for your town, or see page 30.

**HRMC:** Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative - [www.hrma.org](http://www.hrma.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](http://springfieldmrf.org)



# COMMUNITY RECYCLING INFORMATION

## Franklin County

	Contact	Phone	Curbside or Drop Off	Drop Off Location	Hours of Operation	Municipal Recycling	Scrap Metal	TVs and Electronics	Motor Oil	Yard Waste	HHW Collection	Mercury/CFLs	Tires	Propane Tanks	Bulky Waste
Ashfield	HRMC	413-685-5498	Drop Off	851 Ashfield Mountain Rd (Route 112)	Thurs 8-12, Sat 8-4, Sun 8-12	✓	✓	✓	✓		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bernardston	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	Nelson Drive	Thurs & Sat 7-5	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	call	✓	✓
Buckland	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	Hodgen Rd. (aka Bailey)	Tues & Sat 7-3	✓	✓	call	call		annual	✓	call	✓	call
Charlemont	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	159 North River Rd.	Wed 3-7, Sat 8-12	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	call	call	call
Colrain	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	7 Charlemont Rd.	Sat 8-4, Summer: Tues. 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	✓	✓	✓	✓		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Conway	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	186 Old Cricket Hill Rd.	Wed 10-6, Sat 9-5, Sun 8-1	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deerfield	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	42 Lee Rd.	Tues, Thurs, Sat 8:30-4	✓	✓	call	call	✓	annual	✓	call	call	✓
Erving	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Curbside	DPW: 16 Public Works Blvd.	DPW: Mon-Fri 7- 3:30; call 423-3500 for appt.	curb-side	annual	DPW	DPW	DPW	annual	call	DPW	call	annual
Gill	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Curbside	One-day events only	Varies	✓	call	call	call		annual	call	call	call	call
Greenfield	DPW	413-772-1528	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	✓	call	✓	✓
Montague	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Both	11 Sandy Lane, off Turnpike Rd	Wed 7-2:30, Sat 7-12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
New Salem	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	20 Blueberry Hill Rd.	Wed 3-6, Sat 8-4	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	call	call	✓
Northfield	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	31 Caldwell Rd.	Wed & Fri 8-6, Sat 7-4	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	call	✓	call
Orange	Staff	978-544-1118	Drop Off	Jones St.	Tues, Thurs & Sat 8-2:45	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rowe	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	87 Zoar Rd.	Wed 7-10 am + 4-7 pm, Sat 8-2, Sun 8-12	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shelburne	FCSWMD	413-772-2438	Drop Off	159 N. River Rd, Charl.	Tues 10-7, Sat 12-5	✓	✓	call	call	call 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	Town Hall	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	✓	✓	✓	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



# 2021 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collections in Western Massachusetts

Communicate with your municipality using the contact information below or on pages 28 and 29 to learn important details about your local household hazardous waste event. Participation in a different municipality’s event may be possible, but arrangements must be made through your own community’s representative.

A wide range of household products with warning labels (e.g. Danger, Flammable, Poison, Toxic, Caution, and “Keep Out of Reach of Children and Pets”) are accepted. Please refer to the list at the bottom of this page. Never pour hazardous products on the ground, down a drain or toilet, or place a full or partially full container of material in a trash or recycling bin. 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 (pages 28 and 29) for disposal options.

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

DATE	PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITY	CONTACT	PHONE	WEBSITE; PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE
5/15/21	Northampton	Northampton DPW	413-587-1570, x4306	<a href="http://www.northamptonma.gov/reduce-waste">www.northamptonma.gov/reduce-waste</a> Pre-register by 5/12/21
6/12/21	South Hadley, Granby	DPW	413-538-5030, x6500	Pre-registration required between 4/1/21 and 5/15/21
9/25/21	Amherst, Hadley, Pelham, Shutesbury	Steve Telega	413-259-3049	<a href="http://amherstma.gov/recycling">amherstma.gov/recycling</a> Pre-registration required between 08/1/21 and 09/15/21
9/25/21	Athol, Barre, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Rowe, Royalston, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, Whately	Franklin County Solid Waste District	413-772-2438	<a href="http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html">www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html</a> Pre-registration required between 08/17/21 and 09/17/21
10/23/21	Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington	Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative	413-685-5498	<a href="http://www.hrhc-ma.org">www.hrhc-ma.org</a> Pre-registration required between 10/1/21 and 10/17/21
Ongoing	Greenfield, Leyden	Water Pollution Control or Transfer Station	413-772-1539; 413-772-1528	<a href="https://greenfield-ma.gov/q/117/How-do-I-dispose-of-hazardous-wastes">https://greenfield-ma.gov/q/117/How-do-I-dispose-of-hazardous-wastes</a>

## 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 (without the lid) in your household trash.





# Follow the leader.

## Innovators in waste and recycling management.

USA is committed to finding waste and recycling management solutions for today and tomorrow. We're always innovating and adapting as we provide services and opportunities that make a positive impact on the communities where we live and work.

In fact, since 1974, we have been leading the way across all of our operations to meet evolving demands, from building the largest state-of-the-art recycling facility in the country to powering our buildings with solar energy and fueling our trucks with all-American natural gas.

**We're committed to our communities and the planet.**



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Since 1974***



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# Problem solved!

With a 2021-2022 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

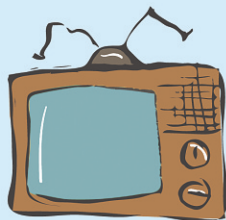


Bulky rigid plastic recycling

## Fee-based disposal & recycling



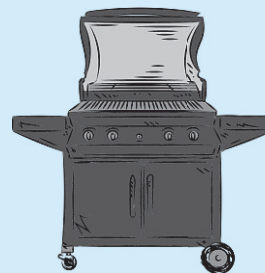
Household trash



Electronic waste recycling



Fluorescent light bulbs



Scrap metal recycling



Bulky waste

**Purchase online at [Northamptonma.gov/1830](https://Northamptonma.gov/1830)**

**Cost \$45; Electronic checks & major credit cards accepted.**

**Means-based discounts are available.**

**Permits are valid July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.**

**Questions? Call 413-587-1570.**