

THE 19TH ANNUAL

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

A guide to help
you **REDUCE** your
trash, **REUSE**
durable items,
RECYCLE everything
you can, and
RETHINK waste.

BREAKING NEWS



Empty paper cups are now
recyclable. Straws & lids
still belong in the trash.
See inside for
details!

REUSE: Keeping Useful Things Out of the Landfill

INFORMATION VALID THROUGH APRIL 2027
A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THE DAILY HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE,
GREENFIELD RECORDER, ATHOL DAILY NEWS & AMHERST BULLETIN



Electric lamp
Approx 1955-1967 CE
Hand-painted ceramic
with original shade

MANUFACTURED BY THE
REMINGTON LAMP COMPANY
(PHILADELPHIA, PA)

*Rewired and
Repaired, 2025*

Welcome to the 2026

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Guide

Dear Western Mass Residents and Business Community,

The Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) Advisory Board is pleased to share this issue of the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (RRR) guide as we celebrate the 56th anniversary of Earth Day. This guide is full of useful information. I encourage you to keep a copy handy so you can refer to it all year long.

This year the focus of our Franklin and Hampshire County Guide moves upstream from waste to reuse. Recycling is a type of reuse, but it involves breaking down material for use in manufacturing.

Recycling magic creates completely new products — like polar fleece or wall-to-wall carpet from recycled water bottles — or aluminum cans produced from aluminum cans. Reuse magic happens by shifting our focus to honoring and investing in products in their original form. Durable goods are shared by housing them in libraries or offering them to community members through swap shops and free stores. Alternatively, an item's useful lifespan can be extended through repair. Reuse is another way

we can all make a positive impact via behavior change or supporting food-related businesses that choose to eliminate single use serving products. We hope that this publication will help you get involved in the reuse revolution!

This year's guide also delivers some exciting news: Empty paper cups are now welcome in household recycling! Paper processing technology has improved, and manufacturers are now able to easily separate the plastic lining from the paper fibers in the cup. People who live in communities that have dual stream recycling (glass, metal, and plastic containers collected separately from paper and cardboard) should place empty paper cups in their paper bin. Lids and straws still belong in the trash. Learn more about paper cup recycling on page 12.

The Springfield MRF continues to stand as the cornerstone of dual stream recycling in western Massachusetts. As Chair of the MRF Advisory Board, I am very proud of Springfield MRF operations and our partnership with Waste Management Recy-

cles America. Together we, produce clean, recyclable and marketable material: over 90% of the material delivered by our member towns is recycled. I am particularly proud of the excellent educational tools (including this publication and the MRF website) created by our Board and made available to all residents in the region.

We are pleased to celebrate this 19th edition of the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Guide in partnership with the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* and their affiliate newspapers, and send special thanks to the Western Massachusetts business community that makes production of this useful resource possible through their advertising support.

Sincerely,
Arlene C. Miller
Chair, MRF Advisory Board



The bottles, jars, jugs, tubs and cans that residents put in recycling programs ARE recycled...even the ones with novelty labels. Pictured above are the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) Advisory Board members who were key contributors to this publication: **Amy Donovan** of Franklin County Solid Waste District (representing Franklin County), **Susan Waite** of MassDEP, and **Abbey Massaro**, Executive Director of MassRecycle (representing Hampshire County).

Questions or comments about this guide?

Contact us at PioneerValleyRRR@gmail.com

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Acknowledgements

This guide marks the 19th year of a collaboration between the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* and the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) Advisory Board, with support from local advertisers. This guide is produced annually in honor of Earth Day (April 22). It will also appear in the *Greenfield Recorder*, the *Athol Daily News*, and the *Amherst Bulletin*. This guide will be available until April 2027 at springfieldmrf.org.



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REUSE is Something to Crow About

Whether or not you find a mid-century rooster lamp appealing, it is a household item that can be repaired, re-wired, re-homed and re-loved. It's a symbol of all the durable goods out in the world that are still useful and worth preserving. Over the last 40 years the focus has largely been on recycling our waste. But what if we found a way to avoid wasting things in the first place? Recycling is effective for a lot of discarded material, but it turns out that waste prevention has a greater positive environmental impact.

That's because all the resources used to produce and distribute even a simple item add up. Our planet has a fixed amount of resources, and when they run out, they run out. Making an effort to conserve what remains is just smart. If instead of purchasing new items, we borrow, reuse, or repair existing ones, we will save money, energy, and natural resources.

Massachusetts has limited landfill capacity, so most of the trash from western Massachusetts is sent for disposal to states like New York, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina. If something is still useful, it makes no sense to send it anywhere, especially during difficult economic times. The illustration below highlights why

reuse makes great sense. By using the durable products we already have, we lessen the need to manufacture, transport, and purchase new ones.

In this year's RRR Guide, we're going to share a few simple but impactful things western Massachusetts residents can do to join the reuse movement.

On page 4 you'll learn about the new library trend of loaning "things" in addition to books. Musical instruments, baking equipment, machines, and tools are just a few of the items being added to library catalogs. Borrowing makes great sense for things we use infrequently (unless you are a professional baker; how many times will you use a SpongeBob Squarepants shaped cake pan?), as well as for items you want to try out to determine if a purchase makes sense for your household.

Cost-free swap and sharing opportunities are discussed on page 7. You'll learn about Franklin and Hampshire County swap shops and free stores, as well as community repair events, where handy volunteers help local residents by fixing—or instructing how to fix—household objects... that need a little love to make them fully useable. On a side note, organizing free swap events for friends,

neighborhood, or school groups is easy and rewarding. Consider initiating swaps for clothing, sporting goods, toys, music media, garden, and kitchen equipment...the list of possibilities is endless.

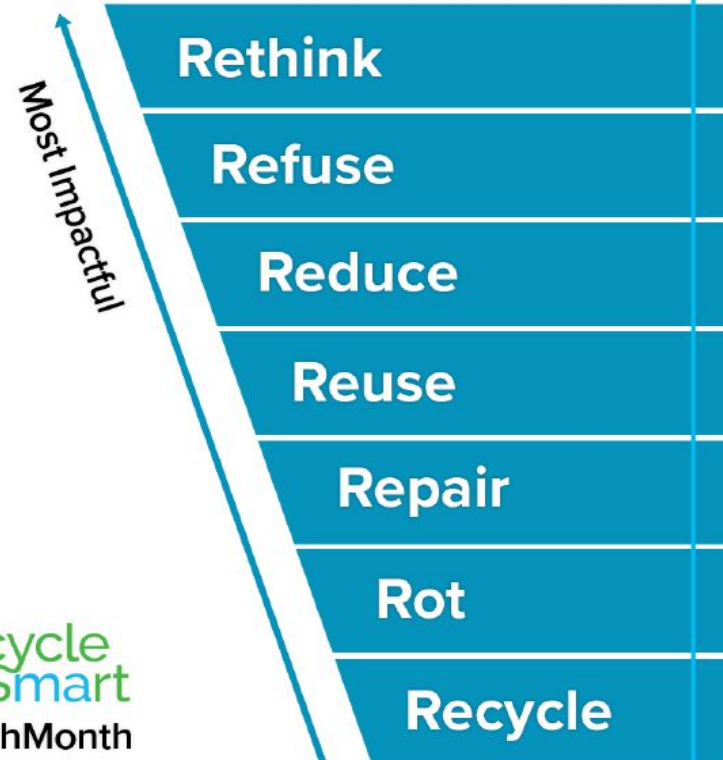
We lean into the commercial side of things on page 10, and focus on how reuse is enjoying a comeback in restaurants and other food serving organizations.

Finally on page 25, the folks from RecycleSmartMA, MassDEP's public education initiative, will share more reasons why reuse and repair make such good sense.

If after reading this guide, you think carefully about your next purchase, considering the questions in the graphic on page 26, this publication has achieved success.



Reframing the Waste Hierarchy



Recycle
Smart
#EarthMonth

The Impact of Reuse: Why Preserving Durable Goods Makes Sense



Preserves landfill space



Saves consumers money



Preserves natural resources



Reduces the need to extract more resources for new products



Eliminates the energy required to create new products



Eliminates the energy required to transport new products

THINGS FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Local libraries host “Library of Things” - useful items to borrow rather than buy!

Libraries have long championed reuse in our communities. Libraries loan a myriad of items to their patrons, all for free: books, DVDs, CDs, museum and park passes; plus, they host puzzle swaps and seed swaps. In the library, they have magazines and newspapers to read, and library computers and other equipment available to use.

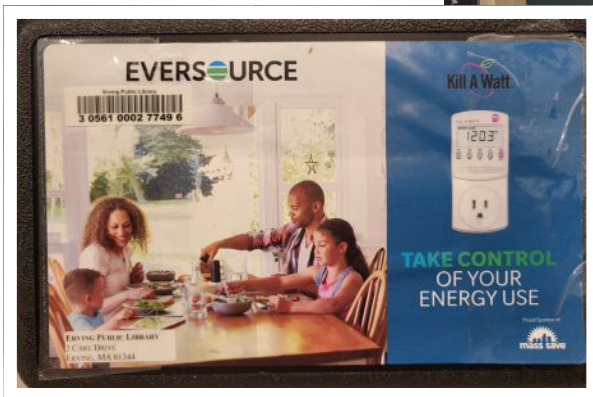
In the past few years, many local libraries have added a "Library of Things" to their collections. These programs allow residents to borrow useful items from their town's lending library, rather than purchasing household products and equipment that they might only use occasionally. Items range from appliance energy meters and musical instruments to telescopes, projectors, and blood pressure monitors. In turn, the borrowers can save money, share resources, and reduce waste by borrowing items from the Library of Things.

Ivan Ussach, Director of Warwick Free Public Library, explains how a Library of Things can help households save money: "The Thermal Camera is by far the most popular item from our Library of Things. Demand for this item is mostly seasonal, with cold-weather heating bills motivating patrons to find, and then remedy, areas of their home leaking heat--and dollars. The Appliance Energy Meter is also used to help residents gauge the

cost of a particular appliance's energy use; might be time to switch out that old refrigerator for a more energy-efficient one."

At most local libraries, anyone with a CWMARS library card in good standing may borrow items from the Library of Things. Borrowers must visit the library to pick up and return the items; they can not be sent through interlibrary loan. Borrowers can keep the items for between one to six weeks, depending on the type of item. See the box on this page for examples of common, popular and unique items that are loaned.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



This Kill A Watt electricity usage monitor kit measures energy consumption of household appliances and is available for loan from Erving Public Library.



Library of Things items on the shelf at Erving Public Library

REUSE: Borrow from a "Library of Things"

Below we've included some of the popular or unique items at each library. Contact your local library for a full list and their policies.

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Griswold Memorial, Colrain -
radon detector, bocce, croquet,
paper shredder, zoom recorder,
SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder)
light therapy lamp, dremel kit, cup-
cake decorating kit, Roku Stream-
ing Stick

Tilton Library, Deerfield -
sewing machine, paper shredder,
bike pump, graphing calculator

Erving Public Library - col-

lapsable wagon cart, garden tools,
bluetooth speaker, webcam,
memory/dementia friendly game
kits, tonies

Greenfield Public Library - mobile hotspots, technology kits, soil health test kits, fishing kits (seasonal, 15+), ukuleles

Heath Free Public Library -
electric keyboard, portable DVD
player, youth snowshoes, needles
& thread for hand mending, needle
felting needles, roving wool swap

Leverett Library - board games, bins of LEGO, looms, science and STEAM Kits, telescopes, Kits: Pysanki egg dying, bookbinding, jewelry making

Montague Libraries - ice cream maker, assistive technology for those with low vision or hearing, laminator, projector screen, moisture meter

Dickinson Memorial Library,

Northfield - Kits: flower-pressing, embroidery, needle-felting, calligraphy

Rowe Town Library - carpet cleaner, pressure canner, metal detector, podcast setup

Sunderland Public Library -
Early literacy / ESOL / learning kits,
musical instruments, Wi-Fi
hotspots, EMF meter

Warwick Free Public Library -
thermal camera, blood pressure
cuffs, appliance energy meter

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY

Jones Library, Amherst - Audio/visual production equipment, Blu-Ray and DVD players, energy meters, projectors, telescopes, musical instruments

Forbes Library, Northampton -
e-readers, recording equipment,
science and STEAM Kits, Wi-Fi

hotspots, magnifiers

Granby Public Library - Early Literacy / ESOL /learning kits, outdoor activities

Pelham Public Library - knitting, looms, needlework kits: crochet, robots, VCR players, Virtual Reality/Augmented Reality, large coffee urn

**Clapp Memorial Library,
Belchertown** - e-readers, early literacy / ESOL / science and STEAM Kits

South Hadley Public Library -
dolls, energy meters, home and
garden, musical instruments, bird-
watching

Westhampton Public Library -
fitness, gardening/yard equipment,
knitting, sewing, tools

Lists are not all-inclusive.



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TRASH TO TREASURE ► REUSE AND REPAIR

Keep stuff out of the landfill by using local Swap Shops, Free Stores and Repair Events

Spring cleaning? Clearing the clutter at home? Does it seem like every time you open the kitchen cabinet, the coffee mugs have multiplied overnight? Don't trash unwanted items, reuse or repair them! Below we'll give the scoop on local reuse and repair opportunities that can help keep useful items in circulation rather than going to the landfill.

MUNICIPAL SWAP SHOPS

"One person's trash is another person's treasure." That old adage rang true when Deerfield resident Kathy Watroba stopped in at the Deerfield Transfer Station Swap Shed, where she found a framed print of *Achillea Ptarmica* (sneezewort) by naturalist and illustrator James Sowerby. "It was the first time I had visited the Swap Shed, and look what I found waiting for me!" she exclaimed. Of the 19 municipal transfer stations in Franklin County, 13 of them host a swap shop (see list on next page.)

Don't let "Swap" in the name confuse you; residents who use their town's swap shops/swap shed are not

required to bring something to swap when they "shop" at a swap shop. Residents can take free reused items or drop off unwanted items any time the swap shop is open. It's all free, and the benefits are many: swap shops make it easy for residents to keep items out of the landfill, save money by obtaining free household items, and keep useful items in circulation.

Items brought to a swap shop should be clean, in good working condition, and have all their parts. Be sure to review each swap shop's guidelines (e.g. what donations they accept, when, and other criteria) and play by the rules respectfully during your visit.

In Hampshire County, the Northampton ReCenter Swap Shop, located at the former landfill on Glendale Road, has served as a hub of reuse for the last decade. Out of town residents may use this facility by purchasing a \$10 annual permit; Northampton residents with a transfer station sticker have free access.



Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station (WRATS) Free Store; only open to residents.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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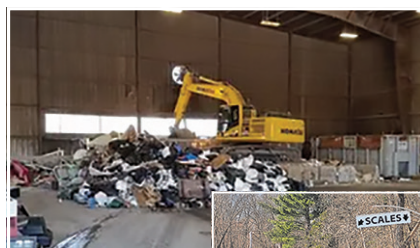
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8am-4pm Monday - Friday, Saturday 8am-12pm • valley-recycling.us

Northampton ReCenter Swap Shop, located at the former landfill on Glendale Road, has served as a hub of reuse for the last decade.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

FREE REUSE CENTERS AND COMMUNITY CLOTHING CLOSETS

The Pioneer Valley's circular economy is flowing with well-established thrift shops, consignment stores, and charity organizations, but readers may not be as familiar with the free stores and community clothing closets that have been established more recently. Each of these volunteer-run centers offers reused items for free and accepts specific donations, but are only open a few hours a week. Please review each site's guidelines and only donate clean items in good condition.

■ **Redistro in Greenfield** (pictured, right) is a hip, cooperatively run reuse hotspot. At Redistro (redistro.org), visitors sort their own donations into the racks and shelves, often while dancing to live artists or boombox tunes. Redistro is stocked with free household goods, clothing, books, and electronics, and is open Sundays 11 am - 2 pm and Mondays 5 pm - 8 pm.

■ **The Finder's Collective "Free Store with a Fridge,"** located at 104 Fourth St. Turners Falls, is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 3 pm - 6 pm, is a social center where locals can donate and/or pick up books, household goods, clothing, toys, art and craft supplies, musical instruments, seeds, food, including cold items in the community fridge. instagram.com/finders.collective

■ **The Northfield Clothing Closet** is "a place to bring clean and dry clothes, toys, and supplies while shopping for new ones." (\$5 suggested donation.) It is located inside the Field Library, 243 Millers Falls Rd. in Northfield, and is open Mondays 4 pm - 6 pm and the first Saturday of the month from 10 am - 1 pm. Drop donations in the front vestibule. facebook.com/p/Northfield-MA-Clothing-Closet-61568673977923/

■ **The Nest Community Closet,** located at the United Church of Bernardston in Bernardston, MA, is a free donation center and clothing closet with an emphasis on children's and infant clothing and equipment. Open Tuesdays & 2nd Saturdays 9-11:30 am; facebook.com/NestCommunityCloset; (413) 239-4990.

■ **The Easthampton Community Center,** located at 12 Clark St. in Easthampton, accepts donations and offers a free clothing closet, including bedding and small household items for residents, for a donation of \$3.00 per bag. Open Monday and Wednesday from 9 am - 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm, and Tuesdays from 9 am - 12 noon: 413-527-5240; easthamptoncommunitycenter.org.

■ **The Village Closet,** located at 2 E Main St, Huntington, MA, accepts donations and offers free baby supplies, diapers, clothing from newborn to adult, hygiene products, safe sleep options, and more, all for free. Open hours are Sundays and Mondays from 11 am - 2pm and Tuesdays from 4:30 - 7 pm; hilltownvillage.org/closet; (413) 650-3640.

If none of these drop-off locations work for you, try offering your unwanted items on a community social media page, or an online sharing site (e.g. a "Buy Nothing" Facebook group; Facebook Marketplace Free Stuff; Freecycle.org, etc.), or bring to local thrift shops and donation centers.

REPAIR EVENTS

Reuse includes repairing broken items rather than sending them to a landfill and replacing them with brand new items. The act of repair is catching on in the Pioneer Valley. Northampton RePair Events, Griswold Memorial Library in Colrain, and Dickinson Memorial Library in Northfield have led by example with their annual Fix-It and repair events.

At these free events, local residents bring broken items to volunteer



Redistro in Greenfield

Municipal Reuse/ Swap Shops

Located at the municipal transfer stations listed below, unless otherwise noted. Free, but most swap shops are only open to transfer station permit holders or residents. It's important to review your town's guidelines. Items must be clean, working, with all their parts.



FRANKLIN COUNTY:

- Charlemont
- Conway
- Deerfield
- Heath
- Leverett
- New Salem
- Northfield
- Northfield Tool Library at Northfield Transfer Station
- Orange
- Rowe
- Shelburne
- Warwick (*opening soon*)
- Wendell
- Whately

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY:

- Belchertown
- Chesterfield
- Cummington (*pictured above*)
- Northampton: ReCenter at the Glendale Road Transfer Station
- Middlefield
- Plainfield
- Southampton
- Westhampton: Swap Shop at the Hurd Transfer Station



Lamps were a popular fix-it item at the 2025 Franklin County Repair event; Swanson's Fabrics mobile mending program provides mending and guidance at several local events.



“fixers,” who nurture broken or worn items back to life by gluing wooden furniture, sharpening knives, mending clothing and textiles, repairing small appliances and the most popular category - repairing lamps!

David Starr of Northampton RePair writes: “We invite the public to come to Smith Vocational High School gym on April 25 and October 31 for the Northampton Community RePair event, from noon till 4 pm. It’s a very popular event; we usually have 15 to 20 volunteer ‘fixers’ and 150 repairs requested, so not everyone gets their item repaired. I recommend that people get there

early.” Northampton RePair sums this up beautifully with the slogan “Uniting Handy Hearts with Broken Parts.”

Franklin County Solid Waste District will hold the second annual Franklin County Repair event at Franklin County Tech School on May 30th, 2026 and is developing three other regional repair events to take place across Franklin County this summer. See the box on this page for a listing of local repair events.

Swanson’s Fabrics/The Stash House in Turners Falls received a 2024 MassDEP Reduce Reuse, Repair Micro-grant for the purpose of

“Building a Culture of Clothing Repair.” This funding allowed Swanson’s to outfit their sewing studio for mending and provided carts for their mobile mending program, enabling them to host workshops at local libraries and universities. The Stash House also hosts “Mends with Friends” nights on Tuesdays from 5:30-7:30 pm. Local Mass Cultural Council grants are funding Swanson’s Summer 2026 mending workshops at the libraries in Ashfield, Colrain, Easthampton, Erving, and Northfield. For more sewing and mending resources available from local libraries, see “Beyond Books” on page 4.

Local 2026 Repair Events

Events are free and open to all, except where noted. Please review the event guidelines before bringing items.

FRANKLIN COUNTY:

■ **Franklin County Repair Event**
Saturday, May 30, 2026, 9 am - 12 noon
Franklin County Tech School
Open to Franklin County residents only.

■ **West County Regional Fix-It Day**
Saturday, June 13, 2026, 11 am - 2 pm
Colrain Central School

■ **Northfield Fix-It Fair**
Sunday, July 26, 2026, 1 pm - 3 pm
Northfield Golf Club (Beech House Tent)

■ **Franklin County Solid Waste District** is developing two more regional repair events in summer 2026; check website for dates:
<https://franklincountywastedistrict.org>

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY:

■ **Northampton Community RePair Events:**
April 25 and October 31, 2026, 12 noon - 4 pm
Smith Vocational High School gym

Lists are not all-inclusive.



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RecyclingWorks MA Offers Tools to Help



Replacing single-use food service containers with reusable to-go containers can reduce disposal and purchasing costs for restaurants and other food service businesses, and there are new resources available to ease the way.

RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts (RecyclingWorks MA) is a statewide business assistance program funded by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass-DEP)*. In collaboration with Mass-DEP and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, RecyclingWorks MA has published guidance to help restaurants, colleges, and other food service entities transition from single-use containers to clean and safe reusable systems.

The Reusable Containers Best Management Practices Guidance (recyclingworksma.com/reusable-containers-guidance) provides practical, step-by-step considerations for launching or expanding a reusable food ware program. It reflects input from food service operators across Massachusetts and aligns with current health and safety requirements under the Massachusetts Food Code.

Reducing your restaurant's single-use packaging can save money, reduce waste, and show commitment to sustainable practices. Prevent unnecessary waste and prioritize reusable materials to reap the most financial and environmental benefits.

The guidance covers key topics such as system design, cleaning and sanitization, customer participation, and operational logistics, helping businesses implement reuse in a way that works for their operations. The document will continue to be updated as state and federal food code requirements evolve.

Additionally, RecyclingWorks MA offers a free guide, "Reducing Waste from Restaurant Takeout and Delivery Meals" (recyclingworksma.com/takeoutwaste), with strategies to help restaurants save money, eliminate unnecessary waste, and choose takeout containers that can be reused, recycled, or composted.

RecyclingWorks MA can also help businesses reduce wasted food. Prevention is the most cost-effective food recovery strategy, significantly decreasing both waste hauling and food purchasing costs. The "Source Reduction of Food Waste Guidance" (recyclingworksma.com/sourcereduction) outlines best management practices for preventing wasted food from both back-of-house (pre-consumer) and front-of-house (post-consumer).

RecyclingWorks assists businesses and institutions with waste prevention, reuse, recycling, and food recovery. The program provides customized, no-cost technical assistance through phone or email consultation, virtual appointments, and in-person waste assessments. To speak with a recycling expert, call (888) 254-5525 or email info@recyclingworksma.com. Visit recyclingworksma.com to learn more.

*RecyclingWorks is a program delivered under contract by CET (cetonline.org).

SINGLE-USE PACKAGING OPTIONS

- Purchase containers that are accepted in your customers' recycling or compost program.
- Check Recycle Smart MA to confirm what is recyclable in Massachusetts.
- Become a Recycle Smart MA Partner and spread the word about recycling best practices.

RECYCLE	DO NOT RECYCLE
Aluminum foil and trays	Plastic bags (Many supermarkets and retailers accept clean and dry plastic bags for recycling.)
Clear or white plastic clamshells	Styrofoam
Plastic tubs with lids	Black plastic
Clear plastic cups, with lids attached (no straws)	Waxed or plastic-coated paper food and beverage containers
Paper bags	Condiment cups and packets
Pizza boxes (grease is okay)	Straws, small lids, utensils, and other items smaller than a smart phone

This portion of RecyclingWorks MA's Reducing Waste From Restaurant Takeout and Delivery Meals Guide highlights recyclable vs non-recyclable single use packaging options. More materials sourcing and other information are available from RecyclingWorks MA's Restaurant Business Sector Guidance webpage (recyclingworksma.com/how-to/business-sector-guidance/restaurants).

RECYCLING'S MOST UNWANTED

Keep these items out of household recycling. Batteries can cause dangerous fires, while plastic bags, hoses, and string lights can tangle in recycling equipment and cause costly shutdowns.

For a complete YES & NO list of what can be recycled, visit www.springfieldmrf.org or call the recycling hotline: 413-755-2286.

RECYCLE ME, PLEASE!

Recyclers and manufacturers agree: pizza boxes are recyclable!

GREASE IS OK, JUST MAKE SURE I'M EMPTY

For more information: recyclesmartma.org, www.springfieldmrf.org, or call the recycling hotline: 413-755-2286.

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HRMC

PO Box 630, Williamsburg, MA 01096 • 413-685-5408 • www.hrmc-ma.org
Contact: Linda Cernik, HRMC Administrator

WESTHAMPTON • PLAINFIELD • MIDDLEFIELD

A - Z guide to find options for recycling, reuse, hazardous waste, or special disposal for hundreds of items starting on page 14

BIG NEWS ► PAPER CUPS ARE NOW ACCEPTED IN RECYCLING!

E mpty paper cups, such as coffee cups, may now be included in household recycling! This includes all paper cups: coffee cups, fountain drink cups, bathroom cups, and compostable cups. Paper hot drink sleeves are also recyclable. Please rinse residual food from cups. Related lids and straws belong in the trash. In communities that collect recyclable paper separately from bottles and cans (dual stream recycling), empty paper cups can now join your pizza boxes in the paper bin.

THE RECYCLESMAART TEAM AT MASSDEP GIVES US THE SCOOP ON THIS BIG NEWS:

S o, what changed? Technology! Paper cups are made of long, valuable fibers (80-95% of the cup), with a plastic interior lining made of polyethylene (and sometimes polylactic acid) that provides insulation and helps prevent leaks. Previously, that lining – often called a poly coat – was very difficult to filter out at paper mills and was considered a contaminant. But with new technology, mills can now separate the lining from those valuable fibers.



FINISH YOUR SIP AND RECYCLE IT

P aper cups moving to the YES list is a big deal here in Massachusetts. Think about it:

We've got coffee shops across the street from coffee shops (IYKYK), which means a LOT of cups.

Now, we always encourage reuse, but if you happen to forget your

reusable travel mug, don't fret. Enjoy your drink and then recycle your empty cup!

Breaking News:

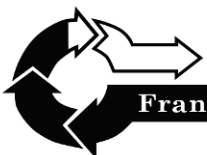
Paper Cups Are Now Recyclable!



Recycle empty paper cups.

Lids, straws, and foam cups still go in the trash.

RecycleSmartMA.org 



Waste Watchers

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

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

413-772-2438 • franklincountywastedistrict.org

info@franklincountywastedistrict.org

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

2026 Collection Dates:

Clean Sweep Bulky Waste Recycling Days: May 16 and October 17

Household Hazardous Waste Day: September 19

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

The District is an equal opportunity service provider.

RECYCLOPEDIA

Search hundreds of common items (from paper bags to pizza boxes) to find out if they belong in the recycling bin in Massachusetts.

MassDEP's Recycle Smart Recyclopeda:

recyclesmartma.org

Recyclopeda: Can I recycle it?

Enter name of item (ex. bottle)

Search

**Recycle
Smart**
RecycleSmartMA.org

RECYCLING

ROOM BY ROOM

IN THE
OFFICE
YES!



NO



YES!



IN THE
BATHROOM

NO



ON THE
HOLIDAYS
YES!



NO



NO



IN THE
KITCHEN
YES!



Lists are not all-inclusive. Some of the items marked as "No" are recyclable in separate programs. Please see "What Do I Do With...?" on page 14 of this guide. For more information and downloadable guides like this one, see springfieldmrf.org.

What Do I Do With...?

Use this A – Z guide to find options for recycling, reuse, hazardous waste, or special disposal for hundreds of items. Also see “Recycle in Western Mass.”

☠ = Items that are hazardous or require special handling.

AEROSOL CANS ☠

Empty aerosol cans belong in the trash, unless they contain hazardous material (e.g. paint, insecticide), in which case they are classified as household hazardous waste (see the Household Hazardous Waste Event page in this guide). A handful of transfer stations/recycling centers accept completely empty, non-hazardous aerosol cans in scrap metal dumpsters (empty cans are completely silent when the button is pushed). See the Community Recycling Information table in this guide for local disposal information. More info: mass.gov/info-details/safely-manage-hazardous-household-products.

ALUMINUM FOIL, CANS & “DISPOSABLE” PANS

Rinse clean and recycle with bottles & cans. Acceptable items include aluminum pie pans and take-out containers, aluminum party cups, disposable roasting pans, and clean aluminum foil (form it into a loose ball no smaller than 3”). The “foil” lids from yogurt containers should not be recycled, as they contain a layer of plastic that causes issues when the aluminum is melted down.

ALUMINUM SIDING (see “Scrap Metal”)

AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES

Call your Police Department for proper disposal instructions.

ANTIFREEZE ☠ (see “Automotive Products”)

APPLIANCES (see “Scrap Metal”)

ARTS, CRAFTS & HOBBY ITEMS ☠

Some paints, solvents and related materials are considered hazardous and should be brought to a hazardous waste collection. Always check the label before tossing in the trash. See the “Household Hazardous Waste” entry and the Household Hazardous Waste Event page in this guide for information on local hazardous waste collections.

Call your local community art centers to see if they can accept your unwanted nontoxic art supplies. Crazycrayons.com offers a crayon recycling program. Staples stores now accept the following items for free recycling: crayons & colored pencils, glue sticks & bottles (empty), pencils & pencil pouches, pens, markers & highlighters (staples.com/stores/recycling).

ASBESTOS ☠

There are strict removal and disposal requirements for asbestos. Contact the Western Region of the Mass Department of Environmental Protection: John Moriarty: john.moriarty@mass.gov, 413-784-1100. To find licensed asbestos contractors, go to mass.gov and search for “Asbestos Contractors.”

AUTOMOBILES (see “Vehicles”)

AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS ☠

Automotive products contain hazardous materials and must be handled with care. Do not dispose of hazardous products in the trash, on the ground, or down the drain. Plastic automotive product jugs that are empty and well-drained belong in the trash (replace caps first). Do not recycle them.

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

■ Motor oil

Even a small amount of improperly disposed motor oil will

contaminate water and soil. In Massachusetts, retailers that sell motor oil are required by law to accept up to two gallons of used oil at no charge with an original sales receipt. Many auto supply stores, auto repair shops and quick oil change chains will accept used oil even if you didn’t buy it from them. Some towns accept motor oil at transfer stations or hazardous waste collections. Valley Recycling in Northampton (413-587-4279; valley-recycling.us) accepts clean used motor oil, 1 gallon or less. For assistance, call the MassDEP Used Oil Hotline at 617-556-1022.

■ Motor oil filters

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

■ Antifreeze

Antifreeze is not only haz-

ardous; its deceiving color and sweet taste may attract children, pets and wild animals. Consider having your vehicle’s radiator flushed at a service station to avoid the responsibility associated with proper storage and disposal. Some auto supply stores accept antifreeze for free recycling. Antifreeze is accepted at some transfer stations and can be brought to a household hazardous waste collection; see the Household Hazardous Waste Event page in this guide.

■ Brake fluid

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

BABY FOOD POUCHES (see “Plastic Pouches”)

BAGS (see “Plastics”)

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

BATTERIES ☠

!!! NEVER Put Batteries in Regular Recycling Bins! !!!

Batteries cause severe fire risks in trucks and facilities if they are compacted in waste trucks or run over by heavy equipment. The only batteries that can go in

RECYCLE

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, paperback books, construction paper, gift wrap/bags/tissue paper and greeting cards (no metallic inks, foil, wire, glitter, batteries)

Empty and clean all containers. Replace lids and caps.

Aluminum: cans, foil, pie pans

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

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

Glass: food, beverage bottles and jars

in WESTERN MASS

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

No

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

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

the trash are Single-Use Alkaline, carbon zinc, and zinc chloride (AA, AAA, C, D, 9V, Lantern) batteries that were manufactured after 1996. (Tip: Tape terminals on 9-volt and lantern batteries). Staples accepts alkaline batteries (and all others) for free recycling. ALL Other Batteries (Rechargeable, Lithium, Button): Contain hazardous materials. Never put in trash or recycling, even if batteries are "dead." Free Drop-Off Locations: Staples (accepts ALL types of batteries), Home Depot (tool batteries only), Lowe's, or municipal transfer stations. Find Local Drop-Offs: recyclesmartma.org/beyond-the-bin-search (Search by type, such as "rechargeable", "e-bike", or "button") Rechargeable Battery Info: batterynetwork.org/locator

More options and information for specific batteries:

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

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

■ **Lithium (single use) and Lithium-Ion batteries (rechargeable)** pose a particular fire risk: if a lithium battery becomes swollen or damaged, handle carefully and bag separately, then place the battery in a metal canister or glass jar surrounded

by clay kitty litter or Speedy Dry. Bring to your town's transfer station or hazardous waste site.

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

■ **Lead-acid batteries** (used in vehicles, boats, motorcycles, kids' ride-on toys, some lawn mowers, exit lights, and UPS power backups) are accepted by the retailer from whom you buy a new one (they are required to take one back at no charge). Many transfer stations accept them, and scrap metal recyclers typically pay for lead-acid batteries.

ies. Some auto parts stores provide a gift card to customers who bring in a vehicle battery, whether the battery was purchased there or not.

BEER AND SODA PACKAGING

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

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

"Snap top" six or four-pack can carriers are often made with 100% recycled plastic, which provides a market for recycled plastic. However, snap tops are not acceptable in recycling because their size and shape make them challenging to sort. Mass Brew Bros has established a can carrier reuse program; save your snap tops and find a drop off location near you at: massbrewbros.com/can-carrier-recycling and paktech-opi.com.

BICYCLES

Working bicycles in good condition may be gifted to individuals via an online sharing group (e.g. a "Buy Nothing" Facebook group or Freecycle.org), or offered to charities (search online via "bicycle do-

nation") and other organizations that can reuse them. For recycling options, see "scrap metal."

BOATS

Before disposal or recycling, all engine-type fluids, batteries, and propane tanks must first be drained or removed and properly disposed of. Metal boats are often accepted at scrap metal dealers. Small boats are sometimes accepted as bulky waste at municipal transfer stations (call to inquire, see local contact info in the Community Recycling Information table in this guide). Valley Recycling in Northampton (413-587-4279; valley-recycling.us) accepts boats and campers by weight. See more disposal suggestions under "Vehicles."

BOOKS

Books in good condition may be sold (used bookstores, tag sales), donated (public libraries, fund-raising sales, thrift stores, drop boxes at transfer stations), or shared at book exchanges or swap shops. Little Free Library book-sharing boxes allow anyone to leave or take books for free; see a map of locations at: littlefreelibrary.org/map. Roundabout Books, a Greenfield-based bookstore accepts dry books in any condition and has a special arrangement to recycle unsalable books of any type (roundaboutbookstore.com).

If not suitable for reuse, paperback books and phonebooks are accepted in household recycling programs, in small quantities. Hardcover books are not accepted in household recycling programs; rip out the pages and

recycle those. Covers and spines from hardcover books must be placed in the trash.

BOTTLE CAPS & LIDS

Plastic caps & lids are recyclable only when attached to a plastic bottle, jar, jug, or tub. Loose plastic caps should be placed in the trash, as items less than 3" in diameter can create safety hazards and shutdowns at recycling facilities. Metal screw-top lids from glass jars (e.g. pasta sauce, pickle jar) should be attached to the container even though it is a different material. Loose metal can lids are acceptable, but it is best to push them inside the can before recycling.

BOXES

Clean cardboard, boxboard, and paperboard boxes are recyclable (e.g., boxes from cereal, crackers, tissues, shoes, gifts, etc.) Attached plastic windows may stay, but discard all plastic liners and packaging. Flatten. Pizza Boxes are recyclable, as long as they are empty. A 2020 study found that greasy pizza boxes do NOT cause problems for recycled paper manufacturers. It is now OK to put the entire empty pizza box into recycling (remove all crusts, food, foil, plastic, or waxed paper). Link to the study: tinyurl.com/pizzaboxes2020 Frozen food boxes, ice cream cartons, case boxes from soda or beer, and kitty litter boxes should be placed in the trash. These boxes are made with "wet strength paper," which contains plastic or bonding chemicals that help the boxes to stay strong when wet. The plastic and chemi-

RECICLAJE

SÍ

Favor de reciclar los siguientes papeles y envases:



Papel: sobres con ventanas, revistas, periódicos, folletos publicitarios, notas autoadhesivas, tarjetas de presentación, catálogos, papel blanco y coloreado, cartón ondulado, cajas de cartón (ej. cajas de cereal), cajas de pizza **vacías**, libros de pasta blanda, cartulina, papel para envolver regalos, bolsas de regalos, y papel de seda (no tinta metálica, láminas, alambres, ni pilas)

Favor de vaciar y limpiar todos los envases y volver a poner las tapas en los recipientes.

Aluminio: Latas, papel de aluminio, moldes de aluminio

Acero: Latas de alimentos y bebidas

Cartones: de leche, jugo, sopa, leche de soya y otras bebidas

Vidrio: frascos y botellas de alimentos y bebidas

¿Hablas Español? Springfield MRF's 2023 recycling videos have been translated into Spanish, Turkish, Ukrainian and Russian, available at: SpringfieldMRF.org. Multilingual recycling guide, in Spanish and 10 other languages, available at: recyclesmartma.org/smart-recycling-guide

en Western Mass

Plástico: (envases de 2.5 galones o menos) contenedores de alimentos: mantequilla, yogur, aceite de cocina, condimentos, mantequilla de maní; botellas y jarras de bebidas: refresco, agua, jugo, leche; botellas de detergente; vasos y contenedores de plástico transparentes, cartones de huevos transparentes; envases de jabón, champú, y acondicionador

No

bolsas de plástico, vasos de plásticos opacos o de colores, botellas de anticongelantes o aceite de motor, envases de plástico negro, envases de papel de alimentos congelados, uncel, ropa, pilas*

*Para saber más sobre reciclar visite nuestra página www.springfieldmrf.org.

cals contaminate recyclable paper. These materials also cannot be composted.

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 and wood. Fee-based disposal options are available at many recycling/transfer stations; for more information, call the phone number listed for your town in the Community Recycling Information table in this guide. Vehicles with a capacity greater than 5 cubic yards are subject to strict disposal requirements for C&D wastes in MA. For more information: mass.gov/lists/managing-construction-demolition-cd-wastes. Building materials that are in good condition can be offered via an online free sharing group (e.g., Freecycle.org or a “Buy Nothing” Facebook group). Wooden pallets can be reused, repurposed, or recycled as “clean wood waste.” Disposal options for large quantities include (but are not limited to) 360 Recycling (Westfield: 360recyclingllc.com, 413-562-0193), Martin’s Farm (Greenfield: martinsfarmcompost.com, 413-774-5631). Note: pressure-treated wood should only be disposed of in a landfill. Do not put it in a backyard compost pile, a brush or chipping pile; and do not burn it. For bulky waste disposal at local transfer stations, see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide.

CAMERAS

Staples stores, Best Buy stores, and many electronic waste (e-waste) recycling programs accept digital cameras for free recycling. Rechargeable digital cameras and devices such as GoPros contain rechargeable batteries that must be properly disposed of. See “Batteries” in this guide.

CAR SEATS

Car seats are not accepted in household recycling programs. Used car seats should not be accepted (or purchased) for reuse at swap shops at municipal transfer stations, as it’s challenging to know if they have been recalled or were previously damaged in an accident. Target hosts a semi-annual car seat trade-in event (—tinyurl.com/TargetCarSeatRecycle). Target accepts all types of car seats for recycling, including infant car seats, convertible car seats, car seat bases, harness or booster car seats, as well as car seats that are expired or damaged. Materials from the old car seats are recycled by Ecotech to create new Target products by Brightroom, Room Essentials, and Pillowfort. Participants receive a 20% off Target coupon for a new car seat, travel system or similar item.

CARPET

Flor® offers a free mail-back recycling program for Flor® brand carpet squares (flor.com/recycle). Some thrift stores accept small throw rugs, bathmats, and hall runners that are clean and in good condition. Carpets and rugs are not accepted in textile recycling programs. Or offer unwanted carpets, rugs and pads that are in good condition via an online sharing group (e.g. Freecycle.org, “Buy Nothing” Facebook group). For local disposal information, see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide.

CARTONS & DRINK BOXES

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

“Paper” 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 and their batteries should never be put in the trash or recycling due to their reuse value and hazardous/recyclable components. See “Batteries” for safe disposal options. Numerous charitable and for-profit organizations accept cell phone donations. Search online using “cell phone donation.” Stores that sell cell phones also accept them for free recycling, and many cell phone manufacturers offer buy-back programs through the mail. Many municipal transfer stations accept cell phones for special recycling programs. See Beyond the Bin for local drop-off recycling locations: recyclesmartma.org/beyond-the-bin-search

CHRISTMAS TREES

(see “Yard Waste”)

CIGARETTE BUTTS

TerraCycle’s Free Cigarette Waste Recycling Program accepts extinguished cigarettes, filters, loose tobacco pouches, outer plastic and inner foil packaging for recycling into plastic lumber and other products. Go to terracycle.com and type “cigarette” in the search bar.

CLAMSHELLS & CLEAR MOLDED PLASTICS

(see “Plastics”)

CLEANERS (see “Household Hazardous Waste”)

CLOTHING & TEXTILES

As of November 2022, textiles are banned from trash in Massachusetts. There are many local reuse and donation opportunities for all textiles and shoes. Deliver CLEAN & DRY textiles and clothing to drop-off boxes serviced by organizations such as the Salvation Army (easternusa.salvation-army.org), Hartsprings (hartsprings.org), Bay State Textiles (baystatetextiles.com), and to donation centers such as Goodwill Industries (goodwill.org). Most municipal transfer stations host textile drop boxes (see Community Recycling Info table in this guide). DO include items that are clean but torn, stained, with missing buttons or broken zippers, as these organizations sell damaged textiles to recyclers to be made into wiping cloths and insulation. Acceptable items include these CLEAN and DRY items: mismatched socks, shoes, and gloves; all clothing and accessories, including belts, ties, underwear, and purses; and linens such as curtains, throw pillows, light comforters, sheets, towels, and stuffed animals in any condition. Some animal shelters also accept old sheets, blankets, pillowcases, bedspreads, throw rugs, and towels for reuse (call first).

To find local thrift and consignment stores to donate or shop for used clothing, go to thethriftshopper.com. See also thredup.com, poshmark.com, ebay.com, and wornwear.patagonia.com. Bras can be donated to Salvation Army or Goodwill; any items that are not in good condition will be sorted, baled, and sold for textile recycling. New or gently used bras can be mailed to The Bra Recyclers for distribution to women in transition around the world: thebrarecyclers.com. Some local non-profit organizations target specific types of clothing to benefit those in need, such as professional clothing (westernmass.dressforsuccess.org).

COAT HANGERS

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

COMPACT FLUORESCENT LAMPS (CFLS)  (“see Mercury & Mercury-containing Products”)

COMPUTERS & TV’S
(see “Electronics”)

CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION WASTE (see “Building & Remodeling Materials”)

COOKING OIL

Never pour cooking oil down the drain. Special recycling barrels for used cooking oil are available at a few municipal transfer stations in the region. Otherwise, put the oil in its original container, replace the cap, and place it in the trash. Western Mass Rendering offers dumpsters for large collections: 413-569-6265, westernmassrendering.com.

CORKS

Corks should never be put in recycling bins. Remove corks from bottles before recycling. Natural corks can be chopped up and added to a backyard compost bin. Local drop-off options for corks include Table & Vine in West Springfield and Ryan & Casey Liquors in Greenfield (accepts natural wine & champagne corks only; no plastic corks or screw caps). There are no local recycling options for plastic corks. TerraCycle.com offers a fee-based recycling program for plastic beverage corks only; natural corks are not accepted. Corks can be reused in many creative ways (search online for “cork art”), or offered to others on a free online sharing site such as Freecycle.org, or a “Buy Nothing” Facebook group.

COSMETICS CONTAINERS

Cosmetic containers are not recyclable in household recycling programs. (Exceptions: empty containers from cosmetics that are packaged in plastic or glass bottles, jars, or tubs can be recycled.) Clean cosmetics containers (e.g. any brand of compact, lipstick, mascara, tubes, droppers) are accepted at Pact Collective’s cosmetic recycling bins at Sephora in the Holyoke Mall and the Ulta Beauty store in Hadley (pactcollective.org). Mail-in recycling programs for empty cosmetics containers can be found at terracycle.com and maccosmetics.com/back-to-mac.

CUPS

Clear plastic cups and their attached lids are accepted in recycling. Empty and rinse any food residue. Straws go in the trash. These other types of common plastic cups are NOT acceptable for recycling: “Styrofoam”/ polystyrene (#6 plastic), colored keg cups, and opaque plastic cups. Mail-in recycling programs for #6 cups can be found at terracycle.com under “Zero Waste Box.” If a clear plastic cup is labeled “compostable,” it should NOT go in recycling. Clear cups made of compostable polylactic acid (PLA) with the BPI certified logo are accepted in most municipal or commercial compost programs. “Compostable plastic” products are not designed to compost in home compost bins or piles. NEW: Empty paper cups, such as coffee cups (no lids), may now be included in household recycling! This includes all paper cups: coffee cups, fountain drink cups, bathroom cups, and compostable cups. Paper hot drink

sleeves are also recyclable.

Please rinse residual food from cups. Related lids and straws belong in the trash. In communities that collect recyclable paper separately from bottles and cans (dual stream recycling), empty paper cups can now join your pizza boxes in the paper bin.

Some paper coffee cups (and some lids) are designed to be compostable in municipal/commercial compost programs (not home composting); check for text that says “BPI certified” or “compostable.” Aluminum party cups are recyclable and should be recycled.

EGG CARTONS

Clear plastic egg cartons are recyclable. Paper and Styrofoam™ egg cartons are not accepted in recycling but are often reused by backyard chicken farmers. Paper cartons may be composted in municipal compost collections or in home compost bins, if ripped into pieces.

ELECTRONICS (“E-WASTE”)

State regulations prohibit screen-based electronics such as laptops, tablets, iPads, TVs, and monitors of any type from going in the trash. Most municipal transfer stations offer electronics recycling (e-waste) programs. Disposal fees may apply; see your town’s website or call town hall for pricing. Staples stores offer free recycling for a wide range of computer-related electronic waste and more; see staples.com/stores/recycling. Staples charges \$19.99 to recycle computer monitors and does not accept TVs. Best Buy accepts TVs for a fee and also accepts a wide range of electronic waste for free recycling. For more information, call your local store or visit their website and search for “recycling.” Computer manufacturers sometimes offer electronics recycling or trade-in programs; visit their websites for details. Various charities and non-profits accept donations of working electronics, including local Salvation Army and Goodwill stores. Always call ahead to ask if they can accept your item. Electronics that are mostly metal, such as computer towers, DVD players, and stereo components, can also go in scrap metal recycling at transfer stations and recycle centers.

ELECTRONIC MEDIA (CDs, DVDs, VHS, CASSETTE TAPES)

Do not put unwanted electronic media or cases in your household recycling; put them in the trash. CD cases easily shatter, and the glass-like shards create hazards at the recycling facility. Some communities accept DVDs and CDs via book boxes or Swap Sheds; check with your town. Roundabout Books in Greenfield accepts CDs, DVDs, and vinyl records (roundaboutbookstore.com). If selling or donating your used media is not an option, greendisk.com and terracycle.com (enter “media” into search bar) offer fee-based, mail-in recycling options.



RECYCLE MORE.

At USA, we are committed to staying at the forefront of recycling innovation, continuously finding better ways to repurpose the everyday items we throw away.



Like our **Food Scraps Recycling Program**, which allows us to take discarded organic material and turn it into renewable energy and nutrient-rich soil amendments.

Current and new USA customers can sign up now for Curbside Food Scrap pickup services. We offer both weekly and biweekly collection options dependent on your needs. Please call USA Customer Service at **800-998-0984** or visit our website **usarecycle.com** for more information.

Keeping waste out of landfills, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and contributing to a cleaner planet – it's all part of our mission to transform the way we recycle and create sustainable communities for generations to come.

Some See Waste, We See Possibilities.

EYEGLASSES

Contact your local Lion's Club (lionsclubs.org) for the nearest collection box or mail eyeglass frames and prescription lenses to: New Jersey Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, PO Box 7263, West Trenton, NJ 08628. In addition, eyeglasses may be dropped in collection boxes located at Walmart Vision Center, LensCrafters, Pearle Vision, and Target Optical. If eyeglasses can't be reused, put in the household trash, as they are not recyclable.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Fire extinguishers are considered hazardous because their contents are under pressure, and units manufactured before 1984 may contain dangerous chemicals such as carbon tetrachloride. For disposal and recycling: Businesses & property managers can contact their fire control service provider. Some municipal transfer stations accept newer fire extinguishers for special recycling along with propane tanks; see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide for local contact information.

Some municipal hazardous waste collections may accept older fire extinguishers: ask before bringing them to a collection. MA Fire Technologies (West Springfield, MA) accepts fire extinguishers for a fee (mass-fire.com, 800-244-6769). New England Disposal Technologies (Westfield, MA) accepts fire extinguishers for a fee (nedt.org; 866-769-1621).

FIREWORKS

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

FLAGS

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

FLUORESCENT BULBS & LAMPS (see "Mercury & Mercury-containing Products")**FOOD SCRAPS/FOOD WASTE** (also see "Cooking Oil")

Food scraps and leftovers make up 22% of residential trash in Massachusetts. Food waste is heavy to transport and contributes to climate change when it decomposes in landfills; composting food waste locally makes better environmental and economic sense. Local composting options include home composting, curbside pick-up by a private waste hauler, and municipal transfer station compost programs. These programs are avail-

able free (residential access permit may be required) in the following municipalities: Amherst, Bernardston, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Cummington, Deerfield, Gill, Greenfield, Hadley, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northampton, Northfield, Orange, Plainfield, Shelburne, Warwick, Wendell, Whately, Williamsburg & Worthington. Find a private hauler near you at: recyclingworksma.com. Many local municipalities offer discounted purchase programs for home compost bins and countertop collection pails; see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide for local contact information. For home composting instructions, visit mass.gov/composting-organics. As of November 2022, any Massachusetts businesses, organizations, or institutions that create ½ ton of food waste per week are required to keep it out of the trash and instead reduce it, donate it, or send it for animal feed, composting, or anaerobic digestion. RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts provides free assistance, food waste estimation tools, hauler lists, and more at: recyclingworksma.com

FRUIT SNACK POUCHES (see "Plastic Pouches")**FURNITURE**

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

GLASS

Acceptable items include glass bottles and jars from food and beverages, household cleaning, or personal care products. Rinse and recycle with containers. Lids can be placed back on jars. (Loose lids fall through the sorting machinery.) Do not include corks or bottle pumps. Labels do not need to be removed. The following glass items are NOT accepted in recycling: drinking glasses, mugs, plates, vases, candle jars, light bulbs, window glass, mirrors, or Pyrex. Broken glass is also not accepted; wrap it up and place in trash.

GOLF BALLS AND CLUBS

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

GREETING CARDS

Cards and envelopes are recyclable with paper if they do not

contain metallic inks, glitter, foil, embellishments, or batteries. Do not put photo cards made with traditional glossy photo paper in recycling. Remove electronics from singing greeting cards and recycle button batteries in battery recycling programs (see "Batteries"). St. Jude's card reuse programs have stopped, but there are many creative reuse options. Greeting cards can be cut up to make gift tags, gift card holders, place cards, or bookmarks.

HANGERS (see "Coat Hangers")**HEARING AIDS**

Check with your hearing aid specialist for reuse options. The National Hearing Aid Project accepts used hearing aids for refurbishment and distribution to those that need them; mail to 720 Main Street, FL 1, Kansas City, MO 64105 (hearingaiddonations.org/give-an-aid; 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.

HERBICIDES & PESTICIDES (see "Household Hazardous Waste")**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE**

First, consider using up the product according to the package directions, or giving it away to someone who will use it. Products with label warnings and words like caustic, toxic, corrosive, poison, flammable, danger & "keep out of reach of children" all require special handling. See the Household Hazardous Waste Event page in this guide for information about local household hazardous waste collections in western MA. New England Disposal Technologies (Westfield, MA) accepts many household hazardous wastes year-round for modest fees (nedt.org; 866-769-1621). Empty containers that once contained hazardous wastes are NOT accepted in recycling; replace cap and put empty containers in trash. For more info: mass.gov/info-details/safely-manage-hazardous-household-products. For safer alternatives to hazardous household products visit: lesstoxicguide.ca, or turi.org/Our_Work/Community.

INK, PRINTER & TONER CARTRIDGES

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

JUNK MAIL & CATALOGS

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

are some free services to do so: Remove your name from commercial mailing lists: direct-mail.com/mail_preference Stop delivery of unwanted catalogs, enter catalog name at catalogchoice.org End pre-approved credit card and insurance offers: optoutprescreen.com

KEYS

Unwanted metal keys can be recycled via a scrap metal dumpster at a municipal transfer station (see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide) or brought to a local scrap metal dealer. Remove batteries from key fobs before disposing. For battery disposal and recycling, see "Batteries" in this guide.

LATEX PAINT (see "Paint & Paint-related Products")**LIGHT BULBS**

(see also "Mercury & Mercury-containing Products") Light bulbs of all types should be kept out of recycling bins. Fluorescent bulbs, including "CFLs" (compact fluorescent light bulbs) should be kept out of trash. Fluorescent bulbs, including compact fluorescent bulbs ("CFLs") and the green-tipped "low mercury" type, contain mercury vapor and require special handling and disposal. See "Mercury & Mercury-containing Products" in this guide for safe disposal options. Handle carefully to avoid breakage. LED light bulbs can go in the trash but contain valuable materials and may be recycled with CFLs, if a collection site accepts them (see "Mercury & Mercury-containing Products"). Incandescent light bulbs and halogen light bulbs are not recyclable and can go in the trash because they do not contain hazardous materials. Wrap incandescent light bulbs in used paper or plastic before placing them in the trash. Other bulbs that contain mercury vapor and require special disposal include neon/argon bulbs, high-intensity discharge (HID) bulbs, metal halide and high-pressure sodium bulbs (used for streetlights, floodlights, and industrial lighting). See "Mercury & Mercury-containing Products" in this guide for safe disposal options.

LIGHT STRINGS

Holiday light strings are NOT accepted in household recycling programs or bins because they get wrapped around sorting equipment at recycling facilities, causing hazards for workers. Light strings are usually accepted at scrap metal dealers and in scrap metal recycling dumpsters at transfer stations. Some transfer stations offer special seasonal recycling programs for light strings. Light strings can be mailed to Holiday LEDs for recycling; receive a coupon for a discount on a future order (holidayleds.com/free-light-recycling).

MARDI GRAS BEADS

Mail unwanted Mardi Gras beads and trinkets to the Arc of Greater New Orleans' reuse program: ArcGNO, 925 Labarre Road, Metairie, LA 70001 (arcgno.org; 504-837-5105). Or consider donating to local nursing homes for activities; call first to make sure they can accept.

MATTRESSES & BOX SPRINGS

Mattresses and box springs of any size (from crib mattresses to king size, including foam mattresses) are banned from trash or Bulky Waste in Massachusetts.. Mattress recycling is now mandatory in MA, except for mattresses that are contaminated. When you purchase a new mattress, ask the retailer to take back and recycle the old one. Some charities will accept mattresses and box springs in very good condition; call first. Use the MassDEP Beyond the Bin Recycling Directory to find local charities and transfer stations that accept mattresses and box springs for reuse or recycling: recyclesmartma.org/beyond-the-bin-search. 90% of the municipalities in western Mass offer a mattress recycling program, collection event, or regional recycling arrangement; fees may apply. For local drop-off sites, call your town's contact number listed in the Community Recycling Information table in this guide. More information on mattress recycling, including a list of municipalities with recycling programs: mass.gov/guides/mattress-recycling#consumer-mattress-recycling. If your municipality does not have a collection program, call a private hauler to pick up your mattress.

MEDICATIONS & PHARMACEUTICALS

Disposal of unwanted medication must be done carefully for several important reasons. Medications should NOT be poured down the drain or flushed down the toilet. Wastewater treatment plants and septic systems are not designed to remove pharmaceuticals from wastewater. Medications should not be thrown in the trash; see below for disposal options. Help protect the environment and stop prescription drug misuse and abuse. Bring your unwanted, expired, or unused medications to one of the sites below for safe disposal.

Many area police departments offer permanent drop-off boxes for free disposal of prescription and nonprescription drugs, vitamins, and veterinary medications, pill form only: Agawam, Amherst, Ashfield, Athol, Belchertown, Bernardston, Chicopee, Cummington, Deerfield, Easthampton, East Longmeadow, Erving, Goshen, Granby, Hadley, Hampden, Hatfield, Holyoke, Leverett, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Monson, Northampton, Orange, Palmer, Pelham, Shelburne, South Hadley, Southampton, Southwick, Sunderland,



GOT BOOKS?

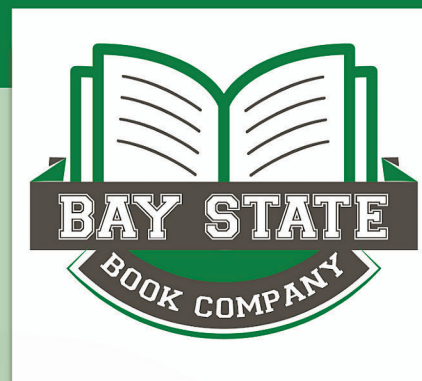
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Ware, West Springfield, Westfield, Whately, Wilbraham, and Williamsburg. You do not need to be a resident to use the drop boxes in any of these towns.

Accepted items in police station boxes: prescription and non-prescription drugs, vitamins and veterinary meds. NO liquids, syringes (see "Needles & Sharps"), IV equipment or chemotherapy drugs. For more information visit northwesternda.org/1254/Drug-Drop-Off-Boxes.

National chain pharmacies and some hospital lobbies host free drop boxes for prescription medications. Search a DEA listing of disposal sites at tinyurl.com/deadisp, or this Massachusetts-specific listing: mass.gov/info-details/find-a-waste-medication-kiosk. These boxes may accept liquids or inhalers; see signage on the drop boxes. Some stores that do not have drop boxes offer the DisposeRX program: disposerx.com.

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Days are held every April and October. DEA's next National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is April 25, 2026, from 10 am - 2 pm. Find dates and locations for upcoming collections by visiting dea.gov/takebackday. Take-Back Days accept prescription and non-prescription drugs, vitamins, veterinary medications, and vape cartridges in a plastic bag (batteries not accepted; see "Batteries" in this guide for disposal options). Unacceptable items include liquids, syringes, IV equipment or chemotherapy drugs.

Due to their small size and other factors, empty pill bottles are not accepted in household recycling. Be creative with reuse! For example, some animal shelters collect washed, empty pill bottles to send medicines home with adoptees. The Ridwell paid mail-in program accepts pill bottles for recycling: ridwell.com/what-we-take/pill-bottles

MERCURY & MERCURY-CONTAINING PRODUCTS

(also see "Light Bulbs") 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 and handling them carefully to avoid breakage. Never put mercury (or items containing mercury) in the trash or recycling bins, on the ground, or down a drain. Don't vacuum even the smallest spill. Instructions for handling mercury exposure can be found at: mass.gov; enter "mercury" in the search bar or search the web for "broken CFL" or "mercury spill." If a mercury spill does occur, follow the Mass-DEP's guide on safely cleaning it up: mass.gov/guides/massdep-mercury-information. Call the Mass DEP Mercury Hotline if you have questions about managing mercury safely: 866-9MERCURY (866-963-7287).

For local disposal information for

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

■ Fluorescent light bulbs

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

- Businesses can see a list of vendors who can pick up larger quantities at recycling-worksma.com.
- For assistance with disposal outlets, call the MassDEP Mercury Hotline at: (866) 9-MERCURY

Recycling options vary based on the type of bulb:

■ **Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs)** fit in standard screw-type light sockets and are made of a glass tube, often in a spiral shape. They come in a variety of shapes and sizes and can be encased by an outer glass bulb. CFLs are accepted at most municipal transfer stations (handle carefully and hand to the attendant) and some Hazardous Waste Collections. For local disposal information, see the Community Recycling Information table and the Household Hazardous Waste Event pages in this guide. Free recycling for CFL bulbs is offered at Home Depot and Lowe's Stores. New England Disposal Technologies (Westfield, MA) accepts fluorescent bulbs year-round for various fees (nedt.org; 866-769-1621).

■ **Larger fluorescent tubes** are the types of bulbs that do not fit in standard screw-type sockets. These include long straight tubes, circular or U-shaped tubes, tanning bed lamps, high-intensity discharge lamps (HIDs), and neon light tubing. Accepted at most municipal transfer stations and some Hazardous Waste Collections; see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide for local disposal information. Straight lamps and all others are accepted free of charge at Lowe's Stores. Handle carefully to avoid breakage; do not tape bulbs together. New England Disposal Technologies (Westfield, MA) accepts fluorescent bulbs year-round for various fees (nedt.org; 866-769-1621).

■ Thermometers

Many older household thermometers (fever, candy, meat, deep fry, oven, temperature) contain liquid mercury. A mercury thermometer can be identified by the presence of a silver bulb at the end of a glass tube. 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. Mercury thermometers are accepted in special programs at many municipal transfer stations and some Hazardous Waste Collections; see

the Community Recycling Information table in this guide for local disposal information. Handle carefully and seal in a plastic bag and/or plastic bucket.

■ 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, handle carefully to avoid breakage, and place in a sealed plastic bag. In addition to special municipal collection programs (see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide), mercury thermostats are accepted for free recycling by many plumbers and plumbing retail stores. For local drop-off locations, go to thermostat-recycle.org.

■ Ballasts

Most fluorescent light fixtures produced before 1979 contained ballasts with PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), a highly toxic substance. PCB-free ballasts are marked "No PCBs." PCB ballasts are typically collected in special programs at transfer stations or other sites that collect larger fluorescent tube-type bulbs. Electronic and other non-PCB ballasts are safe to go into trash or bulky waste but are often not accepted in scrap metal recycling bins. See the Community Recycling Information table in this guide for local disposal information.

MICROWAVES (see "Scrap Metal")

MOTHBALLS  (see "Household Hazardous Waste")

MOTOR OIL & FILTERS  (see "Automotive Products")

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Hungry for Music (hungryformusic.org) accepts used musical instruments and distributes them to underserved children in the US and 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, injection pens, EpiPens, lancets, & all other medical "sharps") as trash. Never put a container of sharps in your recycling bin. Free collection programs are available in many towns; call your town's Health Department. Or, for a listing of all the sharps programs in the state, go to mass.gov and type "needle disposal" in the search bar. Some hospital lobbies now host free drop boxes for sharps boxes. Sharps are not accepted in drug drop boxes at police stations or pharmacies. Sharps containers are available for purchase at pharmacies, and they often include disposal options. Several mail-in disposal programs are available; search online for "sharps mail-in programs." Stericycle is an example of a company that picks up sharps for safe disposal from businesses that generate sharps: stericycle.com or 866-783-7422.

PACKING MATERIALS

(also see "Plastics")

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

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

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

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

■ **Amazon's plastic mailer** and other plastic envelope mailers (single layer or bubble wrap) are recyclable with plastic bags in grocery/retail store recycling programs only (see "Plastic Bag Recycling at Retail Stores" in this guide). Do not put any plastic mailers, bags, films, or other "soft plastics" in household recycling.

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

■ **Plastic "sealed air" packaging and bubble wrap** are reusable and are accepted for reuse by some pack & ship stores (such as UPS Stores). Deflated air pillows and bubble wrap can be recycled with plastic bags in grocery store recycling programs (see "Plastic Bag Recycling at Retail Stores" in this guide). Do not put in household recycling programs.

■ **Meal delivery kits** use thermal box liners (e.g. "Renew-liner," "QLiner," "Climacell") to keep food fresh. This packaging might claim recyclability, but it is not accepted in household recycling programs. Reuse, refuse (send back to the company), or put in the trash.

■ **Styrofoam™ blocks & shapes:** not accepted in household recycling; see "Plastics" for special recycling collections.

■ **Foam peanuts:** not accepted in recycling; see "Plastics." Accepted at some pack & ship stores.

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

PAINT & PAINT-RELATED PRODUCTS

If your unwanted paint was purchased recently and it's in good condition, consider donating it for reuse. Many school or community theatre groups will accept quality paint products. You may also offer usable paint via an online sharing group (e.g. Freecycle.org or a "Buy Nothing" Facebook group).

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

■ **New England Disposal**

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

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

PALLETS (see *wood under "Building & Remodeling Materials"*)

PANTYHOSE

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

PAPER & CARDBOARD

Place clean and dry cardboard boxes, newspaper, office paper, school papers, magazines & junk mail, cereal boxes, and empty pizza boxes in your recycling bin. Avoid items with material that is not wood-based, such as greeting cards with glitter, embellishments, metallic ink, or batteries, or items mixed/coated with plastic or glued to plastic (e.g. paper shipping envelopes lined with bubble wrap).

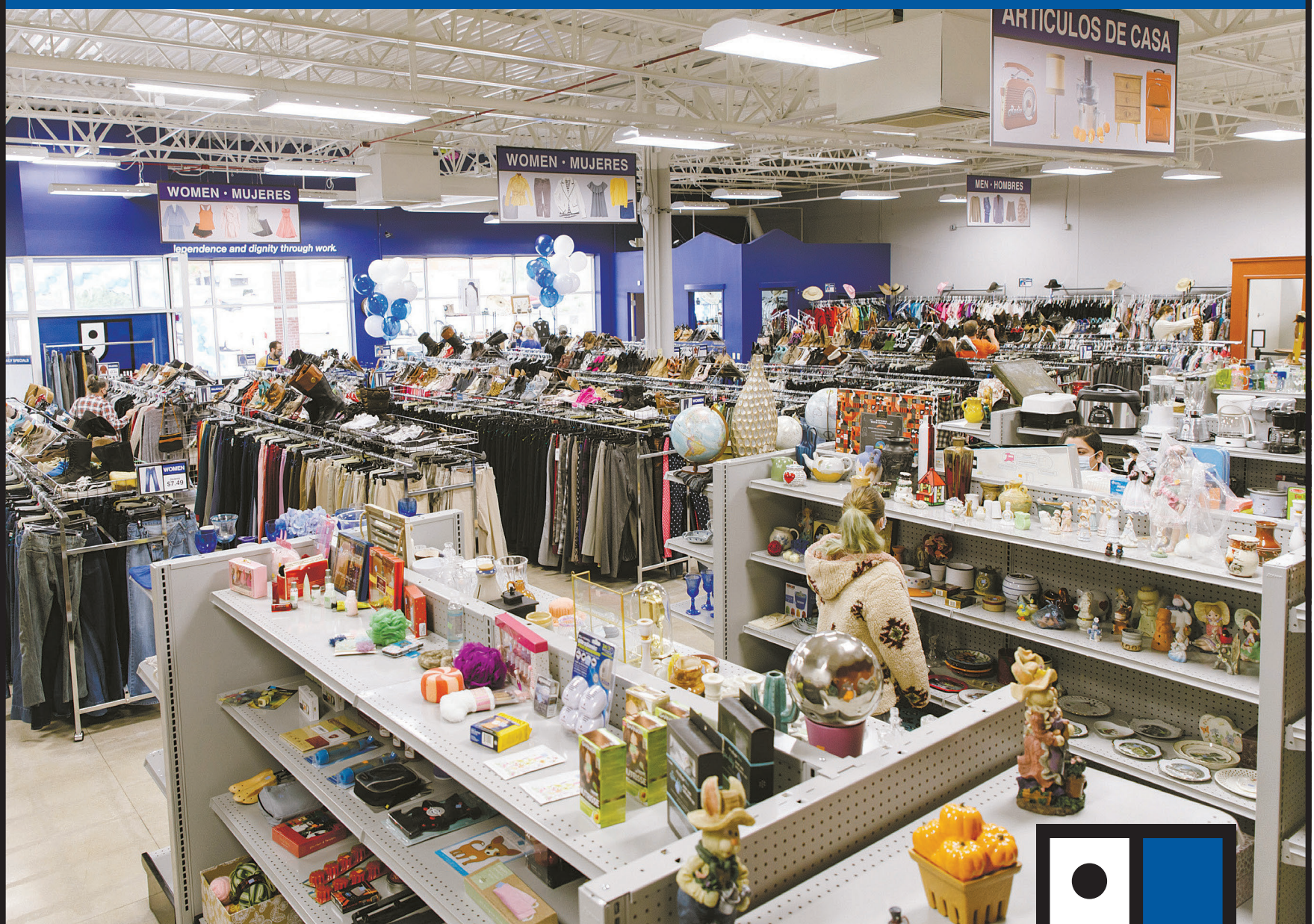
Details about paper items that cannot be recycled are provided as individual entries in this guide, including shredded paper, hardcover books (see "Books") and items coated/mixed with plastic. Examples of items that can't be recycled include beer/soda packaging and frozen/refrigerated food boxes (see "Boxes"). In dual stream recycling, milk cartons and soup/almond milk boxes should be recycled with containers, not with paper (see "Cartons" in this guide for more information).

NEW: Empty paper cups, such as coffee cups (no lids), may now be included in household recycling! This includes all paper cups: coffee cups, fountain drink cups, bathroom cups, and compostable cups. Paper hot drink sleeves are also recyclable. Please rinse residual food from cups. Related lids and straws belong in the trash. In communities that collect recyclable paper separately from bottles and cans (dual stream recycling), empty paper cups can now join your pizza boxes in the paper bin.

PELLET STOVE FUEL BAGS

Plastic bags should never be placed in household recycling programs. Some retail and grocery stores accept EMPTY pellet

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www.goodwillmass.org

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

bags in their plastic bag recycling programs (call first). Pellet bags must be dry and completely EMPTY. Shake out pellets and residue, flatten and stack empty bags, roll up the stack, and place the roll in an empty pellet bag. Do not include rubber bands, string, or tape. Ask your pellet supplier about bulk delivery (avoids bags), recycling programs, or bag take-back programs. For more on plastic bag recycling programs, see the "Plastic Bag Recycling" chart under "Plastics" and/or nextrex.com/view/educate#materials1.

PESTICIDES & HERBICIDES ☠️
(see "Household Hazardous Waste")

PET FOOD BAGS, BIRD SEED BAGS, ANIMAL FEED BAGS

Plastic bags that contained pet food, animal feed, or bird seed are not recyclable in municipal recycling or in plastic bag recycling programs at retail stores. Unfortunately, neither are paper feed bags because they are lined with plastic to keep moisture out of the feed. TerraCycle offers a few pet food bag recycling programs, some of which have local drop-off sites; go to terracycle.com and type "pet food" in the search bar. Local groups such as The Bag Share Project and Greening Greenfield may accept certain types of feed bags for reuse and provide instructions on how to make bags (facebook.com/theBagShare; greeninggreenfieldma.org).

PHOTOGRAPHS

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

PIZZA BOXES

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

PLASTICS

Many people assume that all plastic items are accepted in recycling, but recycling is demand-based; only those plastics that can be made cost-effectively into new products are on the "yes" list. Please note that plastic containers from food, beverage, soap and personal care products are the ONLY type of plastic suitable for your household recycling

bin. All other forms of plastic must go in the trash or, when available, to a separate special recycling program. See the box "Keep These Plastics out of the Recycling Bin" for additional details.

■ Plastic containers from food, beverages, soap and personal products

The following items belong in your household recycling bin: empty plastic containers from food, beverage, soap or personal care products in the form of bottles, jars, jugs, and tubs. Plastic bottle caps & plastic tub lids are recyclable, if attached to the container (not loose). Plastic items that are smaller than a credit card or larger than 2.5 gallons are not acceptable because they cannot be sorted effectively. Bottle pumps should go in the trash. Please note that black plastics are not currently accepted at most recycling facilities because they can't be sorted with the optical sorting technology. Some recycling facilities now accept black plastics.

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

■ Plastic bags & wrap (Do NOT place in household recycling bin)

Plastic bags, plastic films, and plastic wrap ("soft plastics") create safety hazards, machinery malfunctions, and environmental problems at recycling facilities. Many of these materials are accepted in retail and grocery store collection programs (e.g. Big Y, Stop & Shop, Lowe's, Staples). In general, clean and dry plastic bags and wraps are recyclable if they are: 1.) marked #2 or #4; 2.) clear or translucent; 3.) moderately stretchy; and 4.) empty and free of food residue. Two important exceptions are household food or "cling" wrap, which must be placed in the trash, and bags labeled "Compostable," which can be placed in commercial or municipal composting or trash. For more information, see the accompanying table, "Plastic Bag Recycling" or visit nextrex.com/view/educate#materials1.

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

Many rigid plastic items are reusable until broken or damaged; offer unwanted items for free on an online sharing group (e.g. freecycle.org or a "Buy Nothing" Facebook group). Some communities offer specialized bulky rigid plastic (BRP) collection programs. Ask your community representative (see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide) about opportunities near you. BRP collections are

highly selective and only accept clean, molded, rigid plastic pails, bins, crates, baskets, totes, plastic lawn furniture, trash barrels and wheeled trash totes (metal and wheels removed).

■ Foam (Do NOT place in household recycling bin)

The recycling market for rigid foam material (aka Styrofoam™ or expanded polystyrene/EPS) is growing, but only certain blocky foams are accepted through special recycling programs.

Foam products can be divided into three general categories of 1.) Blocky packing material 2.) Shipping peanuts, and 3.) Food-related serve ware (cups, plates, trays):

■ Large, rigid foam blocks, sheets, and coolers:

Clean and dry foam packing materials and coolers are only recyclable through a separate collection. Some communities collect white, blocky foam at municipal transfer stations or at special collection events and transport it to a foam recycling facility. Gold Circuit E-Cycling in Agawam (413) 328-3187, www.goldcircuit.io accepts various types of foam from the public for a fee.

■ Foam shipping

peanuts: Foam peanuts are not recyclable, but they are highly reusable. Some local retail shipping outlets accept clean and dry peanuts (call first; search for a store near you at theups-store.com). Or offer packing peanuts for local reuse via an online sharing group such as freecycle.org or a "Buy Nothing" Facebook group.

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

PLASTIC POUCHES

Flexible plastic pouches that contained fruit purees (i.e. apple sauce), baby food, kids' drinks, yogurt, and health/beauty products, are NOT recyclable in municipal recycling programs. TerraCycle offers several different mail-in recycling programs for pouches and caps; go to: terracycle.com and type "pouches" in the search bar. Please remove all residual food and liquid.

PRESSURE-TREATED LUMBER ☠️
(see "Building & Remodeling Materials")

PROPANE TANKS

Most propane tanks can be refilled; many businesses that sell propane will accept tanks for reuse under specific conditions. Do not put tanks in household recycling, trash, or scrap metal dumpsters. Propane and helium tanks are recyclable in special, separate programs at transfer stations or recycling centers. Do not puncture propane tanks. Close the valves on barbecue grill-sized tanks. Some sites also accept small camping-style tanks and torch tanks. Local municipal

KEEP THESE PLASTICS OUT OF YOUR RECYCLING BIN!

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

- Plastic bags, plastic wraps and other "soft plastics"
- Black plastic (e.g. prepared food, to-go containers, microwave trays) (Some facilities are starting to accept black plastics.)
- Forks, spoons, knives & serving utensils
- Plastic items that are smaller than a credit card (e.g. loose caps, straws, condiment cups, Rx bottles)
- Plastic containers larger than 2.5 gallons in size
- Plastic plates
- Colored/opaque plastic cups (clear cups are OK- see the "Cups" entry)
- "Compostable plastic" containers and cups (PLA)
- Foam (aka Styrofoam™) items (e.g., cups, egg cartons, food containers/trays, & packing material)
- Tubes (e.g. toothpaste, cosmetics, hair products)
- Plastic containers which once held toxic substances (e.g. motor oil)
- Molded plastic packaging (the rigid type that requires a sharp object to open)
- Binders, plastic folders, similar office supplies
- CDs, DVDs and cases, video & audio tapes
- Plant pots & garden trays
- Six-pack rings (see "Beer & Soda Packaging")
- Hoses, light strings, cords, pet leashes
- Plexiglass
- PVC products (pipes, siding, etc.)
- Manufactured plastic wood (decking material)



PLASTIC BAG/WRAP RECYCLING IN GROCERY/RETAIL STORES ONLY:

Do not put plastic bags, film, or "soft plastics" in household recycling bins!

YES - DO RECYCLE in stores only:

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



Including:

- ✓ Grocery bags, produce bags
- ✓ Newspaper bags
- ✓ Dry cleaning bags (no receipts/staples)
- ✓ Plastic cereal bags (if it tears like paper do not include)
- ✓ Sandwich/Ziploc bags and bread bags: no crumbs, oils, food (remove large zippers)
- ✓ Retail bags (#2 or #4) with string/hard plastic handles removed
- ✓ Plastic outer wrap from packages of toilet paper, paper napkins, paper towels
- ✓ Plastic outer wrap from packages of diapers and sanitary products
- ✓ Bubble wrap, air pillows, (deflate air pillows)
- ✓ Plastic shipping envelopes, with or without bubble wrap inside
- ✓ Case wrap from cases of water, canned pet food, soda, etc.
- ✓ Pellet stove fuel bags (must be dry and EMPTY: shake out pellets and residue, flatten and stack bags, roll up and place in a bag)
- ✓ Salt bags, ice bags (empty, dried out)
- ✓ Stretch wrap from furniture, electronics, etc.

NO - DO NOT RECYCLE:

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

Pictures of acceptable items and a list of drop off locations:

nextrex.com/view/educate#materials1

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

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

recycling info is found in the Community Recycling Information table in this guide. See Beyond the Bin for more local drop-off recycling locations: recycles-martma.org/beyond-the-bin-search

PYREX™, CERAMIC, AND PORCELAIN PRODUCTS

Offer these items for reuse. They are not accepted in recycling; dispose of them in the trash (wrap up any broken pieces). Colorful ceramic/porcelain items (even broken ones) are sometimes used by local arts centers or craftspeople, so a phone call or a post to an online sharing group (e.g., Freecycle.org or a local "Buy Nothing" Facebook group) may help extend their usefulness.

SCRAP METAL

Many metal items (like bicycles or BBQ grills) can be repaired, sold, or donated to extend their useful life. Because of the usefulness and value of metal, state regulations prohibit throwing aluminum, steel, iron, lead, stainless steel, copper, brass, or bronze scrap in the trash. Some metal items require special handling due to toxic or pressurized materials and should not be put directly in scrap metal dumpsters; this includes lead acid batteries, propane tanks, helium tanks, spray foam tanks, fluorescent light ballasts, air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, dehumidifiers, and some automotive parts. Many municipal transfer stations have scrap metal recycling

dumpsters and collect appliances with refrigerant gases separately; see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide. Some scrap metal dealers will pay for metal items. Search online under "metal recycling" for the scrap yard nearest you and its requirements. Suitable scrap items should be mostly metal by weight; when possible, plastic parts should be removed.

SHARPS

(See "Needles & Sharps")

SHOES

As of November 2022, shoes, along with other textiles, are banned from trash in Massachusetts. Bring CLEAN & DRY footwear and textiles to clothing/textile drop-off boxes serviced by private organizations. Bring footwear and textiles to donation centers such as Goodwill Industries (goodwill.org) and Salvation Army (easternusa.salvationarmy.org). Many municipal transfer stations host textile drop boxes, which also accept clean & dry shoes, even those that are well-worn. Shoes that are contaminated with mold, bodily fluids, insects, oil, or hazardous substances are exempt from the waste ban and may go in the trash. In addition, several organizations, such as One World Running (oneworldrunning.com), specialize in shoe reuse. Rerun Shoes accepts used running shoes and can coordinate shoe drive fundraisers; visit rerunshoes.com or call (508) 944-2518.

Soles4Souls collects and repurposes shoes. Visit soles4souls.org to find a drop-off location. Got Sneakers (gotsneakers.com) offers a free sneaker recycling program for individuals and organizations.

SHREDDED PAPER

Shredded paper is NOT accepted in household/municipal recycling programs. To have confidential documents shredded and recycled, residents can pay a small fee to have them shredded at local businesses such as copy shops, office supply stores, and pack & ship stores. Local banks often sponsor free shredding events in the spring and fall. The material that is shredded in these programs is delivered directly to paper mills, which avoids the scattering and contamination that ensues at a household recycling facility. Otherwise, dispose of shredded paper as trash. Paper shreds that are free of plastic and receipts can go in municipal compost programs, where allowed.

SHOWER CURTAINS

Shower curtains are not accepted in household recycling programs. Before you throw out and replace that old dingy plastic shower curtain, consider refreshing thick plastic shower curtains in your washing machine; wash with a couple big bath towels on a gentle setting and hang back up to dry. Shower curtains can be reused in a myriad of ways (e.g. drop cloth, tarp, etc.) Paid mail-in recycling programs for shower

curtains and other bathroom items can be found at terracycle.com (search for the bath and shower accessories box).

SMOKE & CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

Some smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors contain a built-in lithium battery. The lithium battery is embedded in the device but should be removed before it is placed in the trash. Contact your town about managing detectors with embedded lithium batteries. See "Batteries" for more information.

Remove batteries and dispose of them appropriately (see "Batteries"). Traditional 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. Google the manufacturer's name with "smoke detector recycling" for program and shipping details. Curie Environmental Services offers a fee-based, mail-in smoke alarm recycling program, see curieservices.com/mail-back-program/. Some communities allow smoke detectors to be thrown away at a recycling/transfer station; see the Community Recycling Information table in this guide. Carbon monoxide detectors are not considered hazardous and can be safely disposed of in the trash after removing any batteries and disposing of them properly (see "Batteries"). Contact your

town about managing detectors with embedded lithium batteries.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Sporting equipment exchange/donation options are found locally via charitable organizations such as schools, Scout troops, or the Lion's Club. Consider sharing via online free groups (e.g. Freecycle.org or a "Buy Nothing" Facebook group). TerraCycle offers a fee-based Sporting Goods - Zero Waste Box™ (terracycle.com)

STEEL/TIN CANS

Rinse and recycle with containers. Acceptable items include cans from food & beverage (e.g. soup, beans, pet food, etc.), household, and personal products. Detached lids can be placed inside rinsed can. Labels do not need to be removed. Empty tin containers (e.g. popcorn, cookies, tea, mints, etc.) are also accepted in recycling; replace the lid.

STYROFOAM™

(see "Plastics: Foam")

TELEVISIONS (see "Electronics")

TENNIS BALLS

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

TEXTILES (see "Clothing & Textiles")

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

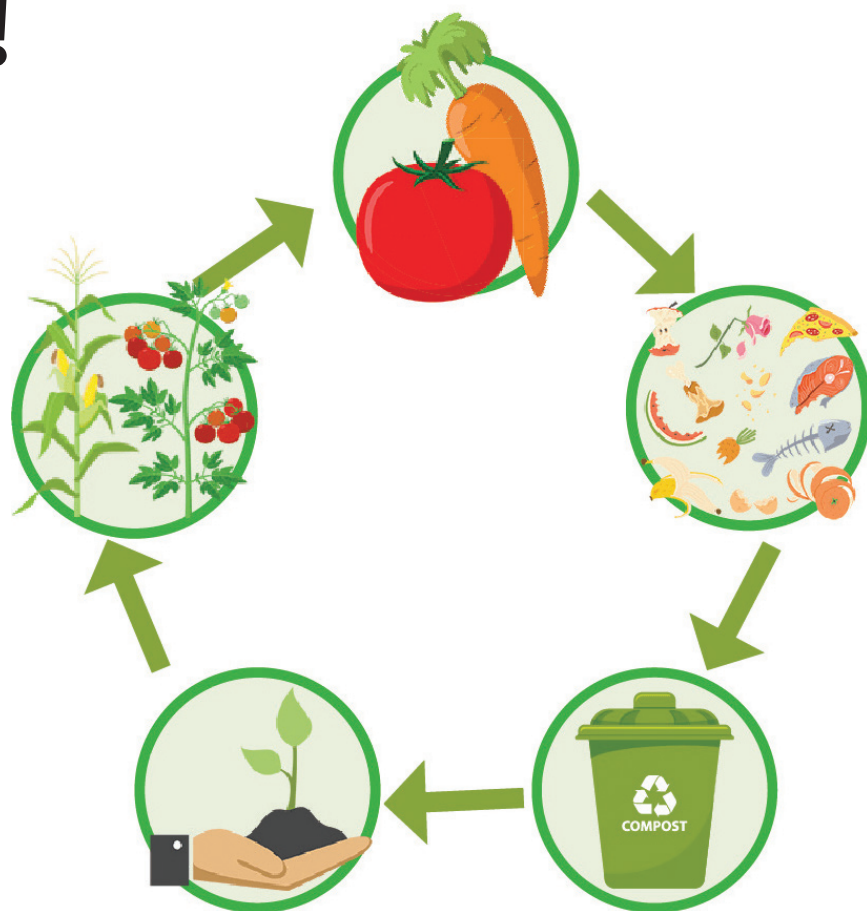
Composting is Easy!

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
Teabags • 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



ALL THE WASTE ► WE DO NOT SEE

Article written by **The RecycleSmart Team** at **MassDEP**

On page 3 of this issue of the Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Guide, we explained Massachusetts' limited space for trash disposal and laid out some of the reasons why reusing, recycling correctly, or otherwise putting things to better use is so important for our small state. Now, what if we told you that the stuff we throw away is just the tip of the iceberg?

The proverbial iceberg in this case refers to all of the waste we don't see – the waste created “upstream,” before we buy our products. To put a finer point on this, consider that for every ton of trash we throw away, the processes involved in extracting raw materials, manufacturing products, and getting them to market creates 70 times more waste. That's a big iceberg.

LOOKING UPSTREAM

When we talk about “upstream,” we mean everything that went into the making of a product before it gets to the consumer. A 2021 report produced by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, *Completing the Picture: How the cir-*

cular economy tackles climate change, calls the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production of products, food, and land management the “overlooked emissions.”

It's easy to see why these emissions are overlooked. Our system thrives on convenience, and products are marketed to us in ways that make them effortless to consume and toss.

Let's use water bottles as an example. In the store, we see crystal-clear bottles full of refreshing water. Ads tell us that pure mountain spring water is essential for good health and the ultimate thirst quencher. And those handy no-spill tops? What could be more convenient to drink from when on the go? Bonus, you can recycle the bottle!

For many of us, that's the extent to which we think about the bottle. But that bottle's got a backstory. Let's “dig” into it.

Plastics are typically produced from petroleum (crude oil) that has been extracted from the earth, processed, and manufactured into different types of resin pellets. The pellets

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26



WHAT WE OVERLOOK

THE EXTRACTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES VIA MINING, DRILLING, FRACKING, AND DEFORESTATION

IMPACTS TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES

HABITAT DESTRUCTION AND ENDANGERING SPECIES

ENERGY AND WATER USE IN MANUFACTURING

AIR EMISSIONS FROM MANUFACTURING AND TRANSPORTATION

WATER POLLUTION FROM EXTRACTION AND MANUFACTURING



Recycle
Smart

are then molded into all sorts of products, including single-use water bottles. This manufacturing process requires energy and water, and then more fossil fuel is needed to deliver products to stores (and sometimes our doors!). That's a lot of resources to produce a plastic bottle we only use for 15 minutes. And then we throw it away.

Most of our readers will recycle the bottle (thanks!). But if it goes into the trash or becomes litter, that's the end of the story for that plastic bottle. This one-way, make-use-toss paradigm is unsustainable. When we don't reuse and recycle, more resources must be mined from the earth to make new things, and the story repeats. On the other hand, when we recycle, we put resources back into production which reduces the need to extract raw materials. When we reuse, we use fewer new products and keep things out of the trash longer, which reduces waste overall. Hooray!

THE CLIMATE CHANGE CONNECTION

Why is this all so important? Because land management and the processes happening upstream – the extraction of raw materials, manufacturing, and transportation of consumer goods and packaging – generate 45% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which are a primary driver of climate change.

Let's think about our stuff.



Recycle Smart

- ☀ What have you recently purchased?
- ☀ Where did you buy it: online, brick and mortar shop, local business, big box store?
- ☀ Where was the item made?
- ☀ What is it made of?
- ☀ What kind of packaging did it come in?
- ☀ Can you reuse it many times?
- ☀ Will you be able to repair it if it breaks?
- ☀ What will you do with it when you are done with it?

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU?

When it comes to personal action, it can seem that the only thing we control is what we do with our stuff once we're done with it. But there's actually more we can do; we just have to take the time to consider what we care about.

If you care about what is sent to landfills, prolong the life of your things by prioritizing repair, purchasing secondhand, and donating or gifting good stuff you've outgrown. You can also make purchases with waste reduction in mind. Buying durable, repairable things and refusing single-use or low-quality items, are smart choices that will reduce waste in the long run or prevent it in the first place.

If you care about the greenhouse gas emissions from transporting goods, try to purchase products manufactured in the US, buy from local retailers instead of online, or buy products made from post-consumer recycled materials.

If you care about workers and working conditions, look into fair trade companies and resist the temptations of fast fashion.

Not all of these issues will resonate with everyone, so whatever works for you, works for us! We know that there are many things to consider when deciding what to buy, and that we can't always make the choices we'd like to make because of other factors like affordability, ac-

cess, and time. So, we do our best.

That said, we'd like to challenge you, dear readers, to take time to consider what's important to you as you make your purchases. Can you commit to incorporating just one of these conscientious choices into your decision tree?

LEANING INTO THOUGHTFUL CONVENIENCE

If you're overwhelmed, we're right there with you. An important question for us has always been: How can we prevent or reduce waste but still enjoy the conveniences of modern life?

Luckily for us, with the support of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, communities across the Commonwealth are expanding access to reuse and repair and creating opportunities to dispose of things in responsible ways.

Here are some fun and easy ways to reduce waste!

- Borrow, don't buy.
- Reuse, refill, repair.
- Swap until you drop!
- Share! Because when you share, you have twice as much.

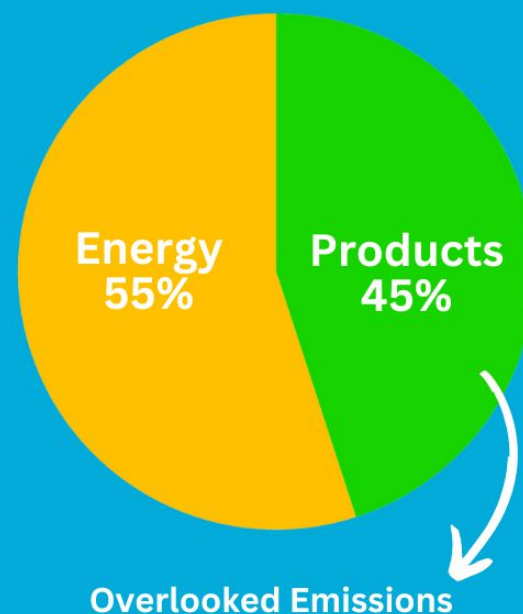


Materials Management and Climate Change

Why this is so important:

According to *Completing the Picture*, a report by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, 45% of global greenhouse gas emissions can be attributed to the production of materials, products, and food, as well as the management of land.

Total Current Emissions



Source: *Completing the Picture: How the circular economy tackles climate change* <https://bit.ly/3snuaoi>



THE LOVELIGHTS REUSE!



CHELLA AND VIOLA LOVELIGHT LIKE TO CREATE ALL THE MAGIC THEY CAN WITH THEIR FAIRY, MERMAID AND GNOME FRIENDS! NOW THEY HAVE BEEN TO THE OPERA IN THE BIG CITY, SO OF COURSE, THEY WANT TO CREATE AN OPERA OF THEIR OWN!



"WE NEED CURTAINS FOR THE STAGE," SAID CHELLA, PICTURING THE GRAND SWEEP AS THEY OPENED BEFORE THE CROWD. VIOLA JOTTED THIS DOWN ON HER LIST. "WE WILL GO TO SWANSONS FABRICS ON AVENUE A!" SAID VIOLA. "AND WE NEED TO PAINT THE SET." "WE CAN GET PAINT AT LOOKY HERE ON CHAPMAN ST." SAID CHELLA. VIOLA JOTTED THIS DOWN ALSO.



CHELLA AND VIOLA HITCHED A TRAILER TO THEIR TANDEM AND BIKED OVER TO SWANSONS FABRIC.



"HELLO AND WELCOME TO SWANSON'S!" A CHEERY VOICE CALLED OUT FROM BEHIND A BIG PILE OF FABRIC. "SORRY ABOUT ALL OF THE MESS, WE JUST RECEIVED A HUGE DONATION OF FABRIC AND I'M STILL SORTING THROUGH IT. IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN HELP YOU FIND?" "WE ARE LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO MAKE A THEATER CURTAIN OUT OF," SAID VIOLA, "SO WE WILL NEED A BIG PIECE OF FABRIC."



"I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING BIG, BUT I HAVE SEEN A LOT OF SCRAPS OF VELVET, WE COULD HELP YOU PIECE THEM TOGETHER TO MAKE A BIG CURTAIN" SAID THE VOICE FROM THE PILE. "THAT'S A WONDERFUL IDEA!" SAID CHELLA WHO WAS PETTING THE CAT.



CHELLA AND VIOLA FILLED THEIR TRAILER UP WITH THE COLORFUL VELVET SCRAPS AND PEDALED OVER TO GREENFIELD TO SEE WHAT THEY COULD FIND AT LOOKY HERE.



"WELCOME TO LOOKY HERE," CALLED A VOICE FROM THE BACK. "FEEL FREE TO SHOP OUR THRIFT STORE OF DONATED ART SUPPLIES, EVERYTHING IS PAY WHAT YOU CAN!" CHELLA AND VIOLA DUG THROUGH THE SHELVES FINDING TREASURE AFTER TREASURE.



THEY EVEN FOUND A LITTLE FAIRY LIVING IN ONE CUBBY FULL OF SEASHELLS, WHO KINDLY DIRECTED THEM TO THE SECTION OF PAINTS READY FOR A SECOND LIFE, AND THEN TO THE DONATION JAR WHERE THEY DROPPED THE LAST OF THEIR MEAGER SAVINGS.



AS THEY WERE BIKING BACK, THEY DECIDED TO STOP AT ONE LAST REUSE STORE, REDISTRO, ON ARCH STREET. "BUT WE RAN OUT OF MONEY," SAID VIOLA, CONFUSED. "AT REDISTRO, EVERYTHING IS FREE!" CHELLA CALLED BACK TO VIOLA. AND IT'S A GOOD THING THEY STOPPED THERE, BECAUSE THEY FOUND THE PERFECT GREEN BALL GOWN FOR THE OPERETTA!

BY BEVERLY KETCH & HANNAH BROOKMAN

"Hey Kids! Our friends Beverly Ketch and Hannah Brookman from The Children's Page in The Montague Reporter are doing a guest spot here in the Reduce, Reuse Recycle Guide! In this episode in the recurring adventures of The Lovelights, they visit **Looky Here** (lookyheregreenfield.com), **Swanson's Fabrics** (swansonsfabrics.com), and **ReDistro** (redistro.org), three local places to find cool reused stuff! What can YOU make with reused stuff?"

COMMUNITY RECYCLING INFORMATION

Hampshire County

Municipal transfer stations and other drop-off locations may only be open to residents of that community; many require annual permits and “Pay As You Throw” trash bags or stickers. Fees may apply for some items. For more information, call your city or town’s contact number below. For definitions of materials and abbreviations, see glossary below. For more information about items listed below, see the “What Do I Do With...?” disposal listing in this guide. Details subject to change.

	Contact phone	Curbside or Drop Off	Drop Off Location	Hours of Operation	Municipal Recycling	Scrap Metal	TVs and Electronics	Motor Oil	Yard Waste	HHW Collection	Mercury/CFLs	Tires	Propane Tanks	Bulky Waste	Textiles Recycling Box	Swap Shop
Amherst	413-259-3050, x0	Drop Off	740 Belchertown Rd	Tues, Thurs, Sat 8-2	✓	✓	✓		✓	annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Belchertown	413-323-0415; 413-323-0416	Drop Off	135 Hamilton St	Tues-Sat 7:30-3:15 (Th: 7:30-5:15)	✓	✓	✓		✓	annual	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Chesterfield	413-685-5498	Drop Off	69 Willicut Rd	Sat 8-2:45; Summer: Wed 3:30-6:15	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cummington	413-685-5498	Drop Off	10 Fairgrounds Rd	Wed 5:30-7:30, Sat 7-11	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Easthampton	413-529-1410	Drop Off	30 Northampton St	1st & 3rd Sat 8-12	✓	✓	✓	✓	call	call					City Hall	
Goshen	413-685-5498	Drop Off	Wing Hill Rd	Sat 8:30-4:20	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Granby	413-467-7177	Curbside			curbside	call	call	Call 467-7575	bi-annual	annual	call	call	call	annual	Highway Dept.	
Hadley	413-498-0099	Drop Off	20 North Branch Rd	Wed 1-6, Sat 7-4	✓	✓	✓	Call 586-2390	✓	Call 586-2390	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hatfield	413-247-5646	Drop Off	10 Straits Rd	Wed 11-5, Sat 7-3	✓	✓	✓		DPW	call		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Huntington	413-685-5498	Drop Off	90 Mill St.	Tues 3-6:45 Sat 8-4:45	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Middlefield	413-685-5498	Drop Off	Bell Rd.	Winter: Sat & Sun 9-1; Summer: Wed 4-8 & Sun 9-1	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northampton	413-587-1570	Drop Off	125 Locust St	Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sat 7-3:45	✓	✓		✓		annual	✓				✓	
Northampton	413-587-1570	Drop Off	170 Glendale Rd	1st & 3rd Sat of month (yard waste 2nd & 4th Sat) Call for hours.		✓	✓		✓	annual	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Pelham	413-259-3049	Drop Off	740 Belchertown Rd. (Amherst TS)	Tues, Thurs, Sat 8-2	✓	✓	✓		✓	annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pelham library parking lot	
Plainfield	413-685-5498	Drop Off	184 E. Main St (Route 116)	Weds 4-6, Sat 9-1	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
South Hadley	413-538-5033	Both	10 Industrial Drive	Open by appointment only	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Southampton	413-527-3666, 413-529-2352	Drop Off	Moose Brook Rd	Wed & Sat 7-5	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Westhampton	413-685-5498	Drop Off	52 Hathaway Rd	Wed 6-8, Sat 9-3	✓	✓	✓	✓		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Williamsburg	413-685-5498	Drop Off	27 Mountain St Haydenville	Wed 9-4, Sat 9-4	✓	✓	✓		✓	annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Worthington	413-685-5498	Drop Off	64 Huntington Rd	Sat 8-4; Summer: Wed 3-7; Winter: Wed 12-4	✓	✓	✓			annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Glossary of Terms:

Annual or call: Once or twice a year collection days, might be at a location other than the drop off site. See the Household Hazardous Waste page in this guide or call contact # listed for more info.

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

CFLs: Compact Fluorescent Lights. All types of fluorescent bulbs must be disposed of properly. Do not put in trash or recycling. Many transfer stations, plus, Home Depot and Lowe's Stores recycle CFLs for free.

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

HHW Collection: Many municipalities offer Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

collection events. For more information, see the Household Hazardous Waste page in this guide or call the contact # listed above for more info.

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

Swap Shop: A “Free Store” where residents or transfer station permit holders can take free reused items or drop off unwanted items for reuse. See your town’s guidelines for acceptable items.

Textiles Recycling Box: Special drop box for bags of clothing, shoes, towels, bedding, curtains, fabric. These items may be soiled, damaged, ripped or missing a mate but must be CLEAN and DRY. These materials are now banned from the trash.

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	Textiles Recycling Box	Swap Shop
Ashfield	413-685-5498	Drop Off	851 Ashfield Mountain Rd (Route 112)	Thurs 8-12, Sat 8-4, Sun 8-12	✓	✓	✓	✓		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bernardston	413-772-2438	Drop Off	Nelson Drive	Thurs & Sat 7-5	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Buckland	413-772-2438	Drop Off	Hodgen Rd.	Tues & Sat 7-3	✓	✓	call	call		annual	✓	call	✓	call	✓	
Charlemont	413-772-2438	Drop Off	159 North River Rd.	Wed 3-7, Sat 8-12	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	call	call	call	✓	✓
Colrain	413-772-2438	Drop Off	7 Charlemont Rd.	Sat 8-4, year-round; Summer: Tues. 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	✓	✓	✓	✓		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Conway	413-772-2438	Drop Off	186 Old Cricket Hill Rd.	Wed 10-6, Sat 9-5, Sun 8-1	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Deerfield	413-772-2438	Drop Off	42 Lee Rd.	Tues, Thurs, Sat 8:30-4	✓	✓	call	call	✓	annual	✓	call	call	✓	✓	✓
Erving	413-772-2438	Curbside			curb-side	annual	call	call		annual	call	call	call	annual	Call Town Hall	
Gill	413-772-2438	Curbside	One-day events only	Varies	✓	call	call	call	call	annual	call	call	call	call	call	
Greenfield	413-772-1528	Both	Intersection of Wisdom Way & Cumberland Rd.	Tues-Fri 10-1:30, Sat 7:30-1 (Winter: Sat 7:30-12)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	772-1539	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hawley	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	413-772-2438	Drop Off	122 Branch Hill Rd.	Wed 9-5; Sat 8-4	✓	✓	call	call		annual	✓	call	✓	call	✓	✓
Leverett	413-772-2438	Drop Off	15 Cemetery Rd.	Sat & Sun 10-1, Summer: Wed 4-7; Winter: Wed 2-5	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Leyden	413-772-2438	Drop Off	Nelson Drive, Bernardston	(Bernardston TS) Thurs & Sat 7-5	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Montague	413-772-2438	Both	11 Sandy Lane, off Turnpike Rd	Wed 7-1, Sat 7-2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
New Salem	413-772-2438	Drop Off	20 Blueberry Hill Rd.	Wed 3-6, Sat 8-4	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	call	call	✓	✓	✓
Northfield	413-772-2438	Drop Off	31 Caldwell Rd.	Wed & Fri 8-6, Sat 7-4	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	call	✓	call	✓	✓
Orange	978-544-1118	Drop Off	100 Jones St.	Tues 8:30-12:45, Thurs 1-5:45 & Sat 8-12:45	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rowe	413-772-2438	Drop Off	87 Zoar Rd.	Wed 7-10 am + 4-7 pm, Sat 8-2, Sun 8-12	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shelburne	413-772-2438	Drop Off	159 N. River Rd, Charlemont	Sat 12-5, year-round; Summer: Tues 10-7; Winter: Tues 10-4	✓	✓	call	call	Call 625-0311	annual	✓	call	call	call	✓	✓
Shutesbury	413-259-1282	Curbside	Bulky items at Leverett Transfer Station (LTS)	See Leverett hours above for bulky items	✓	LTS	LTS	call		annual	Mercury - TH & LTS	LTS	LTS	LTS	Shutes. Hwy Dept.	LTS
Sunderland	413-772-2438	Private Haulers	One-day events only	-	Private haulers	call	call	call		annual	call	call	call	call	call	
Warwick	413-772-2438	Drop Off	Garage Rd.	Saturdays 8-3, April 1-Oct. 1: Wed 3-6	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	(coming soon)
Wendell	413-772-2438	Drop Off	341 New Salem Rd.	Tues 11-4:50, Sat 8-3:50	✓	✓	✓	call		annual	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Whately	413-772-2438	Drop Off	73 Christian Lane	Tues 12-5, Sat 7-5	✓	call	call	call		annual	✓	call	call	call	✓	✓

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTIONS - 2026

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

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

Pre-registration is always required, and registration deadlines apply. Small businesses should check websites below or contact their community’s representative for business registration.

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

DATE	PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITIES	CONTACT	PHONE	PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE; WEBSITE
5/9/26	South Hadley, Granby	Kevin Quesnel, South Hadley DPW	413-538-5030, x6505	Pre-registration is required. southhadley.org/241/Solid-Waste-Division
9/12/26	Belchertown	Donna Lusignan, Belchertown DPW	413-323-0415	Pre-registration required by 9/7/26. belchertown.org/206/Hazardous-Waste-Day-Information
9/19/26	Athol, Barre, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Rowe, Royalston, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, Whately	Jan Ameen, Franklin County Solid Waste District	413-772-2438	Pre-registration required between 8/12/26 – 9/9/26, at: franklincountywastedistrict.org/p/24/
10/17/26	Ashfield, Chesterfield, Cummington, Goshen, Huntington, Middlefield, Plainfield, Westhampton, Williamsburg, Worthington	Linda Cernik, Hilltown Resource Management Cooperative	413-685-5498	Pre-registration required between 10/1/26 – 10/14/26. hrmc-ma.org
10/31/26	Amherst	Steve Telega, Amherst DPW	413-259-3049	Pre-registration required between 9/1/26 – 10/20/26, at: amherstma.gov/547/Hazardous-Special-Waste-Collections
10/31/26	Northampton	Bonnie Netto, Northampton DPW	413-587-1570	Pre-registration required by 10/5/26 – 10/19/26. northamptonma.gov/1826/Hazardous-Waste
Ongoing	Greenfield, Leyden	Water Pollution Control or Transfer Station	413-772-1539; 413-772-1528	Call for accepted materials, location and hours.

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

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, CFLs
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 put in the trash when completely hardened. Speed up the process by adding latex paint hardener (available in hardware stores) or by stirring in clean kitty litter to the consistency of thick oatmeal & allowing the mix to harden. When there are no free-flowing liquids, you can put the open paint can (with the lid off) in your household trash.

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

RECYCLES

The regional materials recycling facility (MRF) in Springfield sorts, bales, and sells recyclable paper and containers from over 62 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.

YES! Please recycle these items:



WE PROCESS YOUR HOUSEHOLD CONTAINERS AND PAPER.

Empty and clean metal cans, foil, plastic bottles/jars/tubs/jugs, clear plastic hinged containers (clamshells), clear plastic egg cartons, clear plastic cups, milk and juice cartons, glass bottles and jars. (Labels are fine. Put lids and caps back on containers.) Clean papers, magazines/catalogs, gift wrap/bags/tissue paper and greeting cards (no metallic inks, foil, glitter, batteries), calendars, paperback books, cardboard, paperboard, empty pizza boxes. (Paper clips and staples are ok.)

NO! THANK YOU*

*** PLEASE KEEP THESE ITEMS OUT OF THE 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. Plastic bags and holiday lights can be recycled and/or donated in other locations. Rechargeable batteries should never go in any trash or recycling bin. It only takes one damaged, defective or recalled battery to combust without warning, placing residents, workers and fire crews at risk.



**NO
BATTERIES**



**NO
PLASTIC BAGS!
OR BAGGED
MATERIALS**

**NO
ITEMS THAT WRAP
AND TANGLE!**



**DO NOT
INCLUDE
THESE
THEY CAUSE
PROBLEMS**



PLASTIC BAGS
CAN BE
TAKEN TO A
GROCERY
STORE



RECHARGEABLE,
BUTTON AND
LITHIUM BATTERIES
SHOULD NEVER
BE PUT IN HOUSE-
HOLD RECYCLING
OR TRASH



GARDEN
HOSES
ARE NOT
RECYCLABLE
PLEASE PLACE
IN TRASH

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



For information about recycling visit: www.springfieldmrf.org

Problem solved!

With a 2026-2027 Northampton Transfer Station permit,
you have many environmentally-friendly disposal options, including:



Free disposal & recycling



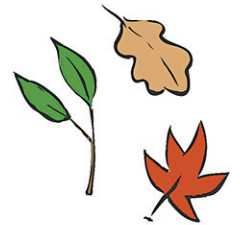
Container & paper recycling



Food scrap composting

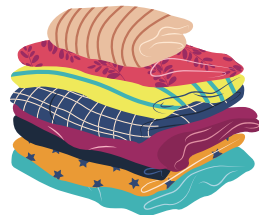


Books



Yard waste
composting

Clothing/
Textiles



Cooking & motor oil recycling



Eyeglasses

Check out the Recenter Swap Shop. Donate durable, useful home goods and furnishings for reuse.

Fee-based disposal & recycling



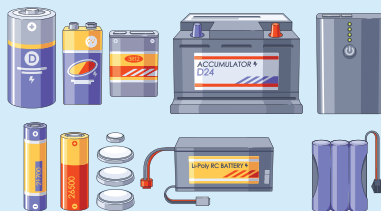
Household trash



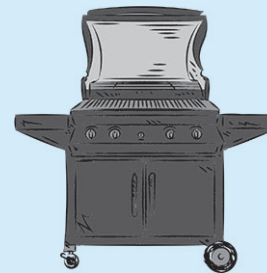
Electronic waste recycling



Fluorescent light bulbs
and tubes



Batteries



Scrap metal recycling



Bulky waste

Purchase online at Northamptonma.gov/1830

Electronic checks & major credit cards accepted.

Means-based discounts are available.

Permits are valid July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027.

Questions? Call 413-587-1570.