



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Fact Sheet

What are Massachusetts Waste Bans?

Why does Massachusetts have waste bans?

Waste bans help to increase recycling and support the recycling economy, which provides thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in economic activity in Massachusetts. By reducing the disposal of banned materials, we also capture valuable resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save energy, and reduce our need for landfills and incinerators.

What is banned?

- **Cathode ray tubes** (older televisions and computer monitors).
- **Construction materials including asphalt pavement, brick, concrete, metal, wood, and clean gypsum wallboard.**
- **Food material** (only from businesses or institutions that dispose of one ½ ton or more per week).
- **Glass, metal, and plastic containers** (bottles, cans, jars, jugs and tubs).
- **Leaves, grass and brush** (less than 1 inch in diameter).
- **Large appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, stoves, washers, and dryers.**
- **Mattresses.**
- **Paper, paperboard, and cardboard.**
- **Textiles.**
- **Tires.**
- **Vehicle batteries.**

What does this mean for residents?

Most waste ban materials are collected through regular municipal collection or drop-off programs. In some cases, particularly with larger items such as cathode ray tubes or appliances, materials are collected through separate collections or drop-off events. In other cases, materials such as vehicle batteries, tires, and cathode ray tubes may be collected by retailers.

For residents who receive private collection services (not through your city or town), ask your service provider for recycling options. You can also check for other recycling options on [MassDEP's web site](#) and at [RecycleSmart Massachusetts](#).

For more information:

Visit the MassDEP [Waste Bans Home Page](#).