



Massachusetts
Department
of
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

fact sheet

Your Business and the Waste Bans: What You Need to Know

What are waste bans?

“Waste bans” are restrictions on the disposal, transfer for disposal and contracting for disposal of certain hazardous items and recyclable materials at solid waste facilities in Massachusetts.

The waste bans are designed to:

- Conserve capacity at existing disposal facilities.
- Minimize the need for new facility construction.
- Provide recycling markets with large volumes of material on a consistent basis.
- Keep certain toxic substances or materials from adversely affecting our environment when landfilled or combusted.
- Promote business and residential recycling efforts.

What do I need to do? Remove & Recycle!

Business managers should remove and recycle any banned materials they generate or run the risk that waste loads will be rejected at a disposal site, charged an additional handling fee or face potential enforcement penalties. Recycling at businesses can be easier and more economical than recycling at home, because the materials are generated in larger quantities and are easier to keep separate from the rest of the trash. Recycling prevents unnecessary disposal of usable raw materials, saves energy and reduces air and water pollution. Recycling also reduces disposal costs and can save businesses money by diverting materials from the trash dumpster to the recycling bin.

Your waste hauler may be able to help you establish a recycling program. The RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts program has an extensive list of companies that collect or process recyclable materials available at www.recyclingworksma.com.

What is banned?

Asphalt Pavement, Brick, and Concrete: asphalt pavement, brick and concrete from construction and demolition of buildings, roads, bridges, and similar sources.

Batteries: Lead-acid batteries used in motor vehicles or stationary applications.

Cathode Ray Tubes: Any intact, broken or processed glass tube used to provide the visual display in televisions, computer monitors and certain scientific instruments.

Clean Gypsum Wallboard: A panel (known as drywall) with a gypsum core and faced with a heavy paper or other material on both sides that is not contaminated with paint, wallpaper, joint compound, adhesives, nails, or other substances after manufacture.

Glass Containers: Glass bottles and jars. The ban does not cover light bulbs, Pyrex cookware, plate glass, drinking glasses, windows, windshields and ceramics.

Leaves & Yard Waste: Leaves, grass clippings, weeds, garden materials, shrub trimmings, and brush one-inch or less in diameter (excluding diseased plants).

Mattresses (effective Nov. 1, 2022): Any resilient material or combination of materials that is enclosed by ticking, used alone or in combination with other products, and that is intended for sleeping upon, except for mattresses that are contaminated with mold, bodily fluids, insects, oil, or hazardous substances. Mattress includes any foundation or box-spring. "Mattress" does not include any mattress pad, mattress topper, sleeping bag, pillow, car bed, carriage, basket, dressing table, stroller, playpen, infant carrier, lounge pad, crib bumper, liquid or gaseous filled ticking, including any waterbed and any air mattress that does not contain upholstery material between the ticking and the mattress core, and mattresses in futons and sofa beds.

Metal: Ferrous and non-ferrous metals derived from used appliances, building materials, industrial equipment, vehicles, and manufacturing processes.

Metal Containers: Aluminum, steel or bi-metal beverage and food containers.

Recyclable Paper: All paper, cardboard, and paperboard products (EXCEPT tissue paper, toweling, paper plates and cups, wax-coated cardboard and other low-grade paper products).

Textiles (effective Nov. 1, 2022): Clothing, footwear, bedding, towels, curtains, fabric, and similar products except for textiles that are contaminated with mold, bodily fluids, insects, oil, or hazardous substances.

Single Resin Narrow-Necked Plastics: Bottles, jars, jugs, and tubs.

White Goods: Appliances employing electricity, oil, natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas. These include refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers, clothes dryers, gas or electric ovens and ranges, and hot water heaters.

Whole Tires: Motor vehicle tires of all types (Combustion facilities can accept whole tires for disposal. Shredded tires are not restricted).

Wood: Treated and untreated wood, clean wood (trees, stumps, and brush, including but not limited to sawdust, chips, shavings and bark). (Combustion facilities can accept wood for disposal.)

Commercial Organic Material: Food and vegetative material from businesses and institutions that dispose of one ton or more organic material per week. (effective Nov. 1, 2022 this threshold will drop to ½ ton per week.)

Did You Know?

The waste bans apply to all solid waste destined for a Massachusetts landfill, combustion facility, or transfer station.

Waste generators are responsible for ensuring that they do not contract for the disposal of banned items.

Waste facility operators are responsible for ensuring that unallowable quantities of banned materials are not disposed or transferred for disposal from their facilities. Facilities must check incoming waste in two ways. First, all loads must be visually monitored for the presence of banned materials. Second, random inspections of waste load contents must be conducted.

MassDEP conducts inspections at solid waste facilities to identify haulers and generators (businesses, institutions, municipalities, etc.) that dispose of banned materials.

Massachusetts Department of
Environmental Protection
One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108-4746

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Executive Office of
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This information is available in
alternate format by calling our ADA

Coordinator at
(617) 574-6872.



Businesses and municipalities that do not divert banned items from their waste run the risk of having solid waste facilities reject their waste and charge additional handling fees, and potential enforcement penalties from MassDEP.

For more information:

Visit the MassDEP Waste Bans home page:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/solid/massachusetts-waste-disposal-bans.html>

For assistance with finding a recycling service provider, contact the RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts program at (888)254-5525, via email at info@recyclingworksma.com, or visit the program website at www.recyclingworksma.com.

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