

## WHAT DO I DO WITH ...?

☠ = Items that are hazardous or require special handling.

### **AEROSOL CANS** ☠

Recycle only EMPTY aerosol cans that contained non-hazardous materials, such as health & beauty products (sun block, first aid spray, hair products, deodorant, & shaving cream); food products (cooking oil, whipped cream, frosting) and laundry products (starch, anti-static products & air fresheners). To prevent a fire hazard, cans must be completely empty (no air or noise from the nozzle when pressed). Do not puncture, pierce, flatten, or remove nozzles prior to recycling.

Aerosol cans that are empty and once contained hazardous materials are NOT recyclable. Place empty hazardous waste aerosol containers in your household trash (empty cans from insecticide, paint, lubricant, waterproofing, automotive, adhesive/craft & cleaning products). Aerosol cans with hazardous material in them should be brought to a household hazardous waste collection. For additional information, visit: [www.mass.gov/guides/safely-manage-hazardous-household-products](http://www.mass.gov/guides/safely-manage-hazardous-household-products).

### **ALUMINUM FOIL, CANS & “DISPOSABLE” PANS**

Rinse clean & recycle with bottles & cans. Acceptable items include aluminum pie pans and take-out containers, disposable roaster pans, and clean aluminum foil (ball it up).

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

### **AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES**

Call your Police Department for proper disposal instructions.

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

### **APPLIANCES** (see “Scrap Metal”)

### **ARTS, CRAFTS & HOBBY ITEMS** ☠

Some paints, solvents and related materials are hazardous and should be brought to a hazardous waste collection. Always check the label before tossing in the trash. Visit [www.crazycrayons.com](http://www.crazycrayons.com) for info about crayon recycling. Recycle Prang markers by visiting [www.dixonrecycle.com](http://www.dixonrecycle.com). Schools can participate in Crayola ColorCycle, which accepts all brands of plastic markers, highlighters and dry erase markers: [www.crayola.com/colorcycle](http://www.crayola.com/colorcycle).

### **ASBESTOS** ☠

There are strict removal & disposal requirements for asbestos. Contact the Western Region of the Mass Department of Environmental Protection: John Moriarty 413-755-2128 [john.moriarty@mass.gov](mailto:john.moriarty@mass.gov). To find licensed asbestos contractors, go to [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) and type “asbestos license lists” into the search bar, then click “Currently Licensed Asbestos Contractors.”

### **ATHLETIC SHOES** (see “Shoes”)

### **AUTOMOBILES** (see “Vehicles”)

### **AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS** ☠

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

- **Motor oil**

Even a small amount of improperly disposed of motor oil will contaminate water & soil. In MA, retailers are required by law to accept up to two gallons of used oil at no charge with an original sales receipt. Many auto supply stores, auto repair shops & gas stations will accept used oil even if you didn't buy it

from them. Many towns accept motor oil at transfer stations or hazardous waste collections. Or call the MassDEP Used Oil Hotline at 617-556-1022.

- **Motor oil filters**

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

- **Empty motor oil bottles**

Empty motor oil containers are not recyclable; drain well and then throw them away as trash.

- **Antifreeze**

Antifreeze is not only hazardous; its deceiving color & sweet taste may attract children, pets & wild animals. Empty antifreeze bottles should be thrown away (do not recycle). Consider having your vehicle's radiator flushed at a service station to avoid the responsibility associated with proper storage & disposal. Antifreeze can be brought to a household hazardous waste collection.

- **Brake fluid**

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

### **BABY FOOD POUCHES** (see "Plastic Pouches")

### **BAGS** (see "Plastics" and "Reusable Bags")

### **BALLASTS** ☠ (see "Mercury & Mercury-containing Products")

### **BATTERIES** ☠

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

ALL other battery varieties contain hazardous materials and require special disposal. Many communities have convenient drop-off options; Check with your local recycling contact for disposal information or search online with your zip code at [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com). In addition:

- **Button batteries** (found in watches, hearing aids, electronics & some toys) are usually accepted free of charge by stores that sell them or at watch/jewelry shops.
- **Lead acid batteries** (found in vehicles, boats, motorcycles, kids' ride-on toys, lawn mowers) will be accepted by the retailer from whom you buy a new one (they are required to take one back at no charge). Scrap metal recyclers typically pay for lead acid batteries.
- **Lithium batteries** (found in many applications, primarily in cameras) Check all batteries carefully before disposal; look for "Lithium" on the label. They resemble alkaline batteries, but these should be recycled properly: some municipalities accept them.
- **Rechargeable batteries** contain heavy metals and require special handling. These are found in cell phones, cordless phones, laptops, tablets, some digital cameras, camcorders, UPS battery back-ups, some toys, baby monitors, power tools, robotic vacuum cleaners, and emergency medical equipment. Also, rechargeable toothbrushes, razors, flashlights and hand-held vacuum cleaners, plus rechargeable batteries that can be recharged with a battery charger. AT&T, Best Buy, Home Depot, Lowes, Staples, Target, & Verizon Wireless accept Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion), Nickel-Zinc (Ni-Zn), small Sealed Lead Acid (Pb) batteries (up to 11 pounds). For more information and options for recycling rechargeable batteries, go to [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org).

### **BEER AND SODA PACKAGING**

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

## **BICYCLES**

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

## **BOATS**

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

## **BOOKS**

Books in good condition may be sold at used bookstores, donated to public libraries or a book exchange, or dropped off at your local recycling/transfer station’s book exchange. Reader to Reader, an Amherst-based non-profit, provides library-quality books to U.S. schools and public libraries ([www.readertoreader.org](http://www.readertoreader.org)). Paperback books & phonebooks unsuitable for reuse CAN be recycled in municipal programs. However, the covers and spines from hardcover books are NOT recyclable; rip the pages out and recycle those; place the spine and covers in the trash. Roundabout Books (**Greenfield**) accepts books in any condition; donations are sorted for local and mail-order sale and all types of unsalable books are recycled at a local paper mill. Also accepted: CDs, DVDs, and vinyl records working condition ([www.roundaboutbookstore.com](http://www.roundaboutbookstore.com); 413-773-0820).

## **BOTTLE CAPS & LIDS**

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

## **BOXES**

- Clean cardboard, boxboard, paperboard boxes are recyclable (e.g., packaging from cereal, crackers, tissues, shoes, gifts, etc.) Attached plastic windows may stay, but discard plastic liners. Flatten.
- The clean portions of pizza boxes can be recycled, but the greasy parts must be discarded or composted. Because whole pizza boxes are usually greasy to some degree, drop-off centers and curbside programs sometimes reject them. Turning them inside out or ripping out greasy sections are the best ways to ensure they won’t end up in a landfill. Soiled pizza boxes can be delivered to municipal compost programs at the transfer stations in Amherst, Bernardston, Greenfield (also open to non-residents), Leverett, New Salem, Northampton, Northfield, Orange, Wendell & Whately. Coming soon to the transfer stations in Deerfield and Warwick.
- Frozen food boxes, ice cream cartons, case boxes from soda or beer, and kitty litter boxes are not acceptable in recycling or composting. These boxes are made with “wet strength paper,” a special plastic-reinforced material that keeps them from falling apart when wet. These boxes do not break down in the paper recycling or composting process, and must go in the trash.

## **BUBBLE WRAP & INFLATED PLASTIC PACKAGING** (Air pillows) (see “Plastics”)

## **BUILDING & REMODELING MATERIALS**

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

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

- EcoBuilding Bargains, 83 Warwick St., Springfield, MA (413-788-6900; [ecobuildingbargains.org](http://ecobuildingbargains.org))
- Habitat for Humanity's ReStore in Westfield: 301 East Main St., Westfield, MA 01085 (413-642-8990; [www.restorewestfield.com](http://www.restorewestfield.com))

Wooden pallets can be reused or recycled as "clean wood waste." Disposal options for large quantities include (but are not limited to) Martin's Farm (Greenfield: 413-774-5631), Gold Circuit E-Cycling (Palmer: 888-283-0007), Index Packaging (NH: 800-662-3626), 360 Recycling (Westfield: 413-562-0193).

Note: pressure-treated wood should only be disposed of in a modern landfill. Don't put it in a backyard compost pile, a brush or chipping pile; don't burn it or send it to a waste incinerator for disposal.

### **CAMERAS**

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

### **CANNING JARS**

Canning jars are not recyclable because of the thick, heat resistant glass. Reuse, give to a friend who can use them, put in a tag sale or swap shop at a transfer station, or place in the trash.

### **CARPET**

Flor® offers a free mail-back recycling program for carpet squares ([www.flor.com/recycle](http://www.flor.com/recycle)). Some nonprofit organizations accept relatively clean carpet for reuse.

### **CARTONS & DRINK BOXES**

"Paper" cartons should be recycled with bottles & cans ("gable tops" for milk and orange juice, "aseptic packaging" for almond milk, soup, juice boxes). Rinse containers. Discard straws; plastic caps & spouts may stay. Don't include foil drink pouches (e.g., Capri Sun) with your bottles & cans.

### **CARTRIDGES** (see "Ink, Printer & Toner Cartridges")

### **CELL PHONES** ♻️

Cell phones shouldn't be thrown away due to their reuse value & hazardous/recyclable components. Numerous charitable & for-profit organizations accept cell phone donations. Search online using "cell phone donation" or check out [www.recyclingforcharities.com](http://www.recyclingforcharities.com), [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org) or [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com). Stores that sell cell phones will also accept them for free recycling, and many cell phone manufacturers offer buy-back programs through the mail. Lowe's Stores and many municipal transfer stations also accept them for free recycling as part of the Call2Recycle program: [www.call2recycle.org](http://www.call2recycle.org).

### **CHRISTMAS TREES** (see "Yard Waste")

### **CIGARETTE BUTTS**

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

### **CLAMSHELLS & CLEAR MOLDED PLASTICS** (see "Plastics")

### **CLEANERS** (see "Household Hazardous Waste")

### **CLOTHING & TEXTILES**

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

stuffed animals in any condition. Some animal shelters also accept old sheets, blankets, pillowcases, bedspreads, throw rugs & towels for reuse.

To find local clothing consignment stores or quality used clothing, go to [www.thethriftshopper.com](http://www.thethriftshopper.com). See also [www.thredUP.com](http://www.thredUP.com), [www.swap.com](http://www.swap.com), [www.refashioner.com](http://www.refashioner.com), and [wornwear.patagonia.com](http://wornwear.patagonia.com).

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

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

### **COAT HANGERS**

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

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

**COMPUTERS & TV 'S** (see “Electronics”)

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

### **COOKING OIL**

Never pour cooking oil down the drain. Liquids should be kept out of the trash. ReEnergizer accepts vegetable oil by appointment from individuals. It also provides containers and pays for the oil at food service providers: [www.localvegoil.com](http://www.localvegoil.com), 413-322-3324. **ReEnergizer’s used cooking oil is transformed into replacements for fossil fuels.** Western Mass Rendering provides dumpsters for large collections: [www.westernmassrendering.com](http://www.westernmassrendering.com); 413-569-6265.

### **CORKS**

Corks should not be put in your recycling bin. Natural corks can be crumbled & added to a backyard compost bin, or put in municipal/commercial composting. ReCORK ([www.recork.org](http://www.recork.org)) recycles natural wine & champagne corks (no plastic or metal corks); Whole Foods in Hadley and Ryan & Casey Liquors in Greenfield are ReCork collection sites. Yemm & Hart pays for large volumes of corks mailed to them, and accepts (but doesn’t pay for) plastic corks: [www.yemhart.com](http://www.yemhart.com). Wine corks can be reused in many creative ways (search online for “cork art”).

### **COSMETICS CONTAINERS**

Origins offers free recycling of make-up packaging, regardless of brand. Empty cosmetic tubes, bottles, lipstick covers, jars & caps can be brought to an Origins retail store or department store counter nationwide: [www.origins.com/our-commitment](http://www.origins.com/our-commitment). Other mail-in recycling programs for empty cosmetics containers can be found at [www.maccosmetics.com/giving\\_back/back\\_to\\_mac.tmpl](http://www.maccosmetics.com/giving_back/back_to_mac.tmpl) and [www.terracycle.com](http://www.terracycle.com).

### **EGG CARTONS**

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

### **ELECTRONICS** ♻️

State regulations prohibit disposal of screen-based electronics such as laptops, tablets, iPads, Kindles, flat screen TVs, monitors and CRTs (cathode ray tubes) in household trash, but many items with power cords can be recycled. Most municipal transfer stations offer electronics recycling programs, although disposal fees may

apply. Electronics that are mostly metal, such as computer towers and DVD players, can go in scrap metal recycling.

Staples stores' accept computer-related electronic waste for free recycling. Staples does not accept TVs. Staples stores also offer a reuse program. Best Buy accepts a wide range of electronic waste for free recycling, but charges \$25 for TVs. For more information, call your local store or visit their website and search for "recycling." Computer manufacturers offer a variety of electronic recycling programs, including (but not limited to) Apple, Dell, Gateway, Hewlett-Packard, Panasonic, Sony & Toshiba. Visit their websites for details. Various charities and non-profits accept donations of working electronics, including local Salvation Army and Goodwill stores. Always call ahead to ask if they can accept your item.

### **ELECTRONIC MEDIA** (CDs, DVDs)

Do not add electronic media to your household recycling. CD cases easily shatter and the glass-like shards create hazards and other problems at the recycling facility. If selling or donating used media is not an option (some communities accept certain types via book donation programs), GreenDisk.com offers a fee-based, mail-in recycling option, and Gold Circuit E-Cycling (Palmer) charges a nominal per pound fee to recycle DVDs, disks and tapes: [www.goldcircuitrecycling.com](http://www.goldcircuitrecycling.com).

### **EYEGLASSES**

To donate your eyeglass frames and prescription lenses for reuse, look for a Lion's Club eyeglass collection box in your local Post Office or wherever eyeglasses are sold, or mail to: Lions Clubs International Headquarters, 300 W. 22nd Street, Oak Brook, IL 60523. New Eyes for the Needy is another mail-in reuse option: [www.new-eyes.org/join-the-vision](http://www.new-eyes.org/join-the-vision). If reuse is not appropriate, eyeglasses should be placed in household trash, as they are not recyclable.

### **FERTILIZERS & PESTICIDES** ☠ (see "Household Hazardous Waste")

### **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS** ☠

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

- Businesses & property managers can contact their fire control service provider.
- Residents can call their local fire department for local disposal options.
- Some municipal hazardous waste collections may accept older fire extinguishers: ask before bringing them to a collection.
- Some municipal transfer stations accept newer fire extinguishers for special recycling along with propane tanks.
- MA Fire Technologies accepts all types of fire extinguishers for a small fee (49 Heywood Ave, West Springfield; [www.massfire.com](http://www.massfire.com); 800-244-6769).
- New England Disposal Technologies (Westfield, MA) accepts fire extinguishers year-round for modest fees ([nedt.org](http://nedt.org); 866-769-1621).

### **FIREWORKS** ☠

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

### **FLAGS**

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

### **FLUORESCENT BULBS & LAMPS** ☠ (see "Mercury & Mercury-containing Products")

### **FOOD SCRAPS** (also see "Cooking Oil")

Food scraps and leftovers are heavy to transport and contribute to climate change when they decompose in landfills; composting food waste makes better environmental sense. Local composting options include home composting, municipal transfer station programs (in Amherst, Bernardston, Greenfield, Leverett, New Salem,

Northampton, Northfield, Orange, Wendell & Whately; coming soon to the transfer stations in Deerfield and Warwick), and (where available) curbside pick-up by a private waste hauler. Find a hauler near you at: [recyclingworksma.com](http://recyclingworksma.com). Many municipalities offer discounted purchase programs for countertop collection pails and home compost bins. For home composting instructions, visit [Mass.gov](http://Mass.gov) and search for “home compost.”

### **FRUIT SNACK POUCHES** (see “Plastic Pouches”)

### **FURNITURE**

Furniture in good condition can be sold or donated for reuse. Donating mattresses & box springs can be difficult, as most charities and some communities don’t accept them. When you purchase a new mattress, ask the retailer to take back and recycle the old one.

### **GOLF BALLS**

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

### **GREETING CARDS**

Cards are recyclable with paper if they do not contain foil or metallic inks. Remove electronics from singing greeting cards & recycle the button battery (see “Batteries”). St. Jude’s Ranch for Children runs a greeting card reuse program ([stjudesranch.org](http://stjudesranch.org)); mail cards to: St. Jude’s Ranch for Children, 100 St. Jude’s St., Boulder City, NV 89005.

### **HEARING AIDS**

The Starkey Hearing Foundation operates a hearing device reuse program. Mail to: Starkey Hearing Foundation, ATTN: Hearing Aid Recycling, 6700 Washington Avenue South, Eden Prairie, MN 55344. ([www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org/hearing-aid-recycling](http://www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org/hearing-aid-recycling)) If your hearing aid is not worth salvaging, remove & recycle the button battery (see “Batteries”), then place the device in the trash.

### **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE** ☠

First, consider using up the product according to package directions, or giving it away to someone who will. Products with warnings & words like caustic, toxic, corrosive, poison, flammable, danger & “keep out of reach of children” on the label require special handling. Check with your local recycling contact or your community website for local household hazardous waste options. New England Disposal Technologies (Westfield, MA) accepts many household hazardous wastes year-round for modest fees ([nedt.org](http://nedt.org); 866-769-1621). For safe alternatives to hazardous household products visit: [www.lesstoxicguide.ca](http://www.lesstoxicguide.ca), or [www.ecocycle.org/hazwaste/ecofriendly-cleaning](http://www.ecocycle.org/hazwaste/ecofriendly-cleaning).

### **INK, PRINTER & TONER CARTRIDGES**

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

### **JUNK MAIL & CATALOGS**

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

- DirectMail.com - free service to remove your name from commercial mailing lists ([www.directmail.com/mail\\_preference](http://www.directmail.com/mail_preference));
- Catalog Choice - free service to stop delivery of unwanted catalogs ([www.catalogchoice.org](http://www.catalogchoice.org));
- OptOutPrescreen.com - free service to end pre-approved credit card & insurance offers ([www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com));
- YellowPagesGoesGreen - free service to take your name off phonebook mailing lists ([www.yellowpagesgoesgreen.org/stop-yellow-pages](http://www.yellowpagesgoesgreen.org/stop-yellow-pages))

### **KEYS**

Old keys can be recycled via a scrap metal dumpster at a municipal transfer station or brought to a local scrap metal dealer.

**LATEX PAINT** (see “Paint & Paint-related Products”)

**LIGHT BULBS** ♻️

Old fashioned incandescent light bulbs and Halogen light bulbs are not recyclable. Carefully wrap them in used paper or plastic before placing them in the trash. Fluorescent bulbs & compact fluorescent bulbs [“CFLs”] contain mercury vapor and require special disposal (see “mercury & mercury-containing products”). LED light bulbs do not have to be recycled, but contain valuable materials and can be recycled with CFLs.

**LIGHT STRINGS**

Holiday light strings are NOT recyclable in municipal recycling programs because they get wrapped around sorting equipment. Some scrap metal dealers will accept them for recycling. Holiday LEDs has a mail-in recycling program and sends donors a coupon for 15% off any purchase ([www.holidayleds.com/christmas-light-recycling-program.aspx](http://www.holidayleds.com/christmas-light-recycling-program.aspx)).

**MARDI GRAS BEADS**

Mail Mardi Gras beads and trinkets to the Arc of Greater New Orleans’ reuse program: 925 Labarre Road, Metairie, LA 70001 ([www.arcgno.org](http://www.arcgno.org); 504-837-5105).

**MATTRESSES & BOX SPRINGS** (see “Furniture”)

**MEDICATIONS & PHARMACEUTICALS** ♻️

Disposal of unwanted medication must be done carefully for many reasons. Wastewater treatment plants & septic systems are not designed to remove pharmaceuticals from wastewater; drugs should NOT be poured down the drain or flushed down the toilet.

Many area police departments offer permanent drop-off boxes for free disposal of prescription and nonprescription drugs, vitamins, and veterinary medications: Agawam, Amherst, Ashfield, Athol, Belchertown, Bernardston, Buckland, Chicopee, Cummington, Deerfield, Easthampton, East Longmeadow, Erving, Goshen, Granby, Greenfield, Hadley, Hampden, Hatfield, Holyoke, Leverett, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Monson, Montague, Northampton, Orange, Palmer, Pelham, South Hadley, Southampton, Southwick, Sunderland, Ware, West Springfield, Westfield, Whately, Wilbraham, and Williamsburg. You do not need to be a resident to use the drop boxes in any of these towns.

Accepted items: prescription and non-prescription drugs, vitamins and veterinary meds. NO liquids, syringes (see “Needles & Sharps” below), IV equipment or chemotherapy drugs. For more information visit [northwesternnda.org/drug-drop-boxes](http://northwesternnda.org/drug-drop-boxes).

NEW: Some locations of national chain pharmacies are offering free drop boxes for prescription medications. Call your local store or refer to the drop boxes for acceptable items.

The annual National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day will take place on April 27, 2019 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. This collection aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications. Find a collection site near you by visiting [www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback), or by calling 1-800-882-9539.

If you are unable to deliver medications to a drop box or a take-back day, medications may be safely disposed of in the following manner: 1) Remove any personal info from labels that could be used to obtain refills; 2) Render medications unattractive to children, pets & thieves by dissolving pills or tablets in a small amount of water or rubbing alcohol (pour liquids into kitty litter or sand); 3) Place in two sealed plastic bags; and 4) Conceal the package in your trash. If you have large quantities of medications, consider disposing of them in

smaller batches over time. **Do not flush** prescription drugs down the toilet or drain unless the label or accompanying patient information specifically instructs you to do so.

Due to their small size and a protective lining, empty pill bottles are not recyclable. Be creative with reuse! For example, some animal shelters collect empty pill bottles to send medicines home with adoptees.

## **MERCURY & MERCURY-CONTAINING PRODUCTS** ☠

Mercury is highly toxic & requires special disposal. It is not hazardous when contained in a sealed device. Placing items in sealed plastic bags & handling them carefully to avoid breakage will reduce exposure. Never put mercury (or items containing mercury) in the trash or down a drain. Don't vacuum even the smallest spill. Instructions for handling mercury exposure can be found at: [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov); enter "mercury" in the search bar, or search the web for "broken CFL" or "mercury spill."

- **Fluorescent light bulbs**

All fluorescent light bulbs (even the low-mercury bulbs with green tips) contain mercury vapor. For assistance, businesses, residents and organizations can call the RecyclingWorks hotline at 1-888-254-5525 or email [info@recyclingworksma.com](mailto:info@recyclingworksma.com). Recycling options vary based on the type of bulb: Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) fit in standard screw-type light sockets & are made of a glass tube. They come in a variety of shapes & styles, & can be encased by an outer glass bulb. Free CFL recycling is offered at Home Depot, Lowes, and Solar Store of Greenfield.

Larger fluorescent tubes don't fit in standard screw-type sockets. These include long straight, circular or U-shaped tubes, tanning bed lamps, High Intensity Discharge (HIDs), & neon light tubing. Accepted at most municipal transfer stations and some Hazardous Waste Collections. Straight lamps and others are accepted at Lowe's: handle carefully and hand to an employee.

- **Thermometers**

Many older household thermometers (fever, candy, meat, deep fry, oven, ambient temperature) contain liquid mercury-based indicators. A mercury thermometer can be identified by the presence of a silver bulb at the end of a glass tube. Accepted in special programs at many municipal transfer stations and some Hazardous Waste Collections. If the bulb is red, blue, purple or green, it is not a mercury thermometer and can go in the trash.

- **Thermostats**

Updating to a programmable thermostat? Don't throw away your old wall-mounted thermostats: they contain a significant amount of liquid mercury. Leave thermostats in one piece, place in a sealed plastic bag, and handle carefully to avoid breakage. In addition to municipal collection programs, mercury thermostats are accepted for free recycling at many plumbing retail stores (search by zip code using "Plumbing Supplies"). For more locations, go to [www.thermostat-recycle.org](http://www.thermostat-recycle.org).

- **Ballasts**

Most fluorescent light fixtures produced before 1979 contained ballasts with PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), a highly toxic substance. PCB-free ballasts are marked "No PCBs." PCB ballasts are typically collected at the same sites as larger fluorescent tube-type bulbs. Non-PCB ballasts are safe to go into trash, but are not accepted in scrap metal recycling bins.

**MICROWAVES** (see "Scrap Metal")

**MOTH BALLS** ☠ (see "Household Hazardous Waste")

**MOTOR OIL & FILTERS** ☠ (see "Automotive Products")

## **MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**

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

**NEEDLES & SHARPS** ☠

MA Sanitary Code states that it is illegal to dispose of sharps (hypodermic needles, syringes, lancets, & all other “sharps”) as trash. Never put a container full of sharps in your recycling bin. Collection programs are available in many towns; call your Health Department or see a listing of all the sharps programs in the state, go to [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) and type “needles” in the search bar. Several mail-in disposal programs are available; search online for “sharps mail-in programs.” Stericycle is an example of a company that picks up sharps for safe disposal from businesses that generate sharps: [www.stericycle.com](http://www.stericycle.com) or 844-516-7291.

### **PACKAGING MATERIALS** (also see “Plastics”)

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

- **Cardboard boxes** can be reused, & flattened boxes can be recycled in municipal recycling programs.
- **Foam peanuts:** see “plastics”
- **Cornstarch peanuts** may be composted in a backyard bin, reused, or placed in the trash. However, these are not accepted by commercial composting facilities or at packing shipping stores.
- **Styrofoam blocks & shapes:** see “plastics”
- **Packing paper** is reusable as well as recyclable. Place any shredded paper in a paper bag & staple or tape it shut before putting it in your recycling bin.
- **Plastic sealed air packaging** is reusable. Once deflated, it can also be recycled with plastic bags (see “plastics” for retail store recycling programs).
- **Amazon’s plastic envelope mailers** are recyclable with plastic bags (see “plastics” for retail store recycling programs).

### **PAINT & PAINT-RELATED PRODUCTS** ☠

If your unwanted paint was purchased recently & it's in good condition, consider donating it for reuse instead of throwing it away. Many school/community theatre groups will accept quality paint products. You may also offer useable paint via an online sharing group (e.g. Freecycle.org or a Buy Nothing Facebook group). Petroleum (oil-based) paints, stains, thinners, & varnishes are considered hazardous materials, requiring proper disposal. Contact your local DPW for Hazardous waste collection information for your town. Latex paint & water-based stains can be thrown away when completely hardened. Speed up the process by adding latex paint hardener (available in hardware stores) or by stirring in clean kitty litter to the consistency of thick oatmeal & allowing the mix to harden. When the contents are no longer liquid, you can put the open paint can (without the lid) in your household trash. New England Disposal Technologies (Westfield, MA) accepts latex paint year-round for modest fees ([nedt.org](http://nedt.org); 866-769-1621).

### **PALLETS** (see wood under “Building & Remodeling Materials”)

### **PANTYHOSE**

Worn-out pantyhose, nylon knee-highs, and tights in any condition can be sent to Recycled Crafts; they use them to make pet toys, rugs, placemats, and table runners. Email [recycledcrafts@live.com](mailto:recycledcrafts@live.com) for donation information, or visit: [savemyhosiery.yolasite.com](http://savemyhosiery.yolasite.com).

### **PELLET STOVE FUEL BAGS**

Several communities collect pellet bags from their residents for recycling on a periodic or year-round basis, including 13 transfer stations in Franklin County, and the towns of Plainfield and Williamsburg. Gold Circuit E-Cycling in Palmer accepts pellet bags from the public for recycling: [www.goldcircuitcycling.com](http://www.goldcircuitcycling.com), 888-283-0007. Some retail store plastic bag recycling programs will accept pellet bags (call first). Pellet bags must be dry and completely EMPTY. Flatten and stack empty bags, roll up the stack and place the roll in an empty pellet bag.

### **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. Unfortunately, neither are feed bags that are paper because they are lined with plastic to keep moisture out of the feed. However, Terracycle offers a few pet food bag recycling programs, some of which have local drop-off

points. Search [www.terracycle.com](http://www.terracycle.com) using the brand name of the food. Local efforts such as The Bag Share Project are accepting certain types of feed bags for reuse: [www.thebagshare.org](http://www.thebagshare.org).

### **PHOTOGRAPHS**

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

### **PIZZA BOXES**

Grease is a real problem for recycled paper. Only clean and food-free paper portions of pizza boxes can be recycled. The greasy portions must be discarded as trash or composted. In the following communities, residents with transfer station access may deposit soiled pizza box material in municipal compost programs: Amherst, Bernardston, Greenfield (open to non-residents), Leverett, New Salem, Northampton, Northfield, Orange, Wendell & Whately. Coming soon to the transfer stations in Deerfield and Warwick.

### **PLASTICS**

Many people assume that all plastic items are recycled, but recycling is demand-based; only those plastics that can be made cost-effectively into new products are collected. Please note that plastic containers from food, beverage, soap and personal care products are the ONLY type of plastic suitable for your household recycling bin. All other forms of plastic must go to a separate, special collection or into the trash.

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

The following items are welcome in your household recycling bin: plastic containers from food, beverage, soap or personal care products in the form of bottles, jars, jugs, and tubs (less than 2.5 gallons in size) and clear clamshell-type containers. Plastic caps & lids are also recyclable, but they must be attached to the container (not loose). When possible, flatten containers before affixing caps & lids (push caps inside container if they won't stay on). Visit [springfieldmrf.org](http://springfieldmrf.org) for details and user-friendly graphics about household container recycling.

Do not put plastic bags, Styrofoam, black plastic, compostable serving items, and containers that held hazardous materials (such as automotive oil or degreasers) in your household recycling. See "Keep These Plastics out of the Recycling Bin" for additional details.

<p><b>Keep These Plastics Out of Your Recycling Bin!</b> Some plastic items cost too much to recycle, cause problems at recycling facilities, are unwanted by manufacturers or are recyclable only through separate recycling programs. Please do not add these to your household or municipal recycling mix:</p>
---

Plastic bags, plastic wrap  
Black plastic (microwavable containers, food trays, etc.)  
Forks, spoons, knives & serving utensils  
Plastic cups, plates  
Tubes (e.g. toothpaste, cosmetics, hair products)  
Plastic containers greater than 2.5 gallons in size  
Plastic containers which once held toxic substances (e.g. automotive oil)  
Containers labeled "biodegradable" or "compostable"  
Foam items (e.g. "aka Styrofoam®" cups, egg cartons, food containers & trays, packing material)  
Molded plastic packaging (the type that requires a sharp object to open)  
Binders, folders & plastic-coated (usually shiny) paper  
Compact disks and cases, video & audio tapes  
Plant pots & garden trays  
Six-pack rings (cut them up & then put in trash)  
Plexiglass  
PVC products (pipes, siding, etc.)  
Manufactured plastic wood (decking material)

### **Bags & wrap (Do NOT place in household recycling bin)**

Never place plastic bags or wrap in a household, municipal, or commercial recycling mix. Because of the safety hazards, machinery malfunctions, and environmental problems they create, they are only collected separately in retail and grocery store programs.

Clean and dry plastic bags and some forms of clear plastic film (such as bubble & case wraps) are recyclable only via special bins inside grocery stores and other retailers (e.g. Big Y, Stop & Shop, Target, Walmart, Lowe's, Staples). In general, plastic bags and wraps are recyclable if they are: 1) clear or translucent; 2) moderately stretchy; and 3) free of all paper and food residue. An important exception to this criteria is household food or "cling" wrap (Saran® and Glad® wrap), which are not accepted in these programs and must be placed in the trash. See the table, "Plastic Bag Recycling," in this guide, or visit [plasticfilmrecycling.org](http://plasticfilmrecycling.org) for additional details.

Dispose of the following bags & wrap in your trash: soiled (dirt, food residue), greasy, wet, painted or embellished (glitter, paper labels), non-stretchy or crinkly food bags (e.g. from pre-washed lettuce, grapes frozen foods, Legos), and bags from heavy items such as soil, mulch and driveway salt. Any bags labeled compostable should be composted or placed in the trash.

# PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING IN RETAIL STORES ONLY:

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

Please clip and hang this sign over your plastic bag recycling collection at home, in the office, at school, or at a business.

## YES - DO RECYCLE *in stores*:

- Bags MUST be **empty, clean and dry** without receipts, coins, or trash.
- Clean, dry plastic bags labeled #2 or #4:



HDPE, "HDPE," "PE-HD" OR



LDPE, "LDPE," "LLDPE"

Including:

- Grocery & produce bags
- Newspaper bags
- Dry cleaning bags (no receipts/staples)
- Plastic cereal bags (if it tears like paper do not include)
- Sandwich/Ziploc bags and bread bags: no crumbs, oils, food (remove large zippers)
- Retail bags (#2 or #4) with string/hard plastic handles removed
- Plastic outer wrap from packages of toilet paper, paper napkins, paper towels, diapers, sanitary products
- Bubble wrap, air pillows, Tyvek/plastic envelopes (deflate air pillows/remove labels)
- Case wrap from cases of water, canned pet food, soda, etc.
- Stretch wrap from furniture or electronics

## NO - DO NOT RECYCLE *in stores*:

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

What about **pellet stove fuel bags**?

- Some retail stores accept (call to ask).
- Franklin County residents, see: [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org)
- Gold Circuit E-Cycling in Palmer recycles: (888) 283-0007; [www.goldcircuitrecycling.com](http://www.goldcircuitrecycling.com)
- Pellet bags MUST be dry and empty: cut bottom and top to release all pellets.

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

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

Many items are reusable until broken or damaged; offer free on an online sharing group (e.g. Freecycle.org or a Buy Nothing Facebook group). Only clean, molded, rigid plastic pails, bins, crates, baskets, totes, barrels, wheeled trash totes (metal removed), and rigid plastic lawn furniture are recyclable via specialized collection programs. Ask your community representative (see page XX) about opportunities near you.

All other bulky plastic items belong in the trash or bulky waste if unusable, including toys, outdoor play structures, clothes hangers, shelving, kiddie pools, plant pots and nursery/garden trays.

### **Foam (Do NOT place in household recycling bin)**

The recycling market for rigid foam material (aka Styrofoam® or expanded polystyrene) is expanding, but some types remain difficult to recycle. Rigid foam products may be divided into the general categories of shipping peanuts, large chunks, and food-related serve ware (cups, plates, trays):

- **Large, rigid foam chunks:** Large pieces of rigid white, clean and dry foam are recyclable only through a special, separate collection. Some communities collect this foam at municipal transfer stations or at special collection events and transport it to a special foam recycling facility. Gold Circuit E-Cycling in Palmer (888-283-0007, [goldcircuitrecycling.com](http://goldcircuitrecycling.com)) accepts white chunk foam from the public for a fee.

- **Foam shipping peanuts:** Although difficult to recycle, foam peanuts are highly reusable. Some local retail shipping outlets accept clean & dry peanuts (call first; search for a store near you at [www.TheUPSstore.com](http://www.TheUPSstore.com)). Or, offer them for local reuse via an online sharing group such as Freecycle.org or a “Buy Nothing” Facebook group. The Amherst Transfer Station operates a free shipping peanut exchange for permit holders.
- **Foam cups, plates, and trays:** Some foam recyclers accept clean, white, food-related foam. Many do not. Contact a foam recycler directly for local requirements.

### **Toothbrushes and razors**

**Preserve® brand** toothbrushes & razors are recyclable via special collection (don't put them in your recycling bin!) The Hadley Whole Foods has a **Preserve® drop-off collection bin at their customer service desk, or there is a mail-in program (“Gimme 5” at [www.preserve.eco](http://www.preserve.eco))**. For more toothbrush recycling options, see “Toothpaste Tubes” below.

### **PLASTIC POUCHES**

These multi-material pouches, which can contain applesauce, yogurt or fruit, baby food, and health/beauty products, are NOT recyclable in municipal recycling programs. Terracycle runs several different mail-in recycling programs for pouches and caps; go to: [www.terracycle.com](http://www.terracycle.com) and type “pouches” in the search bar. Please make sure all leftover food and moisture has been removed.

### **PRESSURE-TREATED LUMBER** (see “Building & Remodeling Materials”)

### **PROPANE TANKS** ♻️

Larger varieties of propane tanks can be refilled, and many businesses that sell propane will accept tanks for reuse under specific conditions. Tanks are recyclable in special programs at transfer stations or recycling centers. Do not put tanks in scrap metal dumpsters or household recycling or trash. Do not puncture. Close the valves on barbecue grill size tanks. Some recyclers also accept small camping type tanks. Find commercial propane tank recycling options at [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com).

### **PYREX, CERAMIC AND PORCELAIN PRODUCTS**

Offer for reuse. Do not recycle; dispose as trash. Try offering colorful ceramic/porcelain items (even broken ones) to local arts centers or craftspeople, or offer free to an online sharing group (e.g. Freecycle.org or a Buy Nothing Facebook group).

### **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 & value of metal, state regulations prohibit throwing aluminum, steel, iron, lead, stainless steel, copper, brass, or bronze scrap in the trash. Some metal items, such as batteries, propane tanks, helium tanks, ballasts, air conditioners and refrigerators, and automotive parts require special handling due to toxic or pressurized materials. Many municipal transfer stations and recycling centers have scrap metal dumpsters for the recycling of scrap metal. Search online under “metal recycling” for the scrap yard nearest you and its requirements. Suitable scrap items should be mostly metal by weight; if possible, plastics should be removed.

### **SHOES**

Clean, gently used shoes are usually accepted for reuse and resale by organizations that collect clothing donations. Organizations that specialize in shoe reuse include [soles4souls.org](http://soles4souls.org), [rerunshoes.com](http://rerunshoes.com), and [oneworldrunning.com](http://oneworldrunning.com). Shoes in poor condition can be recycled into rubber playground material and other uses. Visit an organization's website to discover if they accept worn shoes.

### **SHREDDED PAPER**

Shredded paper is recyclable in municipal (paper) recycling. Never put plastic bags of any type in recycling: to contain shredded paper, use a paper bag or paper lawn and leaf bag and staple or tape the top shut.

### **SMOKE & CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS**

Most household smoke detectors contain a small amount of a radioactive element, Americium-241. While the quantity is considered harmless, its presence warrants special care. Retailer and manufacturer take-back programs exist. Ask at your local store or Google the manufacturer's name with "smoke detector recycling" for program and shipping details. Curieservices.com offers a fee-based mail-in recycling program. Some communities allow smoke detectors to be thrown away in the bulky waste container at a recycling/transfer station.

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

### **SPORTS EQUIPMENT**

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

**STYROFOAM** (see "Plastics: Foam")

**TELEVISIONS** (see "Electronics")

### **TENNIS BALLS**

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

**TEXTILES** (see "Clothing & Textiles")

**THERMOMETERS & THERMOSTATS** ☠ (see "Mercury & Mercury-containing Products")

### **TOOTHPASTE TUBES, TOOTHBRUSHES**

Tubes are not recyclable in household/municipal recycling, as they require highly specialized processing. Toothbrushes are too small to recycle, as they would get caught in conveyor belts at recycling facilities. Terracycle.com runs a mail-in recycling program that accepts toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes, floss containers, and their packaging. **Preserve® brand toothbrushes can be dropped off at the Hadley Whole Foods' customer service desk, or mailed in** (visit [www.preserve.eco](http://www.preserve.eco) for "Gimme 5" program details).

### **TROPHIES**

Contact your local trophy shop to see if they can reuse your old trophies. A Wisconsin-based trophy organization has a mail-in reuse program ([awardsmall.com](http://awardsmall.com)...search for recycling services), while only sports medals (medallions) are accepted for recycling at **Massachusetts-based Sports Medal Recycling** ([sportsmedalrecycling.com](http://sportsmedalrecycling.com)).

### **TYVEK ENVELOPES**

Tyvek envelopes (large, white envelopes that won't rip: often from express shipments) are made of high-density polyethylene plastic and must be placed in the trash. Please do not mix with paper recycling.

### **VASES**

Glass vases are not recyclable. Donate to a local garden club, swap shop, or local florist(s) for reuse (call first).

**VEGETABLE OIL** (see "Cooking Oil")

### **VEHICLES**

Old vehicles, even inoperable ones, are valued for spare parts and metal. Consider donating them to a charitable organization (might be tax deductible). Contact your favorite charity or search online for “auto (or vehicle/truck/motorcycle/boat) donation.” Alternatively, search the Internet under “Auto Wreckers & Salvage.”

**WOOD** (see “Building & Remodeling Materials”)

**X-RAY FILM**

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

**YARD WASTE** (Leaves, grass, brush, Christmas trees)

Throwing away leaf & yard waste as trash is prohibited by State regulations. Many towns collect Christmas trees for wood chips. Consider composting your organic materials in a backyard compost bin; many towns offer low-cost compost bins and kitchen counter food scrap pails.

**YOGA MATS**

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

Please help us to improve this guide for the next edition! If you encounter errors or have suggestions for changes or additions, contact us at [PioneerValleyRRR@gmail.com](mailto:PioneerValleyRRR@gmail.com). Thank you!