



Massachusetts
Department
of
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

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f a c t s h e e t

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 materials are banned from disposal?

- Glass, metal, and plastic containers (bottles, cans, jars, jugs and tubs)
- Paper, paperboard, and cardboard
- Leaves, grass and brush (less than 1 inch in diameter)
- Large appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, stoves, washers, and dryers
- Tires
- Cathode ray tubes (older televisions and computer monitors)
- Vehicle batteries
- Construction materials including asphalt pavement, brick, concrete, metal, wood, and clean gypsum wallboard
- Mattresses (effective Nov. 1, 2022)
- Textiles (effective Nov. 1, 2022)
- Food material (only from businesses or institutions that dispose of one ton or more per week. (Will drop to ½ ton per week effective Nov. 1, 2022.)

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 here: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/reduce/>.

For more information on the waste bans see:

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