



AEROSOL CANS

Contact your community representative* if this item is recyclable in your program, it is not at many locations.

Disposal: Empty aerosol cans should put in the trash.

Aerosol cans that still contain hazardous materials or chemicals should be delivered to a household hazardous waste collection (see "Hazardous") For more info.

www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/hazardous/aerosol.htm

ALUMINUM FOIL & PRODUCTS

Recycle: Clean aluminum can be recycled with bottles & cans. Food-laden foil goes in the trash.

ALUMINUM SIDING (see "Scrap metal")

AMMUNITION & EXPLOSIVES

Disposal: Call your local Police Department for proper disposal instructions.

ANTIFREEZE (see "Automotive products")

APPLIANCES

- Reuse: (see "Household Items")
- Recycle: Non-working appliances, contact your community representative*. Fees and special requirements for appliances containing Freon may apply. For more options (see "Scrap metal")

ARTS, CRAFTS & HOBBY ITEMS

- Reuse: Usable leftover supplies: contact scout leaders, preschools, and/or local town recreation dept.
- Recycle: Old crayons: www.crazycrayons.com
Schools can recycle Elmer's glue bottles and sticks: www.elmersgluecrew.com

ASBESTOS

- Disposal: There are strict removal and disposal requirements for asbestos. Check the Yellow Pages or search for "Asbestos Abatement and Removal Services" or "Asbestos Consultants." For more info: www.epa.gov/asbestos/

ATHLETIC SHOES (see "Clothes and textiles")

AUTOMOBILES (see "Vehicles")

AUTOMOTIVE PRODUCTS

Automotive products contain many hazardous materials and must be handled with care. DO NOT dump in trash, on the ground or down the drain.

- **Motor oil**

Recycle: Some service stations and retail locations will accept waste oil. Check Firestone Auto Care, Jiffy Lube, Advanced Auto Store and Wal-Mart. Regional recycling centers like Leicester and Northbridge will also accept waste motor oil.

- **Motor oil filters**

Disposal: Some auto repair shops will recycle oil filters for free. Contact your community representative* to learn more about local options. Oil filters may be thrown away only when the oil has been completely drained out. Puncture the dome top and drain the oil into a collection container while the filter is still warm. Properly drained filters may be recycled as scrap metal in some communities.

- **Empty motor oil bottles**

Disposal: Bottles and other packaging that contained hazardous products are not recyclable and should be thrown away as trash. DO NOT RINSE.

- **Antifreeze**

Disposal: Antifreeze is not only hazardous; 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, handling and disposal. Contact your community representative* to find out your next household hazardous waste collection.

BABY GOODS

Reuse: Baby clothing can be donated to any donation or drop box. Most places will not take items listed in recalls, check www.cpsc.gov first to see if your items are on the baby products recall list. Salvation Army, Savers.com will take baby clothing and toys. Craigslist, Freecycle, and consignment shops make great options for unused baby goods. Items such as baby bottles can be reused and repurposed for crafts and storage. Contact nonprofit for drop off: Massachusetts Children's Fund 63 Lamplighter Drive Shrewsbury, info@machildrensfund.com

Recycle: Baby bottles that are made from plastic with a recycling symbol on the bottom can be recycled with your other household plastics.

BAGS

Paper bags: Put with your regular paper recycling.

Plastic bags: Do not put in with recyclables at the curb or the drop off. (See "Plastic bags")

Cloth bags: (see "Textiles")

Worn out reusable shopping bags can often be given back to the store bearing the logo and they will give you a new one or you can donate them to the Grateful Thread, a nonprofit dedicated to raising money and providing work for victims of domestic violence. For more info:

www.chicobag.com/repurposing-program.

BALLASTS

Ballasts from fluorescent lamps may contain PCBs, a hazardous material. (See "Mercury & mercury-containing products.")

BATTERIES

Common household batteries (alkaline, zinc and others in sizes A, AA, AAA, C and D) manufactured after 1994 **don't contain mercury or other hazardous materials and can be thrown away in the trash.**

All other types of batteries require special disposal because they contain hazardous materials. Many communities have convenient disposal options. In addition:

- **Button batteries** (found in watches, hearing aids, electronics and some toys):
Stores that sell button batteries and watch/jewelry shops accept button batteries for free; check out www.earth911.com for other local options. Auburn Board of Health also collects.
- **Lead acid batteries** (found in automobiles, trucks, lawn mowers):
Retailers are required to take back at no charge when you buy a new battery. Contact your community representative* to find out if automotive products are accepted at your local recycling/transfer center.
- **Lithium batteries** (found in many applications, primarily in cameras):
Check all batteries carefully before disposal; look for "Lithium" on the label. They may resemble alkaline batteries, but lithium batteries should be recycled properly. Contact your community representative* to find out if batteries are accepted at your recycling/transfer station or check out www.earth911.com for other local options.
- **Rechargeable batteries** (found in cellular and cordless phones, digital cameras, laptop computers, cordless power tools, camcorders, electric razors, remote-control toys, two-way radios, electric toothbrushes, exit lights, computer backup systems, emergency medical equipment). A useful website for finding local places to recycle rechargeable batteries is www.rbrc.org. The following companies offer recycling programs for 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 at no cost:
 - **AT&T, Best Buy, Black & Decker, Home Depot, Interstate Battery Centers, Lowes, Office Depot, Orchard Supply, RadioShack, Sears, Staples, Target, US Cellular and Verizon Wireless.** Also Auburn Board of Health.

BEDS (see "Furniture")

BICYCLES

Reuse: Donate bikes to the non-profit Worcester Earn A Bike. worcesterearnabike.org/ or Habitat Restore in Worcester www.habitatmwg.org/restore

To give away a bicycle in good condition, try Freecycle (open to all), www.freecycle.org or www.pedalpeople.com. You can also search online for local reuse events and charitable organizations that accept bikes using "bicycle donation."

For recycling options: (see "Scrap Metal")

BOAT PLASTIC

Recycle: at E. L. Harvey at 68 Hopkinton, Westborough, www.elharvey.com

BOOKS

Reuse: Books in good condition may be taken to public libraries, used bookstores, or to a book exchange area at your local recycling/transfer station. Search the web for ways to donate, sell or trade books, CDs and DVDs. Check out: GotBooks! www.gotbooks.com, "Hands Across the Water"

www.surplusbooksforcharity.org, and “Discover Books” www.discoverbooks.com. Books are also accepted at Salvation Army donation locations.

Recycle: Books that are unsuitable for reuse can be recycled. Paperback books and phonebooks can be recycled as is, but the covers/spines from hardcover books must be removed prior to recycling with other paper and cardboard.

BUBBLE WRAP & INFLATABLE PLASTIC PACKAGING (see “Plastics”)

BUILDING & REMODELING MATERIALS

Debris: Construction & Demolition (“C&D”) waste includes asphalt, asphalt shingles, bricks, cement, cinder blocks, clapboard, concrete, doors, flooring, insulation, lumber, mortar, plaster, plywood, roofing, sheetrock, shingles, tiles, windows and wood. Vehicles with a capacity greater than 5 cubic yards are subject to strict disposal requirements for C&D wastes in Massachusetts (see www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/solid/cdbanfaq.pdf).

Reusable: Used building materials (in good condition) can be donated for re-use.

Habitat Restore in Worcester www.habitatmwgw.org/restore. Wooden pallets can be reused or recycled as “clean wood waste.” Disposal option for large quantities include Index Packaging (800)662-3626 x111

Fee-based disposal options are available at most recycling/transfer stations. Call your community representative* for more information. Please note: pressure-treated wood should only be disposed of in a modern landfill. Don’t put it in a backyard compost, brush or chipping pile. Don’t burn it or send it to a waste incinerator for disposal.

Disposal sites

Conigliaro	Framingham	508-872-9668 www.conigliaro.com
E.L. Harvey	Westborough	508-836-3000 68 Hopkinton, www.elharvey.com
Oxford Transfer Station	Oxford Route 56	200 Leicester Street North Oxford (508) 892-7538

BULKY PLASTICS (see “plastic”)

CAMERAS

Get cash for Kodak digital cameras, video cameras, film cameras, lenses, flashes, and many camera accessories, as well as digital picture frames and photo printers through www.trade-in-center.com/kodak. Canon also has a mail-in recycling program; check out www.shop.usa.canon.com for more information under “accessories.”

CARDBOARD BOXES

Recycle: Break down boxes and recycle with your paper.

CARPET

Fee-based disposal of area rugs, carpets and padding is available at most recycling/transfer stations; check your community table* for details. Connecticut Recycling Works (www.ctrecyclingworks.com) accepts carpet for recycling when delivered to their facility at 31 Franklin Street, East Hartford, CT (contact prior to delivery at 860-282-7227). Flor® offers a free mail-back recycling program for carpet squares; see www.flor.com/recycle for more information.

For recycling

Conigliaro	Framingham	508-872-9668 www.conigliaro.com
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For disposal call your community representative* for more information about your town's bulky waste rules.

CARTONS & DRINK BOXES

Recycle: Paper cartons ("aseptic packaging" for dairy products, soy milk, soup, juice) can be recycled with bottles and cans. Rinse/flatten containers. Discard straws; plastic caps and spouts may stay. Do not include drink "pouches" with your bottles and cans; drink pouches can be recycled through Terracycle (www.terracycle.net)

CARTRIDGES (see "Ink cartridges")

CELL PHONES

Cell phones shouldn't be thrown away due to their reuse value and hazardous/recyclable components. Numerous charitable and for-profit organizations accept cell phone donations. Search on-line using "cell phone donation" or visit www.earth911.com Most stores that sell cellular phones and electronics will also accept them back for free (see list under "Batteries")

CHRISTMAS TREES (see "Yard waste")

CLAMSHELLS & OTHER CLEAR MOLDED PLASTICS (see "Plastics")

CLEANERS (see "Household hazardous waste")

CLOTHING & TEXTILES

Local reuse and donation opportunities exist for all kinds of textiles and shoes.

- Shrewsbury Saint Anne's Human Services www.stannesparish.org

Deliver in bags no wet and no smell textiles and clothing to donation centers and drop-off boxes. Include items that are torn, stained, with missing buttons or broken zippers. These organizations will also welcome old hats, gloves, (mismatched) socks, underwear, belts, ties, purses, handbags and shoes in any condition, as long as they are not wet and not smelly. Donations of household goods like curtains, pillows, drapes, comforters, sheets, pillow cases, towels, stuffed animals, table cloths and linens can be donated as well. Animal shelters also accept old sheets, blankets, pillowcases, bedspreads, throw rugs and towels for reuse.

- Bins around town
- Salvation Army store in Worcester, www.salvationarmy-usaeast.org

call (800) 95-TRUCK for pick up

CLOTHES HANGERS

Some charitable organizations will accept hangers for reuse or resale.

Metal hangers are accepted for reuse by some dry cleaners and are also accepted for recycling as scrap metal at most recycling/transfer stations.

Wal-Mart accepts usable plastic hangers.

Unfortunately, plastic hangers are not recyclable (except at a “bulky rigid plastics” collections) and should be thrown away when they are no longer useable

COMPACT FLUORESCENT LAMPS (see “Mercury & mercury-containing products”)

COMPUTERS (see “Electronics”)

CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION WASTE (see “Building & remodeling materials”)

COOKING OIL

The Alternative Fuel Foundation has used cooking oil collection services for restaurants www.alternativefuelfoundation.org. Locally Green is a list of restaurants who partner with the Alternative Fuel Foundation and may be able to accept household cooking oil, see www.locallygreen.org for a list of locations. Do not drop-off oil at any sites without prior confirmation from the location.

CORKS

Corks should not be put in your recycling bin. Wine corks can be reused in many creative ways (search online for “cork art”) and natural corks can be crumbled and added to a backyard compost bin. ReCORK (www.recork.org) uses natural wine & champagne corks (no plastic or metal corks) to make shoe soles; Yemm & Hart (www.yemmhart.com) use natural corks to make floor and wall tiles. Drop off at the Leicester Recycling Center, or to Whole foods.

COSMETICS CONTAINERS

Origins offers free recycling of make-up packaging, regardless of brand. Empty cosmetic tubes, bottles, lipstick covers, jars and caps can be brought to an Origins retail store or department store counter nationwide. To find a drop-off location, go to www.origins.com

COSMETICS UNUSED

Unused cosmetics, and other unused beauty items can be donated to many local women’s shelters or to: Dress For Success Worcester 484 Main Street Suite 110 worcester@dressforsuccess.org (508) 796-5660

CRAFTS (see “arts & crafts”)

DIAPERS (see “baby goods”)

Reuse: Cloth diapers can be reused for cleaning rags. Disposable diapers are greatly appreciated at any church with a nursery, any homeless shelter and even local daycares.

EGG CARTONS

Reuse: Egg cartons are too good to waste: compost ripped-up paper cartons at home, donate cartons to backyard chicken farmers, or search online for creative tips using “recycling or reusing egg cartons”.

Recycle: Paper and Styrofoam egg cartons are not recyclable at the curb. Clear, molded plastic egg cartons are recyclable with bottles and cans. Styrofoam egg cartons can be recycled (see “Styrofoam”)

ELECTRONICS

This category includes computers/monitors/peripherals, television sets, answering machines, cell phones, copy machines, cathode ray tubes, DVD players, fax machines, pagers, printers, satellite dishes, scanners, telephones, VCRs, video game systems)

In general, “anything with a plug” can be collected

Throwing away cathode ray tubes CRTs (computer monitors and televisions) in the trash is prohibited by state regulations. Access to local CRT collection programs is widespread. Call your community representative* or go to www.digitaltips.org for more information.

Reusing:

- Salvation Army and Savers
- Computers and other electronics in working condition can be donated to www.cristina.org to benefit students at risk and people who are economically disadvantaged or disabled.

Recycling:

- municipal collection programs for electronics, Town of Leicester and Northbridge collections are open to all .
- Best Buy and Staples will recycle any eligible item at no charge. Visit www.BestBuy.com or www.Staples.com and search under “recycling”. Newer technology devices can be sold
- Electronic Recyclers International, Holliston electronicrecyclers.com/1-800-884-8466
- Metech International, Worcester www.metechrecycling.com (508) 795-1950
- Green Monstah Recycler, Marlborough www.monstahrecycling.com/ (877) 927-8312)

ELECTRONIC MEDIA

You can sell new or used CDs through www.murfie.com and many other websites. Some communities accept DVD’s, CD’s and games through their book donation programs. GreenDisk offers a mail-in option for spare computer cords, cables, boards, chips, and computer peripherals, as well as all kinds of electronic media and their cases (diskettes, zip disks, CDs, CD-Rs, CD-RWs, DVDs, video tapes, audio tapes, game cartridges, DAT, DLT, Beta or Digibeta, and computer tapes). For more information, go to www.greendisk.com. Best Buy collects CDs and DVDs for recycling at in-store kiosks. Techno Trash- wires, speakers, keyboards- go with the electronics.

ENCYCLOPEDIAS

Encyclopedias become outdated very quickly and often can’t be donated like regular books, however Discover Books (www.discoverbooks.com) accepts them at Sullivan Tire on Rt 20 in Shrewsbury, Walgreens and Honey Dew Donuts on Grafton St. in Worcester and at Bancroft School in Worcester. As well as the Leicester Recycling Center

EYEGLASSES

Never throw them away. Local Lions Clubs accept them. The Lions have a collection box at Auburn Public Library, as well. New Eyes for the Needy accepts scrap metal frames in any condition, unbroken plastic framed glasses, and non-prescription sunglasses; mail to: 549 Millburn Avenue, Box 332, Short Hills, NJ 07078. www.lenscrafters.com and Leicester recycling center accepts them.

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

Working ones can be taken to the Worcester Habitat Restore.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

Do NOT place fire extinguishers in your community's recycling or scrap metal bin. Fire extinguishers are considered hazardous because their contents are under pressure. Units manufactured prior to 1984 may contain dangerous chemicals. Disposal options include:

- Businesses and property managers can contact their fire control service provider.
- Residents can call their fire department or community representative* to find out if fire extinguishers are accepted at local household hazardous waste collections or recycling centers.
- Units manufactured after 1984 may be disposed of in the following manner: place the unit inside two sturdy plastic bags and close them up tightly. Remove the valve on the unit (without opening the bag) and discharge the contents. Discard the bag and its contents as trash.
- Massachusetts Fire Technologies accepts all types of fire extinguishers for a fee (57 York Street, West Springfield; 413-731-8000, www.massfire.com) Call for more information.

FLAGS

For the proper disposal of U.S. flags no longer in usable condition, contact the American Legion or the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

FLUORESCENT BULBS (see "Mercury & mercury-containing products")

FOOD WASTE (See "Compost").

FURNITURE

Contact your community representative* for local disposal options. Furniture in good condition can be sold or donated for reuse. Getting rid of mattresses and box springs can be difficult, as most charities and many communities don't handle them. When you purchase a new mattress, ask the retailer to take back the old one. www.conigliaro.com/recycling/mattress.cfm

Contact your community representative* for local disposal options. Furniture in good condition can be sold or donated for reuse. Salvation Army, call 1-800-SA-TRUCK (1-800-728-7825) to discuss a free pick up of your clothing, furniture or household items or Central Mass Housing Alliance You can donate by calling 508-752-5519 ext 105. Getting rid of mattresses and box springs can be difficult, as most charities and many communities don't handle them. When you purchase a new mattress, ask the retailer to take back the old one.

GREETING CARDS

Cards are recyclable with paper if they don't have any foil or metallics. Remove electronics from singing greeting cards and recycle the button battery (see "Batteries") St. Jude's Ranch for Children reuses and recycles cards for all occasions www.stjudesranch.org/shop/recycled-card-program. Photo paper cannot be recycled.

HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE

Disposal: Ask for local representative about your household hazardous waste collections. New England Disposal Technologies, (NEDT) in Sutton, www.NEDT.org

Read the product label to determine if the product is considered hazardous, requiring special handling. Look for warnings and words like caustic, toxic, corrosive, poison, flammable, danger, and "keep out of reach of children." First, consider using up the product according to package directions, or giving it away to someone who will. For unwanted products requiring special disposal, contact your community representative*. For safe alternatives to hazardous household products, visit www.lesstoxicguide.ca or www.ecocycle.org/hazwaste/ecofriendly-cleaning.

HEARING AIDS

Recycling: Local Lions Clubs take hearing aids too as does the Leicester Recycling Center. Hear Now (www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org) collects all makes and models of hearing aids/ devices, and provides them to people who can't afford to buy them. Mail your tax-deductible donation to Hear Now, 6700 Washington Avenue South, Eden Prairie, MN 55344. If the device is not worth salvaging, remove and recycle the button battery (see "Batteries"), then throw away the hearing aid as trash.

HEARING AID BATTERIES (see "Batteries")

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Drop off at Savers Stores (two in Worcester), Salvation Army or Goodwill. Household items in good condition will also be picked up by the Epilepsy foundation, Salvation Army (1-800-SA-Truck) , etc.

INK, PRINTER & TONER CARTRIDGES

Recycle: Many local schools and non-profit organizations collect cartridges for fundraising purposes. To donate them to charitable organizations through mail-in programs, search online using "cartridge donations". Cartridges are also accepted for recycling at Staples and Target.

JEWELRY MOST JEWELRY STORES WILL PAY CASH FOR UNWANTED GOLD AND SILVER.

Most local jewelry stores offer cash for gold or other precious metals this is also a good place to get the jewelry valued for donation purposes. You can donate jewelry to any charity donation location or drop box. Dress for Success in Worcester also accepts donations of jewelry help : DRESS FOR SUCCESS WORCESTER (508) 796-5660 worcester@dressforsuccess.org

JUNK MAIL & CATALOGS

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

- DirectMail.com – a free service that gets your name off commercial mailing lists (www.directmail.com/directory/mail_preference);
- Catalog Choice – a free service that puts a stop to the delivery of unwanted catalogs www.catalogchoice.org;

- OptOutPrescreen.com – a free service that ends pre-approved credit card and insurance offers www.optoutprescreen.com;
- YellowPagesGoesGreen – a free service that takes your name off phonebook mailing lists www.yellowpagesgoesgreen.org/stop-yellow-pages; and
- EcoLogical Mail Coalition – a paid service that helps businesses eliminate mail addressed to former employees- www.ecologicalmail.org.

KEYS

Old keys can be recycled to benefit the M.S. Society's research efforts www.keysforkindness.com.

KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

Reuse: small and large appliances reuse at Salvation Army or Savers

Countertops, cabinets, fixtures and appliances Habitat ReStore, Worcester

Recycling: centers Leicester, Northbridge, E.L Harvey

LIGHT BULBS

Old-fashioned incandescent light bulbs are not recyclable and should be thrown away. Halogen bulbs, fluorescent bulbs and compact fluorescent bulbs ("CFLs") require special disposal (see "Mercury & mercury-containing products").

LINENS (See "Textiles")

LIGHT STRINGS

Holiday light sets are recycled with electronics collections. Send your light strings to Holiday LEDS (www.holidayleds.com) for recycling, and they'll send you a coupon good for 25% off any purchase. Mail to: Recycling Program, 118 Rosehill Drive Suite 1, Jackson, MI 49202.

MAGNETS

Reuse: Refrigerator magnets can't be put into the recycling bins, but they can be reused and repurposed into new magnets with colored paper, photos or glue. If you have large quantities get rid of them, contact a local school, local scouts or senior center to see if they could use them for art projects.

MATTRESSES & BOX SPRINGS (See "Furniture")

MEDICATIONS & PHARMACEUTICALS

Free medication collections are held periodically throughout central Massachusetts. Visit www.dea.gov or contact your local Police Department for more information.

Unwanted medication disposal must be done carefully for many reasons: flushing drugs down the drain is not safe; wastewater treatment plants and septic systems are not designed to remove pharmaceuticals before water is released into the environment; and unless it is done under highly controlled conditions, burning unwanted medications discharges dioxins and other air pollutants.

If collection services are unavailable, medications may be safely disposed in the following manner:

- 1) Keep all medications in their original packaging, but remove any personal information from labels that might be used to obtain refills.
- 2) Make them unattractive to children, pets and thieves by dissolving pills or tablets in a small amount of water or alcohol (pour liquids into kitty litter or sand).
- 3) Place in two sealed plastic bags.
- 4) Conceal the package in your trash. If you have large quantities of medications, consider disposing of them in small batches over time.

MERCURY & MERCURY-CONTAINING PRODUCTS

Area Boards of Health have collection programs in place.

Mercury is highly toxic and requires special disposal. It is not hazardous when contained in a sealed device. Placing items in sealed plastic bags and handling them carefully to avoid breakage may reduce exposure. Do not place mercury or items containing it in the trash or down a drain, and do not vacuum even the smallest spill. Instructions for handling mercury exposure can be found at www.mass.gov/dep/toxics/stypes/hgres.htm, or search the internet for “broken CFL” or “mercury spill.”

Contact your community representative* to find out if mercury-related products are accepted at your recycling/transfer station or household hazardous waste collection; alternate disposal options are listed below.

- **Fluorescent light bulbs**

All fluorescent light bulbs contain mercury gas (even the ones with green tips). Many municipalities accept fluorescent bulbs from residents and businesses for free or a small charge. Additional 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 narrow coiled glass tube. They come in a variety of shapes and styles, and can be encased by an outer glass bulb. Free CFL recycling is offered at Aubuchon Hardware stores, Home Depot, Lowes, Whole Foods, IKEA and Ace Hardware.

Larger fluorescent tubes do not fit in standard screw-type sockets. These include long straight, circular or U-shaped tubes, tanning bed lamps, High Intensity Discharge (HIDs), and neon light tubing. Commercial organizations generating large numbers of bulbs may contract directly with a lamp recycler; licensed mercury recyclers can be found at www.mass.gov/dep/toxics/stypes/flampbiz.

- **Thermometers**

Many older household thermometers (fever, candy, meat, deep fry, oven, ambient temperature) have liquid mercury-based indicators. A mercury thermometer can be easily identified by the presence of a silver bulb at the end of a glass tube. If the bulb is red, blue, purple, green or any other color, it is not a mercury thermometer. Most municipalities collect mercury thermometers for proper disposal; contact your community representative* for details.

- **Thermostats**

Thermostats with digital displays typically do not contain mercury switches. Switches containing liquid mercury are found in older wall-mounted thermostats. Although these switches are fairly sturdy, they should be carefully handled to avoid breakage. In addition to municipal collection programs, mercury-type thermostats are accepted at no charge at many

plumbing retail stores (search Yellow Pages under “Plumbing Supplies). For more information, go to www.thermostat-recycle.org.

- **Ballasts**

Most fluorescent light fixtures produced before July 1979 contained ballasts with small amounts of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls), a highly toxic substance. PCB-free ballasts are marked “non-PCB.” PCB ballasts are typically collected at the same sites as larger fluorescent tube-type bulbs. Contact your community representative* for more information.

MICROWAVES

Reuse: Working microwaves can be donated (See Household Items).

Recycling: Non-working (see “Scrap Metal”) Leicester Recycling Center will also accept for a fee.

MOTH BALLS (see “Household hazardous waste”)

MOTOR OIL & FILTERS (see “Automotive products”)

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL WILL ACCEPT.

Joy of Music Program (JOMP) in Worcester accepts used instruments in working order (508) 856-9541
Hungry for music, www.hungryformusic.com distributes quality musical instruments and sheet music to underserved children in the US and abroad.

NEEDLES & SHARPS

According to Massachusetts Sanitary Code, hypodermic needles, syringes, lances, and all other “sharps” cannot be placed loose in your trash or recycling bin. Local collection programs may be available: call your Health Department or community representative*. Several mail-in disposal programs are available; search the Internet using “sharps disposal”.

There is a statewide ban on sharps disposal. Contact your local Board of Health for more information. Disposal: Auburn CVS, Shrewsbury Town Hall collects sharps and Leicester Police Department collects sharps. Check earth911.com for disposal options.

PAPER

Recycling: At your curb or recycling center. Leicester and Northbridge are municipal recycling centers open to all. The Abitibi Paper Retriever the bins help raise funds in your area; www.paperretriever.com; E.L Harvey in Westboro, takes paper and cardboard for free.

PAPER SHREDDING

Shredded paper can go in with your paper recycling if in paper bag or bag approved by your vendor.

- E.L Harvey shreds on site: www.elharvey.com
- Universal Shredding, (877)SHRED.44
- ProShred www.proshred.com
- Pellegrino in Shrewsbury will bring shredder to your home or business for small fee. www.pellegrinotrucking.com.
- Local Staples stores

PACKAGING MATERIALS (see “Plastics”)

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

- **Cardboard boxes:** reusable. Flattened boxes can be recycled with mixed paper.
- **Foam peanuts:** (see “Plastics”)
- **Cornstarch pellets:** may be composted in a backyard bin or reused. However, these will not be accepted by commercial composting facilities or packing shipping stores. Leicester Recycling Center will accept them for reuse, please mark as cornstarch. If you can’t reuse them, throw them away in your regular trash or dissolve them with warm water and flush the resulting starch solution down the drain.
- **Styrofoam blocks and shapes:** (see “Plastics”)
 - FP International www.fpintl.com/resources/RECYCLE-MAIN.htm,
 - Storopack Packaging Systems www.storopack.com
 - Leicester Recycling center
- **Packing paper:** reusable and recyclable. Place shredded paper in a paper bag and tightly close it before putting it in your recycling bin.
- **Plastic sealed air packaging:** reusable. Once deflated, it can also be recycled with shopping bags (see “Plastics” for supermarket collection sites).
- **Miscellaneous** packaging like foil lined coffee bags and animal feed bags (dog, cat, chicken, horse, fish) can be made into new products by mailing them to 11 South Park, Montrose, Colorado 81401. Visit trashebags.com for more information.

PAINT & PAINT-RELATED PRODUCTS

Unwanted paint can be donated if was recently purchased and is in good condition. Many school/community theatre groups and charitable organizations (such as Habitat for Humanity) will accept quality paint products. You may also offer it for reuse through www.FreeCycle.org.

- **Petroleum (oil-based) paints**, stains, thinners, and varnishes are considered hazardous materials, requiring proper disposal (see “Hazardous Household Waste”).
- **Latex paint** and water-based stains are accepted at Sutton (NEDT) hazardous waste collections, but may not be at other sites, but it can be thrown away when completely hardened. Speed up the process by adding 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 for 3-5 days. When there are no free-flowing liquids, you may place the open paint can (without the lid) in your household trash.

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

PACKING PEANUTS (see “Packaging Materials”)

Antique stores are always in need of them.

PELLET FUEL BAGS

There are free drop-off locations for clean & dry pellet fuel bags can be recycled at Big Y, Shaw’s, Whole Foods, Target, Wegmans and Market Basket with grocery bags.

PENS

Reuse: us in craft projects

Recycle: Send dead pens to The Pen Guy www.penguyart.com/recycle-pens-here/send-pens-by-mail/ The Pen Guy – 6484 Mirabel Road, #994 Forestville, CA 95436.

Disposal: in trash.

PET SUPPLIES

Contact Animal control officer in town, animal shelters and vet offices.

PIZZA BOXES

Only clean portions of pizza boxes (completely free of grease and food) can be recycled with your paper and cardboard. Soiled portions should be thrown away as trash. Soiled pizza boxes can be composted.

PLASTICS

- **Clear, hinged “clamshell” containers** typically used to package produce, deli and bakery
Recycle: with your bottles and cans. Do not include clamshell containers that are Styrofoam, black trays or labeled “compostable” in your recycling bin.
- **Caps and lids** from bottles, jars, jugs and tubs may be
Recycle: in your container recycling bin, but they should remain attached to containers.
- **Stretchy bags and clear plastic film** that is clean and dry cannot be taken at the curb. **Recycle:** grocery, dry cleaning and bread bags are accepted at most supermarket and large retail stores (Wal-Mart, Staples). Do not put them in your recycling bin; they clog machinery at the processing facility. Do not include soiled, painted plastic film products, or anything labeled “compostable.”
- **Salt and Pellet bags** that are empty and dry can be recycled at Big Y, Shaw’s, Whole Foods, Target, Wegmans and Market Basket with grocery bags.
- **Plastic bags and wrappers:** Can be repurposed: mail to Lou’s Upcycles: www.lousupcycles.com.
- **Rigid, bulky plastics** are large, durable, molded items. Do not place them in your recycling bin. These plastics include (but are not limited to) plant pots and trays, laundry baskets, outdoor furniture, playground equipment (Little Tykes®), trash cans and car seats. Many town Transfer Stations now accept rigid plastics. For more about plastic bag recycling, visit www.plasticbagrecycling.org. Leicester and Northbridge recycling center accepts them as does : El Harvey, www.elharvey.com/ local.casella.com/ and at special events,
- **Expanded polystyrene foam** (commonly referred to as Styrofoam) is not highly sought after, but recycling options are emerging. ReFoamIt collects Styrofoam and other previously non-recyclable plastics (e.g., plastic utensils) at one-day collection events (visit www.refoamit.com for more information). Mail back programs are another option (see www.epspackaging.org or www.polyfoamcorp.com). Leicester Recycling Center accepts. Styrofoam is NOT accepted in curbside recycling. Styrofoam peanuts are not easily recycled, but can be reused. Clean and dry pellets are accepted by retail shipping outlets like the “The Package Store” and UPS stores. Check www.loosefillpackaging.com for local drop-off options. Styrofoam peanuts can also be recycled by mailing them to Polyfoam Corporation, 2355 Providence Road, Box 906, Northbridge, MA 01534. You can also give them away to local individuals and small businesses through FreeCycle (www.freecycle.com).
- **Plastic cards** (old courtesy cards, credit cards, gift cards, etc.) can be recycled by mailing them to Earthworks c/o Halprin Industries, 25840 Miles Road, Bedford, OH 44146. You can sell or

trade unused gift cards on websites like swapagift.com, GiftCardRescue.com, PlasticJungle.com, MonsterGiftCard.com or Cardpool.com. Or consider “re-gifting” them if they have not expired (gift cards are valid for five years after purchase). Leicester recycling center accepts

- **#5 plastic products** are mostly recyclable: #5 food and beverage containers can be recycled with your bottles and cans, but products such as toothbrushes and razors cannot. The “Preserve Gimme 5” (www.mygimme5.com) program recycles a variety of Preserve® products and Brita® water filters. Whole Foods in Hadley is a local collection site for this program.
- **Plant pots and trays** are not recyclable with bottles and cans. Lowe’s garden centers accept rigid plastic plant pots and trays at no cost. Many Transfer Stations now collect rigid plastic items including plant pots and trays. Thin (flimsy) black plastic trays are not recyclable in either of these programs. Garden Clubs, garden centers and florist shops may also accept clean plastic planting containers for reuse.

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

PRINTER CARTRIDGES (see “Ink Cartridges”)

PROPANE TANKS

Propane tanks can be refilled at many locations; these businesses will take back tanks that meet certain specifications. Call your community’s representative* to find out if propane tanks or other types of pressurized containers (oxygen/acetylene/helium tanks) are accepted at your recycling/transfer station. Leicester recycling center accepts

RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES (see “Batteries”)

REDEMPTION CONTAINERS

Any store that sells beverages in refundable containers is required to take them back. MassDEP’s redemption center weblink is: mass.gov/dep/recycle/reduce/redempt.htm.

SCRAP METAL

Many metal items (like bicycles or BBQ grills) can be repaired, sold or donated to extend their useful life. Discarding scrap metal (aluminum, steel, iron, lead, stainless steel, copper, brass, bronze) as trash is banned by State regulations. To recycle any metal item, it should be at least 50% metal by weight and separated from any contaminating materials as much as possible. Some scrap metal items contain toxic or pressurized materials that require special handling, including batteries, propane tanks and ballasts. Contact your community representative* to find out if scrap metal is accepted at your recycling/transfer station. Other guidelines include:

- Scrap metal dimensions should be less than 4’ in length;
- Remove all doors from refrigerators & freezers prior to recycling;
- Chain link and wire fencing should be rolled into compact segments;
- Empty all fluids (gasoline, oil) and remove batteries from power equipment;
- Metal paint cans must be completely empty and dry; and
- Automotive parts (including engine blocks) require special handling; check the Yellow Pages under “Auto Wreckers and Salvage”.

- CK Appliance , 540 Franklin Street, Worcester (508) 755-4454
- Schnitzer Northeast, 20 Nippnapp Trail, Worcester www.schnitzersteel.com/ (508) 754-3380
- Frankensteins, 13 Southgate Place, Worcester (508) 831-7170
- Goldstein Scrap Metal, Worcester www.goldsteinscrapmetal.com/ (508) 754-5711

SEEDS

Find advice and opportunities for seed trading at www.wintersown.org. Your local gardening club might also have information or need for seed.

SHOES

- Charitable organizations such as Goodwill (www.goodwill.org) and the Salvation Army (www.use.salvationarmy.org) collect clean used shoes in any condition at their drop-off boxes and retail stores.
- Shoes in good condition can also be donated to Soles4souls (www.soles4souls.org) for distribution to poverty-stricken people around the world; mail to Soles4Souls, or drop off at any UPS store.
- Athletic Shoes in good condition can be mailed to One World Running (www.oneworldrunning.com) to be distributed to athletes in need in Africa, Latin America and Haiti; mail to Boulder Storage, 6439 Arapahoe Rd. Boulder, Colo. 80303. Worn-out sneakers can be sent to Nike's Reuse-a-Shoe program (www.nikereuseashoe.com) to be turned into playground and sports surfaces; mail to Nike Grind Processing, 3552 Avenue of Commerce, Memphis, TN 38125). Crocs can be recycled by mailing them to Crocs Recycling West, 3375 Enterprise Ave., Bloomington CA 92316.

SMOKE DETECTORS

Disposal: Smoke detectors are allowed to be thrown away in your trash.

The most common type of smoke detector is an ionization device that contains a very small amount of Americium 241, a radioactive material. Some retailers will take back all brands of smoke alarms/detectors that they sell; contact the store you purchased your smoke detector from for more information. Most brands of smoke alarms/detectors can be returned by mail to their original manufacturers. Search the internet using the manufacturer's name and "smoke detector recycling" for more information. Label the box "For Disposal" before mailing by surface mail or UPS Ground (so they don't end up in an airplane). Some manufacturers have fees or special requirements if the device is no longer under warranty. Smoke detectors from any manufacturer can be recycled through www.curieservices.com.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

Buy or sell quality sports equipment through Play It Again Sports (for locations and other information, visit www.playitagainsports.com).

STUFFED ANIMALS ("see clothing and textiles)

STYROFOAM (see "Plastics")

Refoamit (www.refoamit.com) will collect your event's Styrofoam for a fee. They will recycled it into blocks and sell to be turned into plastic for picture frames and other household items.

TANKS, PROPANE & HELIUM (see “Cylinders”)

TELEVISIONS (see “Electronics”)

TENNIS BALLS

Give used tennis balls to your favorite elementary school teacher (the demand is great...each kid needs eight)! When attached to classroom chairs and desks, tennis balls reduce noise as well as wear and tear on the floor. You can also donate tennis balls that have seen better days to a local animal shelter. To recycle larger quantities of old tennis balls, go to www.rebounces.com.

TEXTILES (see “Clothing & textiles”)

THERMOMETERS & THERMOSTATS (see “Mercury & mercury-containing products”)

THRIFT SHOPS

SmartyPants Consignment, Westside Plaza, Auburn. St. Ann’s Thrift Shop, Rt 9, Shrewsbury.

TIRES

Tire Removal Event in Auburn – in conjunction with Central Mass Mosquito Project. Leicester and Northbridge Recycling Centers accept tires.

Toys

Thrift Shops, Donations Centers

TOOLS

Donations Centers

TOILETRIES (see “Unused cosmetics”)

Many homeless shelters are in need of unused toiletries and little samples of hotel soaps and shampoos.

TROPHIES

Send your old trophies, old plaques, sculptures, and medals. www.lambawards.com/recycle. 1-800-877-1448

TYVEK ENVELOPES

Tyvek envelopes (large, white envelopes that you can’t rip) cannot be recycled with paper. Tyvek products can be recycled with plastic shopping bags (must be free of glue, labels or other materials). Another option is to recycle them by mail. Turn a Tyvek envelope inside out (so that the unprinted white surface shows on the outside), address it to Tyvek® Recycle, 8401 Fort Darling Road, Richmond, VA 23237 and stuff it full of used Tyvek envelopes before mailing it off. For larger quantities, call 866-33-TYVEK and ask about their “pouch recycling program.”

UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE

Reuse: Salvation Army and Habitat ReStore

Recycling: Conigliaro Industries in Framingham, Leicester Recycling collection event

Disposal: E.L Harvey or your local Bulky collection

VEGETABLE OIL (see “Cooking oil”)

VEHICLES

Check Google or the Yellow Pages under “Auto Wreckers and Salvage” or consider donating your vehicle to a charitable organization. Contact your favorite charity or search online for “car donation”, “vehicle donation”, “boat donation”, “motorcycle donation” or “recreational vehicle donation”. www.mareinc.org research hundreds of respected charities, find answers to frequently asked questions and complete a simple online donation form.

VIDEO GAMES (see “Books”)

WASTE OIL (see “Household hazardous waste”)

WOOD (see “Building & remodeling materials”)

X-RAY FILM

There are no special disposal requirements. Radiology departments at hospitals will recycle them at no cost. For larger quantities (greater than 100#) check out www.xrayfilmsrecycling.com/pick-up-rates/massachusetts.htm.

YARD WASTE, LEAVES, BRUSH, CHRISTMAS TREES

Throwing away leaf and yard waste as trash is prohibited by State regulations. Consider composting your organic materials in a backyard compost bin or contact your community representative* to find out if yard & leaf waste is accepted at your recycling/transfer station.

YOGA MATS

Go to www.recycleyourmat.com for more information.

Please help us to improve this guide for the next edition!

If you encounter errors or have suggestions for changes or additions, please contact Irene Congdon at (978) 597-9191 or at Irene_congdon1@yahoo.com

Thank you!

Habitat Restore	(508) 439-7655	www.habitatmwgw.org/restore	11 Distributor Road at Gold Star Blvd, Worcester
Goodwill	(617) 212-6288	www.goodwillmass.org	1010 Harrison Ave, Boston
Savers	(508) 853-3653	www.savers.com	490 Lincoln Street Worcester

Salvation Army	(508) 799-0528 x307	www.satruck.org	640 Main Street Worcester
Alexis Grace			7 Harrison Street, Worcester
Annie's Book Stop	(508) 393-3589	abs@anniesbookswap.net	369 W. Main St. Northborough
Children orchard		www.childrensorchar.com	196 East Main Street Milford
Classique Consignment	(508) 366-8782		7 W Main St. Westborough
Keepsakes consignment.		www.keepsakesconsignment.com	46 E. Main St. Westborough
Planet Aid	(508)893-0644		1 Cross Street, Holliston
SMART	(617)877-2432	klarsen@baystatetextiles.com	520 Washington St. Pembroke
Straight up new you			795 Main Street Worcester
Treasures - An Upscale Thrift Store	(774)293-1564		82 Worcester St. Grafton
Unique Boutik			123 Highland Street Worcester
Upscale Consignment 2			165 Grafton St. Worcester