



**Use it, reuse it, compost or recycle**  
**These options save us all money in multiple ways**  
**(purchase, shipping, disposal fees),**  
**gives new use to unwanted items,**  
**reduces waste disposal costs,**  
**helps the environment**  
**And it's fun!**

---

Locations that accept the most items in our area:

Devens HHW (Fees), Mar-Dec, 1<sup>st</sup> Wed & following Sat, 9-12  
9 Cook Street (Rear), [www.DevensHHW.com](http://www.DevensHHW.com) (978) 501-3943

Devens Recycling Center (Fees) Mon-Fri 7-5, Sat 7-1  
45 Independence Dr, [www.devensrecycling.com](http://www.devensrecycling.com), (978) 772-6500

Groton Regional Recycling Center (Some fees) Wed-Sat 7:30-4:30  
600 Cow Pond Brook Road, [www.townofgroton.org/Town/TownDepartments/DepartmentofPublicWorks/TransferStation](http://www.townofgroton.org/Town/TownDepartments/DepartmentofPublicWorks/TransferStation) , (978) 448-1160  
Town, hauler or business, contact Tom Delaney 978-448-1162 to deliver full roll-offs of recycling & to share in profit.

Lancaster Recycling Center (Some fees) Sat and Sun 10-12  
Bridge Road, [www.ci.lancaster.ma.us](http://www.ci.lancaster.ma.us), (978) 368-1380 [www.ci.lancaster.ma.us/Pages/LancasterMA\\_Recycling/index](http://www.ci.lancaster.ma.us/Pages/LancasterMA_Recycling/index)

Townsend Recycling Center (Some fees) 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat, winter (Jan, Feb, Mar) 1<sup>st</sup> Sat only  
33 Greenville Road, [www.townsend.ma.us/Pages/TownsendMA\\_Recycling/index](http://www.townsend.ma.us/Pages/TownsendMA_Recycling/index),  
(978) 597-1713

Your Local Recycling center. See detail of services offered in the center of this guide.

Ashby	Lancaster
Ayer	Littleton
Bolton	Lunenburg
Devens	Pepperell
Groton	Shirley
Harvard	Townsend

Suggestions, additions, errors? contact MassToss at [www.MassToss.com](http://www.MassToss.com) or [Recycle@charter.net](mailto:Recycle@charter.net) .

# What Can You Do With...?

(Table of Contents)

Automotive

Batteries

Construction

Bulky Items

Electronics

Food and Compost

Hazardous items:

Household

Medications & Pharmaceuticals

Needles & sharps

Metal

Paper

Plastic, Metal & Glass Containers

Plastic (Bulky, Plastic Bags & Styrofoam)

Recyclables in Large Volumes

Reuse

Yard / Garden

Miscellaneous

Disposal



# Automotive (Tires, Parts & Products)

## **AUTOMOBILES / BOATS/VEHICLES**

Contact your favorite charity or search online for “car donation”, “vehicle donation”, “boat donation”, “motorcycle donation” or “recreational vehicle donation”. Possibilities: [www.mareinc.org/Car-Donation](http://www.mareinc.org/Car-Donation) , [www.donateacar.com/massachusetts-charities](http://www.donateacar.com/massachusetts-charities)

Automotive products

Automotive products contain many hazardous materials and must be handled with care.

Do not dump in your trash, on the ground or down the drain.

## **MOTOR OIL**

Take to DevensHHW or your local town recycling center or where you purchased oil.

## **MOTOR OIL FILTERS**

Jiffy Lube will properly dispose of the old filters.

Empty motor oil bottles

Bottles and other packaging that contained hazardous products are not recyclable, throw away.

## **ANTIFREEZE**

Take to Devens HHW facility [www.devenshww.com](http://www.devenshww.com) . Antifreeze is not only hazardous; its deceiving color and sweet taste may attract children, pets and wild animals.

## **TIRES**

Your local community Recycling Center accepts tires

Liberty Tire Recycling [www.libertytire.com/ContactUs/Locations/Littleton-MA](http://www.libertytire.com/ContactUs/Locations/Littleton-MA),

256 Ayer Road Littleton (978) 772-4251

Devens Recycling Center, 45 Independence Dr, [www.devensrecycling.com](http://www.devensrecycling.com), (978) 772-6500

## **RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS**



## Batteries (Rechargeable & Car)

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/recyclable and can be thrown away in your regular trash**. All **other types of batteries require special disposal** because they contain hazardous materials. Take to Devens HHW at no charge or your local Recycling Center.

### **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;

**Lead acid batteries** (found in automobiles, trucks, lawn mowers):

When you buy a new battery, the retailer is required to take your old one back at no charge. Your local recycling center accepts lead acid batteries. Also Pepperell-Dunn Battery, Fitchburg-Interstate Battery and Ayer-NAPA Auto Parts accept lead acid batteries at no charge.

### **LITHIUM BATTERIES (FOUND PRIMARILY IN CAMERAS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT):**

All-American-Recycling, [www.all-american-recycling.com](http://www.all-american-recycling.com) Sculley Rd Ayer(978) 772-2854.

Check all batteries carefully before disposal; look for "Lithium" on the label. They may resemble alkaline batteries, but lithium batteries should be recycled properly.

### **RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES**

( Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH), Lithium Ion (Li-ion), Nickel-Zinc (Ni-Zn), small Sealed Lead Acid (Pb) batteries)Bring to where you bought the batteries, your local recycling center or Devens HHW

Find other local options to recycle rechargeable batteries at [www.rbrc.org](http://www.rbrc.org). 877-2 recycle See how they recycle the batteries- [www.call2recycle.org/program-info/](http://www.call2recycle.org/program-info/)

**RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS**



## 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, 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](http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/solid/cdbanfaq.pdf))

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

Habitat for Humanity      Habitat ReStore in Leominster (Rte 117)- [restorencm.org/donate](http://restorencm.org/donate)

You can donate at the store or at events like the Oct 19, 2013 Recycle Your Reusable event in Shirley, or call to arrange pickup.

### **RECYCLING ALL AT ONE SITE**

- Devens Recycling Center- [www.devensrecycling.com/services/main](http://www.devensrecycling.com/services/main) (978)772-6500 independence Drive, Devens, call about min fees
- Charles George Companies.(AKS) 15 Cobbler Drive Fitchburg, (800)965-9425. [www.charlesgeorgecompanies.com](http://www.charlesgeorgecompanies.com)
- E.L. Harvey Westborough Ma 68 Hopkinton Rd. Westborough, (800)321.3002 [www.elharvey.com/schedule-a-tour/](http://www.elharvey.com/schedule-a-tour/)
- E. L . Harvey in Fitchburg. 50 Arbor Way Fitchburg
- Shingles [www.shinglerecycling.org/content/massachusetts-shingle-recyclers](http://www.shinglerecycling.org/content/massachusetts-shingle-recyclers)
- Wooden pallets can be reused or recycled as “clean wood waste.” Wood: Biomass Combustion Systems, [www.biomasscombustion.com](http://www.biomasscombustion.com) 67 Millbrook Street, Suite 502, Worcester,(508) 798-5970
- Wood, take to your local town recycling center. Note that pressure-treated wood contains chemicals so it 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.

### **STONE, GRAVEL, ASPHALT**

- JP Keating, 998 Reservoir Road Lunenburg, 978-582-5200 [www.pjkeating.com](http://www.pjkeating.com)
- E.H Perkins Construction, Sterling (508) 358-6161
- W.M Reisner Corp, Clinton, (978) 365-4585 [www.reisner.com/materials](http://www.reisner.com/materials)

Disposal Fee-based disposal options are available at most Recycling Centers; call your community representative\* for more information.

### **RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS**



## **Bulky Items (mattress, couch, upholstered furniture, etc.)**

Large household items in usable condition look at “Reuse” below

Repurpose consider how an item may be reused or made into other useable items. See GrotonFreeStuff  
Mattresses, boxsprings, furniture

Acton-The Household Goods Ministry: [www.hgrm.org/partners](http://www.hgrm.org/partners) 978-635-1710

Lowell- The Wish Project [www.thewishproject.org/recycle](http://www.thewishproject.org/recycle) 978-441-9474

All Towns Event: Recycle your Reusables October 19, 2013 in Shirley [www.RecycleYourReusables.wordpress.com](http://www.RecycleYourReusables.wordpress.com) (978) 496-5839

Carpet

Fee-based disposal of area rugs, carpets and padding is available at most Recycling Centers.

For disposal/ Recycling

Recycling Centers collect

Devens Recycling Center

Conigliaro- will take apart the upholstered items, 701 Waverly Street, Framingham, (508) 872-9668 [www.conigliaro.com/programs/everything.cfm](http://www.conigliaro.com/programs/everything.cfm)

**RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS**



# Electronics (Any with a plug or battery powered)

This category includes computers/monitors/ television sets, answering machines, cell phones, copy machines, DVD players, fax machines, pagers, printers, satellite dishes, scanners, telephones, VCRs, video game systems, etc...

## COLLECTION SITES

- Local Recycling Centers, see table
- Devens HHW accepts
- All-American-Recycling.com, (978)772-2854, 1 Sculley Road, Unit B, Ayer
- PCLan [www.pclan.net/](http://www.pclan.net/) (978)597-0300, 267 Main Street, Townsend
- East Coast Recycling [www.eastcoastrecycling.com/collectionEvents](http://www.eastcoastrecycling.com/collectionEvents) (877)537-9940, 68 Walker Road, Shirley
- Salvation Army will accept electronic items at stores, Fitchburg. Will pick up at the house only if other items are included. 1-800-SATruck [www.SATruck.org](http://www.SATruck.org)
- Best Buy and Staples will recycle any eligible item at no charge. Visit [www.BestBuy.com](http://www.BestBuy.com) or [www.Staples.com](http://www.Staples.com) and search under "recycling". Newer technology devices can be sold through [www.staples.gazelle.com](http://www.staples.gazelle.com).

## ELECTRONIC MEDIA

New or used CDs - You can sell new or used CDs through [www.murfie.com](http://www.murfie.com) and many other websites.

Book collection programs also accept good DVD's, CD's and games

[GreenDisk](http://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. For more information, go to [www.greendisk.com](http://www.greendisk.com).

Best Buy collects CDs and DVDs for recycling at in-store kiosks.

The electronic recyclers want your wires too.

## 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" under hazardous).

## CAMERAS

Get cash for some and recycle other cameras and accessories,

[www.kodak.com](http://www.kodak.com) - search "trade in"

[www.canon.com](http://www.canon.com) - search "recycle"

Recycle through electronics collections.

## INK, PRINTER & TONER CARTRIDGES

Many local schools and non-profit organizations collect cartridges for fundraising purposes.

Cartridges are accepted for recycling at Devens HHW, Staples and Target.

## LIGHT STRINGS YOUR LOCAL RECYCLING CENTER CAN COLLECT WITH THE ELECTRICS

## RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS



# Food & Compost

## **COMPOST BINS**

contact your community representative\* to find out if compost bins are available at your Recycling Center

## **LEFT OVER FOOD**

## **GARDEN SURPLUS**

donate to local pantry such as Loaves & Fishes [www.loavesfishespantry.org/](http://www.loavesfishespantry.org/), 978-772-4627, 234 Barnum Rd, Devens

## **KITCHEN SCRAPS CAN BE COMPOSTED, SEE “COMPOST BINS”.**

## **PIZZA BOXES**

Clean & soiled pizza boxes can be compost in your home compost bins

## **VERMICOMPOST AND WORMS**

can be purchased seasonally at: Mass Natural [\(978\) 874-0744](tel:9788740744) 65 Bean Porridge Hill Road Westminster,

## **RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS**





# Hazardous (Antifreeze, Oil Paint, Pesticides, etc)

[www.DevensHHW.com](http://www.DevensHHW.com)

Open March to December, 1<sup>st</sup> Wed and following Sat

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

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. Take to Devens HHW; go to [www.Devenshww.com](http://www.Devenshww.com) for the full list of what can be taken.

## MERCURY & MERCURY-CONTAINING PRODUCTS

Take to your local recycling center or [www.Devenshww.com](http://www.Devenshww.com). Mercury is highly toxic and requires special disposal. It is not hazardous when contained in a sealed device. Exposure may be reduced by placing items in sealed plastic bags and handling them carefully to avoid breakage. 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](http://www.mass.gov) - search "broken cfl" or “mercury spill”.

## 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. Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) Free CFL recycling is offered at :  
Aubuchon Hardware stores, Home Depot, Lowes, and Ace Hardware.  
Larger fluorescent tubes Commercial organizations generating large numbers of bulbs may contract directly with a lamp recycler; licensed mercury recyclers can be found at [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov) - search "recycle mercury"

## 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 recycling centers accept or take to Devens HHW.

## THERMOSTATS

Thermostats with digital displays typically do not contain mercury switches. Switches containing liquid mercury are found in older wall-mounted thermostats. Carefully handle to avoid breakage. In addition to municipal collection programs, mercury-type thermostats are accepted at no charge at many plumbing retail stores. For more information, go to [www.thermostat-recycle.org](http://www.thermostat-recycle.org). Most recycling centers accept or take to Devens HHW

## 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.

## PAINT & PAINT-RELATED PRODUCTS

Reuse-If your unwanted paint was purchased recently and is in good condition, consider donating it for use instead of throwing it away. 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 GrotonFreeStuff or [www.FreeCycle.org](http://www.FreeCycle.org). See “Reuse” below

Petroleum (oil-based) paints, stains, thinners, and varnishes are considered hazardous materials, requiring proper disposal .Take to Devens HHW, [www.DevensHHW.com](http://www.DevensHHW.com), open 20 times a year.

Latex paint and water-based stains are accepted at Devens hazardous waste collections, 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 and allowing the mix to harden. When there are no free-flowing liquids, you may place the open paint can (without the lid) in your household trash.



## Medications & Pharmaceuticals

Free medication collections:

Periodically at local Police Departments. Visit [www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov) or for more information on Take Back day\*. Check here for [Drug Take Back locations www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/)

- Ayer Police Station collection container is available 24/7 just inside the lobby at 54 Park Street\*
- Groton Police Station collection container is available 24/7 just inside the lobby at 99 Pleasant St.\*
- \*No questions asked and non-residents welcome. Note that they do not accept needles, liquid, aerosol or biological hazards (blood, body fluids, etc).

View drug fact sheet here: [www.justice.gov/dea/druginfo/factsheets.shtml](http://www.justice.gov/dea/druginfo/factsheets.shtml)

## RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS



## 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. A State-wide ban on sharps disposal started July 1, 2012.

Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, [www.nashoba.org](http://www.nashoba.org), has implemented a sharps program, which most area communities are members. You can take advantage of their sharps collection program. Containers are picked up and returned to their 30 Central Avenue, Ayer office. Sharps containers come in 2 sizes, \$5 for 5 quarts and \$8 for 8 quarts. [www.nashoba.org/public-health/hot-topics](http://www.nashoba.org/public-health/hot-topics)

Nashoba Associated BOH

30 Central Avenue Ayer, MA (978)772-3335 Mon - Fri, 9am-4:30pm

Sharps can only be accepted in approved containers. Persons who bring loose sharps or sharps in unapproved containers (i.e. detergent bottles, coffee cans, etc.) will need to purchase the appropriate container for disposal and place the sharps in that container before they can be accepted.

If not associated with Nashoba Associated BOH contact your Board of Health for more information. Several mail-in disposal programs are available; search the internet using “sharps disposal”.

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)



# Metal (Scrap Aluminum, Steel, Cooper, etc.)

## APPLIANCES

All local recycling centers accept appliances, Fees may apply.

## SCRAP METAL

Reuse or take to your recycling center. Many metal items (like bicycles or BBQ grills) can be repaired, sold or donated to extend their useful life. Please see “Reuse” for more information. [www.scrapmetaljunkie.com/scrap-metal-handbook-guide](http://www.scrapmetaljunkie.com/scrap-metal-handbook-guide) Discarding scrap metal 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. 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”.

Area Metal recyclers

All American Recycling <a href="http://www.all-american-recycling.com">www.all-american-recycling.com</a>	1 Sculley Road, unit A	Ayer	(978) 772-2854
MJS Metals <a href="http://www.mjsmetals.com">www.mjsmetals.com</a>	60 Turnpike Rd	Townsend	(978) 597-2927
Withington Scrap	70 Pleasant Street	Lunenburg	(978) 342-3922
<a href="#">AKS Recycling</a>	15 Cobbler Dr	Fitchburg	(978) 345-9425
William Reisner Corp	33 Elm Street,	Clinton	(978) 365-4585
<a href="#">Winthrop &amp; Co</a>	53 Prescott St	Fitchburg	(978) 343-3627
Go Green recycling <a href="http://www.gogreenrecycling.net">www.gogreenrecycling.net</a>	1480 Broadway Rd Dracut, MA 01826	metal and electronics free for schools and businesses	(978) 677-4595

RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS



# Paper

All Town Recycling Centers accept all paper

All private hauler recycling programs accept paper

Open to all:

Devens Public Works open 24/7, 99 Buena Vista Street

Groton Recycling Center, Wed-Sat 7:30-4:30, 600 Cow Pond Brook Rd

Lancaster Recycling Center, Sat & Sun 10-12, 435 Center Bridge Road

Townsend Recycling Center, 1st & 3rd Sat, 7a - 2p, winter (Jan, Feb, Mar) 1st Sat only, 33 Greenville Rd

## **CARDBOARD BOXES**

All clean boxes are recyclable.

## **JUNK MAIL & CATALOGS**

Unwanted mail and catalogs are recyclable. You can reduce them at the source:

[www.DirectMail.com](http://www.DirectMail.com) – a free service that gets your name off commercial mailing lists ([www.directmail.com/directory/mail\\_preference](http://www.directmail.com/directory/mail_preference));

[www.OptOutPrescreen.com](http://www.OptOutPrescreen.com) – a free service that ends pre-approved credit card and insurance offers

[www.YellowPagesGoesGreen.com](http://www.YellowPagesGoesGreen.com) – a free service that takes your name off phonebook mailing lists;

[EcoLogical Mail Coalition](http://EcoLogicalMailCoalition) – a paid service that helps businesses eliminate mail addressed to former employees-  
[www.ecologicalmail.org](http://www.ecologicalmail.org).

## **PAPER DUMPSTERS**

The Abitibi Paper Retriever [www.paperretriever.com](http://www.paperretriever.com)

KLT- [www.kltindustries.com](http://www.kltindustries.com) , (888)949.1122, 3 Nemco Way, Ayer

## **SHREDDING PAPER**

- October event in Shirley Recycle Your Reusables, free event open to all, [www.recycleyourreusables.wordpress.com](http://www.recycleyourreusables.wordpress.com) 978-496-5839
- Universal Shredding, (877)SHRED.44 95 Tenney Street, Georgetown MA
- E. L Harvery [www.elharvey.com/](http://www.elharvey.com/) (508)836.3000 68 Hopkinton Rd., Westborough
- ProShred [www.proshred.com](http://www.proshred.com) (413)596-5479, 75 Post Office Park, Wilbraham, MA
- Cintas [www.cintas.com/DocumentManagement/DocumentShredding](http://www.cintas.com/DocumentManagement/DocumentShredding), (978)250-1300, 200 Apollo Dr., Chelmsford

## **PIZZA BOXES**

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



## Plastic, Metal & Glass Containers

All Town Recycling Centers accept plastic, metal & glass containers

All private hauler recycling programs accept plastic, metal & glass containers

Open to all:

Devens Highway Dept open 24/7, 99 Buena Vista Street

Groton Recycling Center, Wed-Sat 7:30-4:30, 600 Cow Pond Brook Rd

Lancaster Recycling Center, Sat & Sun 10-12, 435 Center Bridge Road

Townsend Recycling Center, 1st & 3rd Sat, 7a - 2p, winter (Jan, Feb, Mar) 1st Sat only, 33 Greenville Rd

[RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS](#)

---

---



## Plastic (Bulky, Plastic Bags, Styrofoam, etc.)

### PLASTICS

Technological advances and new markets have recently expanded plastic recycling guidelines:

Clear, hinged “clamshell” containers (clear molded plastic containers) typically used to package deli and bakery items can be included with your bottles and cans. Do not include Styrofoam or colored plastics like black trays) or any container labeled “compostable” in your recycling bin.

Caps and lids from bottles, jars, jugs and tubs may be included in your container recycling bin, but they should remain attached to containers.

### BAGS

Most supermarket and grocery stores, dry cleaners, and large retail stores will take plastic bags. Do not put in with recyclables at the curb or the drop off; they create litter and clog machinery at the processing facility.

For cloth bags (see “Textiles”).

Please recycle only empty, clean, dry, stretchy plastic bags and clear film products, and remove receipts/ other items and take to most supermarket and grocery stores, dry cleaners, and large retail stores (Wal-Mart, Staples and Target). Do not include soiled/oily/wet/painted plastic film products, anything labeled “compostable”, pre-packaged produce bags (pre-washed lettuce, frozen peas), or bags from heavy items such as soil, mulch, salt or pellet fuel. Acceptable examples include:

- newspaper bags
- dry cleaning bags
- bread bags
- produce bags (not pre-packaged)
- toilet paper, napkin and paper towel wraps
- furniture wrap
- electronic wrap
- plastic retail bags (hard plastic and string handles removed)
- grocery bags
- plastic food storage bags (clean and dry Ziploc® bags with zipper cut off)
- stretch plastic cereal box liners (if it tears like paper do not include)
- Tyvek (no glue, labels or other material)
- diaper wrap (packaging)
- plastic shipping envelopes (no bubble wrap, remove labels)
- case wrap (snacks & water bottles stretch wrappers)
- any clean, dry plastic film labeled #2 or #4

### **BOATS PLASTIC: -EL. HARVEY CAN RECYCLE THE SEASONAL WRAP**

### **PACKAGING MATERIALS**

Most of these materials are reusable; some are also recyclable:

Cardboard boxes can be reused, and flattened boxes can be recycled with mixed paper.

Foam peanuts: Antique & shipping stores take them

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. Styrofoam blocks and shapes: [www.Reforamt.com](http://www.Reforamt.com) (508)864-8723 1 Sculley Rd Ayer Free, Townsend Recycling center, or RYR event 10/19/13

Packing paper is reusable as well as recyclable. Place shredded paper in a paper bag and tightly close it before putting it in your recycling bin.

Plastic sealed air packaging is reusable. Once deflated, it can also be recycled with shopping bags

Miscellaneous packaging, clean and dry such as prepackaged food bags, frozen food, prewashed salad bags (unless they have #2 or #4), chip bags, cracker or cereal bags, foil lined coffee bags and animal feed bags (dog, cat, chicken, horse, fish), other plastic bags or wrappers can be made into new products by mailing them to:

Lou's Upcycles, [www.lousupcycles.com](http://www.lousupcycles.com), [lousupcycles@gmail.com](mailto:lousupcycles@gmail.com)

Trashebags.com 11 South Park, Montrose, Colorado 81401

Pellet fuel Bags

In Mass, Trex has partnered with Big Y, Shaw's, Whole Foods, Target, Wegman's and Market Basket to accept pellet and salt bags

Rigid, bulky plastics are large, durable, molded items. Please 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 recycling centers now accept.

Expanded polystyrene foam (commonly referred to as Styrofoam) ReFoamIt collects Styrofoam and other previously non-recyclable plastics (e.g., plastic utensils) ReFoamIt, 1 Sculley Rd, Ayer, M-F 8-5, S 8-2 508-864-8723



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. #5 plastic products are mostly recyclable: #5 food and beverage containers can be recycled with your bottles and cans.

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 Recycling Centers 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. TEO in Townsend accepts for community garden.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)



## Recyclables in Large Volumes

Groton Regional Recycling Center is available to small businesses and private haulers serving the Town of Groton and Partner Communities, Ashby, Dunstable and Littleton. Materials collected include recyclable cardboard, mixed paper; metal cans, plastic containers and rigid plastics. The facility will accept deliveries from neighboring municipal drop-off centers, local businesses and small recycling haulers. There are potential revenue sharing opportunities for partner communities. This service will further expand the recycling capacity for the region. Please contact Tom Delaney by emailing [highway@townofgroton.org](mailto:highway@townofgroton.org) or call 978-448-1162 for more information

TOO-GOOD-TO-TRASH ITEMS:

Free online swap shop

Open to ALL area communities. Groton Free Stuff Yahoo Group [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/GrotonFreeStuff/](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/GrotonFreeStuff/)

- Lunenburg: [groups.yahoo.com/group/lunenburgfreestuff](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lunenburgfreestuff)
- Shirley: [www.FreeCycle.org/SHirleyMA](http://www.FreeCycle.org/SHirleyMA)
- Organizations that come to your house for free
- Salvation Army 1800- SA Truck [satruck.org](http://satruck.org)
- Epilepsy foundation with Savers (888) 322-8209 [donatenewengland.org](http://donatenewengland.org)
- Clothing bins around town and at local schools and recycling centers accept ALL textiles. Clothing, footwear, stuffed animals & household textiles in any condition, just NO Wet and NO Smell.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters	<a href="http://www.bbbsfoundation.org">www.bbbsfoundation.org</a>	In Leominster	1-800-483-5503
Epilepsy Foundation	<a href="http://www.donatenewengland.com">www.donatenewengland.com</a>	357 Middlesex Avenue Wilmington, MA	1- 888 322-8209
Goodwill	<a href="http://www.goodwillmass.org">www.goodwillmass.org</a>	1010 Harrison Ave. Boston, Amherst NH	1-888-828-GIVE



Habitat ReStore	<a href="http://restorencm.org/">restorencm.org/</a>	637 Lancaster Street (Route 117) _ Leominster	(978) 227-5556
Household Goods Recycling	<a href="http://hgrm.org">hgrm.org</a>	435 Central St, Acton, MA	( 978) 635-1763 -
Salvation Army	<a href="http://www.salvationarmy-usaeast.org">www.salvationarmy-usaeast.org</a>	1422 Water Street FITCHBURG, MA	1-800-95-TRUCK
The Wish Project	<a href="http://www.thewishproject.org">www.thewishproject.org</a>	1A Foundry St. Lowell	(978) 441-WISH (9474)

### **ARTS, CRAFTS & HOBBY ITEMS**

Go to [www.crazycrayons.com](http://www.crazycrayons.com) for information about recycling old crayons. Schools can recycle Elmer's glue bottles and sticks through the Glue Crew Program ([www.elmersgluecrew.com](http://www.elmersgluecrew.com)).

Talk to your local recreation departments and preschools about donating your extra items.

### **ATHLETIC SHOES (SEE TEXTILES)**

### **BABY GOODS**

Baby R US has events to collect not-needed supplies in exchange for discounts vouchers. Charities love discount vouchers. The Lowell Wish Project, will take car seats and boosters less than 5 years old in great shape. (978) 441-WISH (9474) [www.thewishproject.org](http://www.thewishproject.org)

### **BEDS**

Lowell- The Wish Project [www.thewishproject.org/](http://www.thewishproject.org/) 1A Foundry St. Lowell, (978) 441-WISH (9474)  
Fitchburg, Nashua Salvation Army [satruck.org/national-family-stores](http://satruck.org/national-family-stores) 1800- SA Truck  
Leominster Habitat for Humanity 637 Lancaster Street (Route 117) [restorencm.org/](http://restorencm.org/) (978) 227-5556  
Household Goods Recycling 435 Central St, Acton, MA( 978) 635-1763 - [hgrm.org](http://hgrm.org)

### **BICYCLES**

To give away a bicycle in good condition, try GrotonFreeStuff (open to all) [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/GrotonFreeStuff/](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/GrotonFreeStuff/), [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org), [www.pedalpeople.com](http://www.pedalpeople.com).

Friends of Pepperell library, Sue Boswell (978) 835-0133 Collect bikes year round for their annual used bike sale, bike sale in April and leftovers go to the Worcester earn a bike program, [worcesterearnabike.org](http://worcesterearnabike.org)

For recycling options, see “Scrap Metal” Or “Rigid, bulky plastics.”

#### **Books**

May be taken to public libraries, used bookstores, or to a book exchange area at your local Recycling Center. Salvation Army will take any book even encyclopedias. 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.

Collection box is at Route 113/Route 119. GotBooks! 978.284.2500 [www.gotbooks.com](http://www.gotbooks.com) 255 Andover Street, Wilmington and in Nashua NH

Hands Across the Water 734-477-0135 [www.hatw.org/](http://www.hatw.org/) (Local location: Groton School, 282 Farmers Row)

Reading Tree/Discover Books 1-(888) 402-BOOK - [www.surplusbooksforcharity.org/](http://www.surplusbooksforcharity.org/)

### **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. Visit [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com). Most stores that sell cellular phones and electronics will also accept them back for free (see list under “electronics”)

## **TEXTILES & CLOTHING**

Take to your local recycling center and put into drop-off box. Local reuse and donation opportunities exist for all kinds of textiles and shoes. Deliver clean/dry/used textiles and clothing to donation centers. 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 have NO smell. 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.

**Townsend Ecumenical Outreach (TEO)** 82 Bayberry Hill Road, Townsend 978-597-2209

**Ginny's Helping Hand**, (978) 537-1387, [www.ginnyshelpinghand.org/](http://www.ginnyshelpinghand.org/), 52 Mechanic Street, Leominster-

**Devens Loaves and fishes** (978) 772-4627 [www.loavesfishespantry.org](http://www.loavesfishespantry.org) 234 Barnum Road Devens,

All the clothing bins around town and at recycling centers and at schools.

## **CLOTHES HANGER**

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 Centers. Wal-Mart accepts plastic hangers. Plastic hangers are recyclable at "bulky rigid plastics" collections not in curbside or container collection bins

## **COSMETICS UNUSED**

Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Epilepsy Foundation, Goodwill, Salvation Army

## **COSTUMES**

Uncommon costume in Townsend (978) 597-6102

Thrift shops (see below)

## **EYE GLASSES:**

Most eye care providers will accept and have Lions box for glasses.

Workers Credit Union has a Lions box for glasses in Townsend.

## **FOOD PANTRIES THAT ACCEPT CLOTHES, FOOD, CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

Loaves and Fishes- Devens (Ayer, Groton, Harvard, Littleton, and Shirley)

PACH- Pepperell

TEO- Townsend

## **FURNITURE**

Furniture in good condition can be sold or donated for reuse. When you purchase a new mattress, ask the retailer to take back the old one. The Wish Project [www.thewishproject.org/goods](http://www.thewishproject.org/goods) will take mattresses especially crib and twin mattresses. Salvation Army, Goodwill, Epilepsy foundation- Savers will take furniture as will Habitat ReStore.

## **GREETING CARDS**

Cards are recyclable with paper if they don't have any foil, metal or batteries (see "Batteries"). St. Jude's Ranch for Children will take and reuse and recycle cards for all occasions year round  
[www.stjudesranch.org/shop/recycled-card-program/](http://www.stjudesranch.org/shop/recycled-card-program/). Townsend Recycling Center is taking cards for Townsend Recreation.

## **JEWELRY**

Salvation Army will take jewelry

## **KITCHEN EQUIPMENT**

Salvation Army, Wish project, Home Goods Recycling and Habitat ReStore

## **MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS**

Hungry for music ([www.hungryformusic.com](http://www.hungryformusic.com)) distributes quality musical instruments and sheet music to underserved children in the US and abroad.

The Minor Chord, in Littleton, accepts instruments and hands them off to the Veterans' Medical Center in Bedford, MA. <[www.theminorchord.com](http://www.theminorchord.com)>.

Joy of Music Program (JOMP) in Worcester accepts used instruments in working order or which at least will not cost more to fix than the instrument is worth. Joy of Music Program 1 Gorham Street Worcester (508) 856-9541

## **PET SUPPLIES:**

Animal control officer in town, and local vet offices

## **SPORTS EQUIPMENT**

Buy or sell quality sports equipment through Play It Again Sports (for locations and other information, visit [www.playitagainsports.com](http://www.playitagainsports.com) . Scouts often take sports equipment for fundraisers.

## **SKIS**

Schools and Ski clubs often have annual ski exchange and sales

## **STUFFED ANIMALS**

Reuse and Recycle in area clothing bins around your community.

## **STYROFOAM**

ReFoamIt, 1 Sculley Rd, Ayer, M-F 8-5, S 8-2 508-864-8723, Townsend Recycling center, or RYR event 10/19/13

## **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](http://www.rebounces.com).

## **THRIFT SHOPS**

Littleton- Noah's Ark 320 Great Rd (978) 952-6788

Townsend-Unique boutique 536 Main St – (978) 597-1916 [www.wandasuniqueboutique.com](http://www.wandasuniqueboutique.com)

Groton- Give & Take, 38 Court Street – (978)877-6787

## **TOYS**

Salvation Army, Savers

## **TOOLS**

Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army

## **TOILETRIES**

Home Goods Ministry, Homeless shelters, Food banks

## **TROPHIES**

The Boys and Girls Club of Lowell [www.lbgc.org](http://www.lbgc.org) (978)458-4526

## **UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE,**

Habitat for Humanity ReStore  
Salvation Army

## **VIDEO GAMES (SEE “BOOK”)**

School exchanges, Salvation Army, Savers

## **YARD SALE ITEMS:**

Groton Labor Day Scout yard Sale  
Littleton yard sales in July  
Pepperell Community yard sales April  
Shirley Town Wide Yard Sales – May and October(weekends vary)  
Shirley St. Anthony’s Bazaar every August, first weekend, huge white elephant sales

## **RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS**



## **Yard / Garden (Brush, Leaves, Yard Waste, etc)**

### **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 Center.

### **CHRISTMAS TREES**

Check your Recycling Center. Groton and Townsend take Christmas trees. Some Boy Scouts will have collections.

### **COOKING OIL**

Some types of used vegetable oils are accepted at Recycling Centers to find out if your oil is acceptable check your community contact\* for details. Do not drop-off oil at any sites without prior confirmation. [www.locallygreen.org/](http://www.locallygreen.org/)  
Ask if cooking oil can be included in with used motor oil

Return to Table of Contents

---

---

## **Miscellaneous items for reuse or recycling**

### **AEROSOL CANS**

Recycle only EMPTY aerosol cans that did not contain hazardous materials or chemicals. Acceptable aerosol cans: EMPTY health and beauty products such as sun block, first aid spray, hair products, deodorant, and shaving cream; food products such as cooking spray (i.e., PAM), whipped cream, aerosol cake frosting; and laundry products such as spray starch, anti-static spray; and air fresheners. All caps should be removed and discarded with your trash. Do not puncture, pierce, flatten, or remove nozzles prior to recycling.

Not acceptable for recycling: empty aerosols that once contained hazardous materials such as insecticides, spray paint, automotive sprays, adhesives, cleaning products, craft products, waterproofing sprays and lubricants. Empty hazardous waste aerosols can be put in the trash. Aerosol cans that still contain hazardous materials or chemicals should be delivered to a household hazardous waste collection (see DevensHHW). For handling and disposal of any type of full aerosol container, see [www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/hazardous/aerosol](http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/hazardous/aerosol).

### **ALUMINUM FOIL & PRODUCTS**

Clean and recycle with your bottles & cans. Check with your local collection

### **CARTONS & DRINK BOXES**

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](http://www.terracycle.net)) or local programs, see Drink Pouches & Wrappers, below.

## **CORKS**

Corks should not be put in your recycling bin. Great for art supplies. Natural corks can be crumbled and added to a backyard compost bin or taken to Whole Foods. ReCORK ([www.recork.org](http://www.recork.org)) uses natural corks (no plastic or metal corks) to make shoe soles; Yemm & Hart ([www.yemmhart.com](http://www.yemmhart.com)) use natural corks to make floor and wall tiles. Mail them to: Wine Cork Recycling, 425 North Chamber Drive, Fredericktown MO 63645. [www.yemmhart.com](http://www.yemmhart.com)

## **COSMETICS CONTAINERS**

[Origins](http://www.origins.com) 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. [www.origins.com](http://www.origins.com). MAC cosmetics also has a mail-in recycling program ([www.maccosmetics.com](http://www.maccosmetics.com)).

## **DIAPERS (CLOTH)**

Amherst, NH, the thrift store “Mother and Child”- 650 Amherst St Nashua, NH (603) 886-6727

## **DRINK POUCHES & WRAPPERS**

Terracycle drop off location at Florence Roche Elementary School called UPCYCLEIT! Put empty drink pouches; (such as Capri Sun and Honest Kids) energy bar wrappers; (granola, cereal, protein bars, including Rice Krispie Treats) Chip bags, candy wrappers, and GoGo squeeZ containers in the drop off container at the Florence Roche Cafeteria. Questions? contact Groton Grange sponsor, Sally at [SallyL13@gmail.com](mailto:SallyL13@gmail.com) or 978-448-3418. TerraCycle will upcycle the materials into cool new eco-friendly and affordable products such as tote bags, pencil cases, kites, shower curtains. [www.terracycle.net](http://www.terracycle.net)

## **EGG CARTONS**

Paper and Styrofoam egg cartons are not recyclable. Clear, molded plastic egg cartons (“clamshells”) are recyclable with bottles and cans. Paper egg cartons can be composted.

## **ENCYCLOPEDIAS**

Salvation Army will accept them.

## **EXERCISE EQUIPMENT**

Reuse- Free stuff, yahoo group for our area.  
Recycle- metal- (see Metal) / bulky plastic (see plastic)

## **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.

O’Connell Fire Protection 508-852-7227 261 Brooks Street Worcester, MA 01606

Refills and accepts all types of fire extinguishers for a fee

## **FLAGS**

For the proper disposal of U.S.A. flags no longer in usable condition contact the American Legion or the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Groton Town Hall has a bin outside Town Clerk’s office for retired U.S.A. flags.

## **HEARING AIDS**

Hear Now ([www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org](http://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 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.

## **KEYS**

Old keys can be recycled to benefit the M.S. Society's research efforts ([www.keysforkindness.com](http://www.keysforkindness.com))  
[Or put with metals at your recycling center.](#)

## **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](http://www.xrayfilmsrecycling.com/pick-up-rates/massachusetts).

## **MAGNETS**

Used for crafts. Ask your local scouts if they need them.  
Townsend Earth Day celebration collects them.

## **NYLON- PANTYHOSE**

[www.nononsense.com/PantyhoseRecycling](http://www.nononsense.com/PantyhoseRecycling)

## **PROPANE TANKS**

Propane tanks can be refilled at many locations; businesses will take back tanks that meet certain specifications. See the Community Recycling Information table\* in center of this guide to find out if propane tanks or other types of pressurized containers are accepted at your Recycling Center. Rindge Energy will accept larger quantities (20 or more 20# propane tanks) for free; call for pricing of other tank types/sizes and free pickup services at 603-899-9959.

## **REDEMPTION CONTAINERS**

Supermarkets  
Groton General Store  
Recycling Centers

## **SMOKE DETECTORS**

Certain smoke detectors contain a radioactive sensing device, but the radioactivity is so low that it is considered harmless. Remove battery and dispose of smoke detector in the trash, per MassDEP, <http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/hazardous/smoke.htm>

## **YOGA MATS**

That old mat can still go with the flow. Go to [www.recycleyourmat.com](http://www.recycleyourmat.com) for more information.

## **RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS**



# Disposal

Before disposing of items, look above to see if someone needs it or can recycle it. If you need to dispose of it check with your Board of Health to find out who is licensed in your community to transport your trash. Check out [www.earth911.com](http://www.earth911.com), A national data base on where to recycle.

## **AMMUNITION & EXPLOSIVES**

Call your local Police Department for proper disposal instructions.

## **ASBESTOS]**

There are strict removal and disposal requirements for asbestos. Check the “Yellow Pages” or Google (under “Asbestos Abatement and Removal Services” or “Asbestos Consultants”) also see [www.epa.gov/asbestos/](http://www.epa.gov/asbestos/)

## **MATTRESSES & BOX SPRINGS**

If not taken by your mattress salesman, or reused above by people in need, Area Recycling Centers will accept for a fee. For more options look above under Bulky Items.

## **RETURN TO TABLE OF CONTENTS**



