BOSTON

Recycling & Trash Directory

Thomas M. Menino,
Mayor, City of Boston

BOSTON

Recycling & Trash Directory for Boston Residents

CITY OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Friends,

You've probably heard a lot of talk about climate change, but maybe you haven't heard a lot about what you can do about it right in your own neighborhood. Recycling and properly disposing of trash are two important ways you can improve our environment. This recycling and trash guide will provide you with information you need to help us green Boston even further.

Together, we have already made Boston one of the greenest cities in the nation, but we still have a lot of work to do. Recycling, in particular, is very important. More recycling means less trash in landfills across our country. To make it easier for you to recycle, All residents may now mix their recycling together in their recycling bins. This means you will not have to separate paper from plastic, and new larger recycling carts will be delivered across the city throughout the year so that you can recycle more.

Recycling does more than improve our environment. It helps keep our streets clean, and it saves the City money by decreasing the amount of solid waste that we dispose of. I appreciate everything you have done so far, and I urge you to continue increasing your recycling efforts.

Thank you for all you do to make Boston the best city on earth.

Sincerely,

THOMAS M. MENINO
Mayor of Boston

www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/recycling

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Boston Recycling

RECYCLING

Recycle More...Trash Less

As of July 1, 2009, you no longer have to separate paper and cardboard from cans and bottles. Instead, **you may mix all recyclable materials together in one large container.**

Recycle more! The city will be delivering large wheeled recycling carts to residences with one to six units.

Carts will be delivered neighborhood by neighborhood between June '09 and June '10. You will receive notification shortly before your cart is delivered.

Put your address on your new cart and please take care of it; it will not be replaced. If you move, please leave the cart behind for the next resident.

Other Recycling Options

While you are waiting for a cart or if your cart isn't the right size for your household, you can:

Convert a Trash Can Into a Recycling Container

When you recycle more, you'll have less trash and won't need as many trash cans. Convert an unneeded can into a recycling container. The can must be no larger than 32 gallons and have a lid.

Call 617-635-4500 to request an official sticker to label one of your existing trash cans as a recycling container.

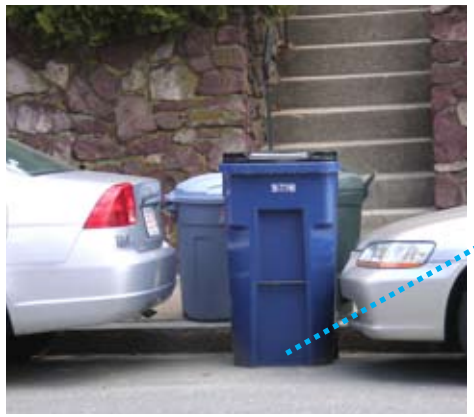
Use a Small Blue Recycling Bin

You may continue to use your small blue bin. New or replacement blue bins, however, will no longer be provided by the city.

Placement of Recycling Carts for Pickup

These new carts are large and must be wheeled to the recycling truck instead of carried. To ensure that the recycling collectors can access your cart, please place it in front of your residence in one of the following locations:

1. On the curb, away from parked cars*



2. On the street, in front of the curb, between parked cars*

*During winter, place carts next to or in front of snow banks. Do not place carts behind snow banks.

RECYCLING

Acceptable Materials for Recycling

Beginning July 1, 2009, mix all of these materials together in your recycling cart or container. Leaving plastic windows, staples, paper clips, and spirals in paper is ok. Remember to rinse out cans, bottles, and jars. Leaving labels and lids on is ok.

newspapers with inserts, magazines, catalogs

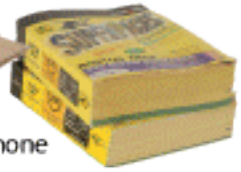
junk mail, colored paper

flattened food boxes

paperback books

pizza boxes (empty)

flattened cardboard boxes



telephone books

milk and juice cartons

juice/soymilk boxes

glass jars and bottles

aluminum and tin cans

all plastic containers

NEW ITEM spiral cans (potato chip/coffee cans, etc)

NEW ITEM rigid plastics (laundry baskets, buckets, toys, etc)

Recycling in Large Apartment Buildings and Condos

Buildings with seven or more residential units are considered large. Large buildings that receive city trash pickup services are required by law to have recycling programs.

Large building owners or condo associations are required to provide and maintain large wheeled carts that go in centralized locations for all building residents to use.

To place a large building recycling program request, call 617-635-4500.

Donate Reusable Household Items

- Reusable clothing, furniture, small appliances: donate to charity.
- Reusable doors, windows, bathroom fixtures: donate to the Boston Materials Resource Center. For details, visit their website at www.bostonbmrc.org or call them at 617-442-8917.

Recycle on Trash Day

Set recycling out by 7am on the same day you set out your trash. If your trash is collected twice per week, set your recycling container out by 7am on the first day. If your trash is collected three times per week, set your recycling container out by 7am on Friday. Remember to separate recycling from trash on the curb.

Unacceptable Materials for Recycling

Keep these items out of your recycling cart or container:

X styrofoam
X plastic bags
X motor oil containers
X chemical containers
X ceramics or dishes
X lightbulbs
X window glass, mirrors
X yard waste (see pages 9,10)
X food waste

TRASH

Acceptable Items for Regular Trash

- household trash
- food waste
- household appliances
- electronics
- mattress/box spring
- furniture
- carpet (must be no longer than 3 feet and tied)
- washer or dryer*
- stove*
- dishwasher*
- hot water heater*

Trash Items Needing Special Pickup

Call 617-635-4500 or e-mail trashtvcrt@cityofboston.gov to schedule pickup of these items:

- computer monitors*
- televisions*
- water coolers*
- dehumidifiers*
- refrigerators*
- air conditioners*

*these items are recycled

Unacceptable Trash Items

If these items are reusable, donate them. Or, you must hire a commercial rubbish hauler to collect them; search the yellow pages for listings:

- bricks
- automotive components
- dirt, rocks, stones
- fire debris
- construction and demolition material
- fences
- oil drums
- plumbing fixtures
- more than a gallon of liquid waste (including cooking oil)
- recyclable material (see pages 4,5,6,7)
- yard waste (see pages 10,11)

See pages 12,13 for info on the following unacceptable materials:

- tires
- hazardous material
- syringes and needles

Trash Preparation

Barrels

- made of metal or durable plastic
- lid required
- no larger than 32 gallons in capacity
- when full, no heavier than 50 pounds

Bags

- ***black*** trash bags
- 32-gallons or less
- made of 2-ply plastic
- *Setting trash out for pickup in kitchen bags, grocery store bags, paper bags, cartons, or boxes is not acceptable.*

Set trash out neatly at the curb by 7am on your trash day(s) or after 5pm the night before. Remember to separate trash from recycling on the curb.

NOT THIS

Report trash violations to Code Enforcement at 617-635-4896

THIS

LEAF & YARD WASTE

Seasonal Leaf and Yard Waste Collection

Leaf and yard waste is collected in the fall and spring, then composted. Place yard waste on the curb by 7am on your recycling day during yard waste collection weeks. For collection dates, visit www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/recycling or call 617-635-4500. Leaf and yard waste is not collected during the two weeks before the special pickup begins.

Place leaves and yard debris in large paper leaf bags or open barrels labeled "yard waste" (do not use plastic bags).

Stickers to label barrels are available by calling 617-635-4500 (up to 2 stickers available per household; paper leaf bags do *not* need labels).

Tie branches with string. Make sure they are no longer than 3 feet and no wider than 1 inch.

Christmas Trees

Set tree out at the curb on your recycling day during the first two FULL weeks in January.
Remove decorations and stands.
Do not put tree in a plastic bag.

Home Composting

Composting is the controlled decomposition of organic material, such as yard waste and food scraps. Composting is a great way to reduce your waste and produce a natural soil fertilizer.

Backyard Compost Bins and Kitchen Scrap Buckets for Sale

You can compost in your own backyard using a compost bin. Bins are available to Boston residents at subsidized prices. Kitchen scrap buckets are also available. Call 617-635-4500 or visit www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/recycling/composting.asp for details.

Compost bins can be purchased Monday through Saturday, 9am-3pm at the Boston Building Materials Coop, located at 100 Terrace St in Mission Hill. See pictures of sample compost bins below.

Compost bins can also be purchased on special dates and times at neighborhood community centers. Visit www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/recycling/composting.asp or call 617-635-4500 for specific locations, dates, and times.

"Earth Machine"

"New Age Composter"

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Days

Do not place hazardous waste with your regular trash. Instead, residents may bring up to 50 gallons of products labeled hazardous to the City's drop-off days, held up to four times per year.

In addition to hazardous materials, residents may also bring tires and propane tanks to drop-off days.

Visit www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/recycling/hazardouswaste.asp or call 617-635-4500 for locations, dates and times of drop-off days, and to obtain a detailed list of acceptable materials.

Proof of Boston residency is required to drop-off hazardous waste. Commercial waste will NOT be accepted.

Mercury

Old style thermometers, thermostats, and compact fluorescent light bulbs all contain mercury and are hazardous. Bring these items to a hazardous waste drop-off day.

Compact fluorescent light bulbs may also be taken to any Home Depot. Home Depot will safely dispose of these bulbs for free.

Surplus Paint and Used Motor Oil Recycling Drop-Offs

Free Interior and Exterior Paint Available

Residents may bring containers of reusable paint, stains, varnishes, polyurethane, or paint thinner to a Drop-Off. Residents may take away as much paint as they want—for FREE!

If You Change Your Own Oil

Bring used oil from your car, boat, or other vehicle to a Drop-Off. Do not mix the oil with any other substance. Antifreeze and steering wheel fluid will NOT be accepted.

Regulations

- ***Proof of Boston residency required***
- 20 containers maximum
- Paints must be in original containers with legible labels
- Containers must not be open or leaking
- Items must not be mixed
- Evaporated or empty cans and aerosol paint cans will NOT be accepted
- Commercial waste will NOT be accepted

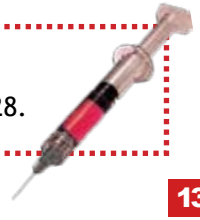
Schedule

Drop-off sites are open ***May through August, 9am-1pm*** on the following days and locations:

1st Saturday of the month: Roxbury Public Works Yard, 280 Highland St
2nd Saturday of the month: Hyde Park Public Works Yard, 58 Dana Av
3rd Saturday of the month: Brighton Public Works Yard, 315 Western Av
4th Saturday of the month: East Boston Public Works Yard, 329 E Eagle St

Safe Syringe & Needle Disposal

Contact the Boston Needle Exchange Program at 617-592-7828.



SCHEDULE & FAQs

HOLIDAY! Collection Schedule

To find out if your trash and recycling collection is delayed due to a holiday and to obtain the most up-to-date holiday collection schedule, please visit www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/sanholidays.asp or call 617-635-4500.

You can also find information about collection days at www.cityofboston.gov/myneighborhood.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q *Who do I call if my recycling and/or trash is not picked up?*

A Call the Mayor's 24-hour hotline at 617-635-4500.

Q *Where does my recycling go?*

A Recyclable material is brought to a recycling processing facility where a series of machines and people sort the material. The recyclables are then baled and delivered to product manufacturers for remanufacture.

Q *What do I do with household batteries?*

A Non-rechargable batteries are non-hazardous and may be placed with your regular trash. Rechargeable batteries are hazardous and should be taken to a hazardous waste drop-off day (see pages 12,13).

Q *Where can I recycle plastic bags?*

A Many major supermarkets collect plastic bags for recycling. Visit www.plasticbagrecycling.org for details.

Q *Can I recycle wrapping paper?*

A Yes, wrapping paper is acceptable for recycling.

Q *How can I recycle at work?*

A Contact your trash hauler. Trash haulers that pickup trash in Boston are required to provide recycling services. You can also find information at www.massrecycle.org/recycleatwork.html.

Q *Where can I recycle my cell phone?*

A Visit www.recellular.com/recycling to search for a cell phone recycling dropbox near you. Or, obtain a pre-paid mailing envelope, available at most wireless retailers.

Q *Where can I recycle electronics?*

A Contact Staples, Office Depot, or Costco to find information about their electronics recycling programs.You can also visit www.cityofboston.gov/publicworks/recycling for information on the city's annual electronics recycling drop-off.

Q *How can I recycle my computer?*

A You can recycle CRT computer monitors (see pages 8,9). The other computer components are not hazardous. You can give them away, recycle them independently (see electronics recycling above), or place them with your regular trash.

Q *Where can I learn more about greening my home?*

A Vist www.cityofboston.gov/environment and www.mass.gov/dep/service/greenliving.htm to learn more.

Q *Can I recycle at school?*

A Yes; Boston Public Schools have recycling programs.

Stay in Touch

If you have feedback, the Recycling Office wants to hear from you. E-mail recyclemore@cityofboston.gov or call 617-635-4500.

To receive e-mail updates about recycling opportunities in Boston, visit www.cityofboston.gov/subscribe to join the recycling listserv.

Boston Recycling

Public Works Department
1 City Hall Plaza, Room 714
Boston, MA 02201

PRSRT STD
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ECRWSS

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BOSTON, MA

Đê được chuyên ngữ ra tiếng Việt, xin gọi số 617-635-3485

Para la traducción al español, llame al 617-635-3485

Pour une traduction française, veuillez téléphoner au 617-635-3485

如果要獲得中文翻譯，請電 617-635-3485

For more information, call 617-635-4500

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Thomas M. Menino,
Mayor, City of Boston