

## *What do you do with...?*

### **Aerosol Cans**

**NEW!** The Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) will now accept EMPTY aerosol cans that did not contain hazardous materials or chemicals. Acceptable EMPTY aerosol cans: 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 lids should be removed and discarded with your trash. Do not puncture, pierce, flatten, or remove nozzles prior to recycling. Empty aerosols that once contained hazardous materials such as insecticides, spray paint, automotive sprays, adhesives, cleaning products, craft products, waterproofing sprays, and lubricants will not be accepted for recycling. Once these are emptied of their contents they can be put in the trash. Aerosol cans that still contain hazardous materials or chemicals should be delivered to a household hazardous waste collection. For handling and disposal of any type of full aerosol container, see [www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/hazardous/aerosol.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/hazardous/aerosol.htm).

### **Aluminum Foil**

Clean it the best you can, and recycle it with your bottles & cans.

### **Aluminum Siding** (see “Scrap Metal”)

### **Ammunition and Explosives**

Call your local Police Department for proper disposal.

### **Antifreeze** (see “Automotive Products”)

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

For general information about how to recycle an old appliance, contact your community representative. Fees and special requirements for appliances containing Freon may apply.

### **Art and 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 their Glue Crew Program [www.elmersgluecrew.com](http://www.elmersgluecrew.com)).

### **Asbestos**

There are strict removal and disposal requirements for asbestos. Check the Yellow Pages (under “Asbestos Abatement and Removal Services” or “Asbestos Consultants”). By prior arrangement, asbestos may be accepted at a hazardous waste collection. For information about disposing of non-friable asbestos at the Northampton landfill, call 413-587-1059.

### **Athletic Shoes**

Shoes in good condition can be mailed to HYPERLINK "<http://www.oneworldrunning.com>" One World Running, which will distribute them to athletes in need in Africa, Latin America and Haiti "<http://oneworldrunning.blogspot.com>". Or mail worn-out sneakers to Nike's "<http://www.nikereuseashoe.com>" Reuse-a-Shoe program to be turned into playground and sports surfaces ([www.nikereuseashoe.com/get-involved](http://www.nikereuseashoe.com/get-involved)).

## **Automobiles and Boats**

Check the Yellow Pages (under “Auto Wreckers and Salvage”) or consider donating your vehicle to a charitable organization. Contact your favorite charity or search online under “vehicle donation.”

[www.DonateACar.com](http://www.DonateACar.com) or 800-237-5714 to support various charities

[www.800charitycars.org](http://www.800charitycars.org) or 800-242-7489 to donate car to a struggling family

[www.auto-donation.com](http://www.auto-donation.com) or 800-456-5517 to support various charities

[www.donateyourcar.com](http://www.donateyourcar.com) or 800-586-4872 to support the American Lung Association

[www.cardonations.com](http://www.cardonations.com) or 800-232-6570 to support the American Diabetes Association

[www.kidney.org](http://www.kidney.org) or 800-488-2277 to support the National Kidney Foundation

[www.acb.org/baystate](http://www.acb.org/baystate) or 800-323-4945 to support the Bay State Council of the Blind

[www.helpinghandsofamerica.org](http://www.helpinghandsofamerica.org) or 888-881-9090 to support Helping Hands of America

## **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**

Even a small amount of motor oil will contaminate water and soil. In Massachusetts, retailers are required by law to accept up to two gallons of your used oil at no charge with an original sales receipt. Some auto repair shops and gas stations will accept your oil even if you didn't buy it from them. To locate a local collection center, call the MassDEP Used Oil Hotline at 617-556-1022 or contact your community representative to find out if automotive products are accepted at your recycling/transfer station or household hazardous waste collection.

### **Motor oil filters**

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. Do this by puncturing the dome top and draining the motor oil into a collection container when the filter is still warm. Properly drained filters may be recycled as scrap metal in some communities.

### **Empty motor oil bottles**

Bottles and other packaging that contained hazardous products are not recyclable and should be thrown away as trash. Do not rinse first.

### **Antifreeze**

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 if automotive products are accepted at your local recycling/transfer station or household hazardous waste collection.

## **Ballasts**

Ballasts from fluorescent lamps may contain PCBs, a hazardous material. See “Mercury and Mercury-Containing Products.”

## **Batteries**

Common household batteries (alkaline and zinc, which come in sizes A, AA, AAA, C and D) manufactured after 1994 no longer contain mercury and can be thrown away. All other types of batteries require special disposal because they contain hazardous materials. Many communities have convenient disposal options; call your community representative for details. In addition:

**Button batteries** (found in watches, hearing aids, electronics and some toys):

Stores that sell button batteries and watch/jewelry shops may accept button batteries for recycling.

**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. Automotive batteries can also be delivered to a scrap metal recycler. Check the Yellow Pages under “Scrap Metal.”

**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 (AA size and other batteries used in cameras), but lithium batteries should be identified and recycled properly. Call your community representative for details.

**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 and emergency medical equipment):

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) and cell phones at no cost: AT&T, Best Buy, Black & Decker, The Home Depot, Interstate Battery Centers, Lowes, Office Depot, Orchard Supply, RadioShack, Remington Product Company, Sears, Staples, Target, US Cellular and Verizon Wireless. A useful website for finding local places to recycle rechargeable batteries is "<http://www.rbrc.org>" [www.rbrc.org](http://www.rbrc.org).

### **Bicycles**

To give away a bicycle in good condition, try "[www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org) or "[www.pedalpeople.com](http://www.pedalpeople.com). For recycling options, see “Scrap Metal.”

### **Books**

Books in good condition may be taken to public libraries, used bookstores, or to a book exchange area at your local recycling/transfer station. In western Massachusetts, book collection services are also provided by “GotBooks!” (A for-profit organization that sells books for charitable purposes; [www.gotbooks.com](http://www.gotbooks.com)) and “Hands Across the Water” (a non-profit organization; [www.surplusbooksforcharity.org](http://www.surplusbooksforcharity.org)). Books that are unsuitable for reuse can be recycled. Paperback books and phone books can be recycled as is. The covers and spines from hardcover books are not recyclable, so their pages must be ripped out prior to recycling.

### **Bubble Wrap & Inflatable Plastic Packaging** (see “Plastics”)

### **Building & Remodeling Materials**

Construction & Demolition (“C&D”) waste includes asphalt, asphalt shingles, bricks, cement, cinder blocks, clapboard, concrete, doors, flooring, insulation, lumber, mortar, plaster, plywood, roofing, sheetrock, shingles, tiles, windows, wood, etc. Vehicles with a capacity greater than 5 cubic yards are subject to strict disposal requirements for C&D wastes at all Massachusetts disposal facilities.

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.

Certain building materials (in good condition) can be donated for re-use. The following organizations will accept specific reusable items. Call prior to delivery to confirm that your materials will be accepted.

EcoBuilding Bargains, 250 Albany Street, Springfield (413-788-6900; "[www.restoreonline.org](http://www.restoreonline.org))

ReNew Building Materials & Salvage, Inc. 16 Town Crier Drive #2, Brattleboro (802-246-2400; [www.renewsalvage.org](http://www.renewsalvage.org))

### **Carpeting & Rugs**

Fee-based disposal of area rugs, carpets and padding is available at most recycling/transfer station stations; call your community representative for details. Connecticut Recycling Works accepts carpeting for recycling when delivered to their site. Call prior to delivery (860-282-7227; [www.ctrecyclingworks.com](http://www.ctrecyclingworks.com)).

### **Cartons and Drink Boxes**

Paper cartons (dairy products, soy milk, juice) are “aseptic packaging”, and can be recycled with bottles and cans. Rinse and flatten containers, discard straws, plastic caps and spout may stay. Do not include drink pouches.

### **Cartridges (see “Ink Cartridges”)**

### **Cell Phones**

Cell phones shouldn't be thrown away due to their reuse value, and because they contain hazardous and recyclable components. Numerous charitable and for-profit organizations accept cell phone donations. Search on-line using “cell phone donation” or go to [earth911.com/recycling/mail-back-programs-recycling-from-home](http://earth911.com/recycling/mail-back-programs-recycling-from-home). Most stores that sell cellular phones and electronics will also accept them back for free (see list under “Rechargeable Batteries”)

### **Clamshells and Clear Molded Plastics (see “Plastics”)**

### **Cleaners (see “Household Hazardous Waste”)**

### **Clothing & Textiles**

Many sale and donation opportunities exist for all kinds of textile products and shoes. Or swap clothes for free with local folks by forming a "Meetup Group" <http://clotheswap.meetup.com>). Clean, dry clothing that is too worn, torn or stained can be used as rags, and animal shelters will accept old sheets, blankets, pillowcases, bedspreads, throw rugs and towels for reuse.

### **Coat 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. Unfortunately, plastic hangers are not recyclable, and should be thrown away when they are no longer useable.

### **Compact Fluorescent Lamps (see “Mercury and Mercury-Containing Products”)**

### **Computers (see “Electronics”)**

### **Construction & Demolition Waste (see “Building & Remodeling Materials”)**

### **Cooking Oil**

Some types of used vegetable oils are accepted at Evergreen Motors in Greenfield; call 413-772-3131 to find out if your oil is acceptable. Northampton collects used vegetable oil at the DPW; call 413-587-1059 for more information. ReEnergizer of Holyoke will accept vegetable oil by appointment and provide collection services for larger generators; call (413) 322-3324 or visit [www.localvegoil.com](http://www.localvegoil.com). Do not drop-off oil at any of these sites without prior confirmation.

## **Corks**

Corks should not be put in your recycling bin. Wine corks can be reused in many creative ways, and natural corks can be crumbled and added to a compost bin. ReCORK <http://recork.org>) uses natural wine & champagne corks (no plastic or metal corks) to make shoe soles. Ryan & Casey Liquors in Greenfield is a ReCork collection site. Yemm & Hart ([www.yemmhart.com](http://www.yemmhart.com)) use natural corks to make floor and wall tiles. They will also accept plastic wine and other non-cork stoppers for recycling (somewhat reluctantly). Mail them to: Wine Cork Recycling, Yemm & Hart Ltd, 425 North Chamber Drive, Fredericktown, MO 63645.

## **Cosmetics Containers**

HYPERLINK "<http://earth911.com/blog/2009/04/09/cosmetic-retailer-offers-packaging-recycling/>" 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](http://www.origins.com).

## **Egg Cartons**

Paper, plastic or Styrofoam egg cartons are not recyclable. Reuse or compost paper egg cartons.

## **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, etc.

Throwing away computer monitors and televisions in the trash is prohibited by state regulations; access to local electronics collection programs is widespread. Call your community representative (see page XX) or go to [www.digitaltips.org/green/default.asp](http://www.digitaltips.org/green/default.asp) for more information. In addition to municipal collection programs: Staples accepts computers, monitors, laptops, printers, fax machines and more for recycling. They will accept any manufacturer's product, regardless of quantity or where the item was purchased. There is a fee of \$10 per item (no fee for keyboards and mice). Call a local store for additional information.

Best Buy will accept up to 2 computer monitors per day at \$10 each, and will provide a \$10 store credit for each monitor. CPUs, keyboards and mice are accepted at no cost. The hard drive must be removed, or the store will remove it for you for a fee.

Computer manufacturers offer a variety of electronic recycling programs, including (but not limited to) Apple, Dell, Gateway, Hewlett-Packard, Panasonic, Sony and Toshiba. Go to their websites for more information.

## **Electronic Media**

HYPERLINK "<http://www.greendisk.com>" 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](http://www.greendisk.com).

## **Eyeglasses**

To donate your spectacles for reuse, pack them in a box with tissue paper and mail them to: Lions In Sight, 1404 Lemon Street, Vallejo, CA 94590, or look for a Lions In Sight collection box wherever eyeglasses are sold, or find a local Lions Club at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) and drop them off. Otherwise, they are not recyclable and should be thrown away.

## **Fire Extinguishers**

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

Businesses and property managers can contact their fire control service provider; Residents can call their fire department or local community representative to find out if fire extinguishers are accepted at household hazardous waste collections.

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 without opening the bag and discharge the entire contents of the unit with the bag closed. 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](http://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 & Compact Fluorescent Lights** (see “Mercury and Mercury-Containing Products”)

### **Furniture**

Furniture in good condition can be sold or donated for reuse or disposed of at a transfer station or landfill. Getting rid of mattresses and box springs can be more difficult, as most charities and many communities don't handle them. When you purchase a new mattress, ask the retailer to remove your old one. You can also call your community representative for more information.

### **Greeting Cards**

Cards are recyclable in paper recycling as long as they don't have any foil or metallics. St. Jude's Ranch for Children reuses and recycles cards for all occasions ([www.stjudesranch.org/help\\_card.php](http://www.stjudesranch.org/help_card.php))

### **Hazardous Household Waste**

Read the products 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](http://www.lesstoxicguide.ca) or [www.ecocycle.org/hazwaste/recipes.cfm](http://www.ecocycle.org/hazwaste/recipes.cfm)

### **Hearing Aids**

Remove and recycle the button battery (see “Batteries”). Once the battery has been removed, the hearing aid may safely be thrown away in your trash.

### **Ink Cartridges**

Many local schools and non-profit organizations collect cartridges for fundraising purposes (such as CartridgesforKids.com), or you can donate them to charitable organizations through the mail-in programs (such as Recycle4Charity.com 800-588-7960). Use “ink or printer cartridge donations” to search online for other donation opportunities. Cartridges are also accepted for recycling at Staples and at other local stores, such as Ink & Toner Solutions in Northampton and Amherst (413-517-0099, [www.inksolutionsma.com](http://www.inksolutionsma.com)).

### **Junk Mail and Catalogs**

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

"<http://www.idealbite.com/wannatry/0625direct>" \t "\_blank"**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));



HYPERLINK "<http://www.idealbite.com/wannatry/0111catalog>" \t "\_blank"**Catalog Choice** – a free service that puts a stop to the delivery of unwanted catalogs HYPERLINK

"<http://www.catalogchoice.org/>"[www.catalogchoice.org](http://www.catalogchoice.org/);

HYPERLINK "<http://www.idealbite.com/wannatry/0111opt>" \t "\_blank"**OptOutPrescreen.com** – a free service that ends pre-approved credit card and insurance offers [www.optoutprescreen.com](http://www.optoutprescreen.com/);

HYPERLINK "<http://www.idealbite.com/wannatry/1121yellow>" \t "\_blank"**YellowPagesGoesGreen** – a free service that takes your name off phonebook mailing lists HYPERLINK

"<http://www.yellowpagesgoesgreen.org/stop-yellow-pages>" [www.yellowpagesgoesgreen.org/stop-yellow-pages](http://www.yellowpagesgoesgreen.org/stop-yellow-pages); and

HYPERLINK "<http://www.idealbite.com/wannatry/0111ecological>" \t "\_blank"**EcoLogical Mail Coalition** – a paid service that helps businesses eliminate mail addressed to former employees- [www.ecologicalmail.org](http://www.ecologicalmail.org).

### **Keys**

Old keys are collected for recycling to benefit the M.S. Society's research efforts. Go to [www.keysforkindness.com](http://www.keysforkindness.com).

### **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 and Mercury-Containing Products" for more information.

### **Light Strings**

Send your light strings to Holiday LEDS for recycling, and they'll send you a coupon good for **25% off** any purchase at HolidayLEDs.com. Mail to Recycling Program, 118 Rosehill Drive Suite 1, Jackson, MI 49202. For more information, go to [www.holidayleds.com/holidayledscom\\_christmas\\_light\\_recycling\\_program](http://www.holidayleds.com/holidayledscom_christmas_light_recycling_program)

### **Mattresses and box springs (all types)**

See "Furniture"

### **Medications & Pharmaceuticals**

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

***Free medication collections will be held on April 30, 2011 throughout western MA).*** Unwanted medication collections are held in some communities. Call your community representative or Police Department to inquire about future collection events. If this service is unavailable, medications may be safely disposed of in the following manner: 1) Keep all medications in their original packaging, but remove any personal information from the labels that could be used to obtain refills; 2) Render them unattractive to children, pets and thieves by dissolving them in a small amount of water or alcohol (if in dry form) or by pouring in kitty litter or sand (if in liquid form); 3) Place them in two sealed plastic bags; and 4) Conceal the bag in your trash. If you have large quantities of medications, consider disposing of them in small batches over time.

### **Mercury and Mercury-Containing Products**

HYPERLINK "<http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/mercury.html>"Mercury is highly toxic and should not be thrown out in the trash in any form. It comes in several forms, including liquid (used in older thermometers, wall mounted thermostats, etc.) and gas (used in all fluorescent bulbs—even those with green tips). Mercury is not hazardous as long as it is kept in a sealed environment, so wrap items carefully in sealable

plastic bags and handle them carefully to avoid breakage. To learn how to properly clean up broken fluorescent bulbs, CFLs and mercury, go to [www.epa.gov/mercury/spills](http://www.epa.gov/mercury/spills).

Contact your community representative to find out if mercury and mercury-containing products are accepted at your recycling/transfer station or household hazardous waste collection or go to HYPERLINK

["http://www.lamprecycle.org/"](http://www.lamprecycle.org/)[www.lamprecycle.org](http://www.lamprecycle.org) to find local recycling options.

### **Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)**

CFLs are the newer, energy efficient light bulbs that come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Free CFL recycling is offered at Ace Hardware, Aubuchon Hardware, Home Depot, IKEA Lowes, the Solar Store (Greenfield) and Whole Foods.

### **Fluorescent bulbs and tubes**

There are many types of fluorescents, including straight 4, 6 and 8-foot tubes, tanning bed lamps, High Intensity Discharge (HIDs), circular or U-Tubes, and neon lights, all of which contain various amounts of mercury. All of these, including low mercury (green tips), must be recycled according to MA law. Many municipalities will accept fluorescent bulbs and tubes from residents and businesses for free or a small charge. Small businesses can also contact Lorenzo Macaluso at the Center for Ecological Technology (HYPERLINK ["mailto:lorenzom@cetonline.org"](mailto:lorenzom@cetonline.org)[lorenzom@cetonline.org](mailto:lorenzom@cetonline.org)) for more information on lamp recycling options. Small businesses can also contract directly with a lamp recycler. For a list of licensed mercury recyclers, go to HYPERLINK

["http://www.mass.gov/dep/toxics/stypes/flampbiz.htm"](http://www.mass.gov/dep/toxics/stypes/flampbiz.htm)[www.mass.gov/dep/toxics/stypes/flampbiz.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dep/toxics/stypes/flampbiz.htm).

### **Thermostats**

In addition to many municipal collection programs, thermostats are accepted at no charge at many plumbing retail stores (see Yellow Pages under “Plumbing Supplies”), including Northampton Plumbing (168 Industrial Drive, Northampton, 413-584-4250) and Franklin County Plumbing (12 Kenwood Street, Greenfield, 413-774-6002). For more information, go to <http://www.thermostat-recycle.org>

### **Ballasts**

Ballasts from fluorescent lamps may contain PCBs. See general instructions above; ballasts are usually accepted at the same locations as fluorescent bulbs. Cut the wires off before recycling.

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

### **Moth Balls (see “Household Hazardous Waste”)**

### **Motor Oil and Filters (see “Automotive Products”)**

### **Needles & Sharps**

Hypodermic needles, syringes, lances and all other sharps should not be placed in your trash or recycling bin. For residents of Franklin County, the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (413-772-2438) has a sharps collection program. For all others, call your Health Department or community representative to ask about local disposal options.

Several programs are available to dispose of sharps by mail, including those offered by Sharps Compliance Inc. ([www.sharpsinc.com](http://www.sharpsinc.com)) and Waste Management ([www.thinkgreenfromhome.com/SyringesAndLancets.cfm](http://www.thinkgreenfromhome.com/SyringesAndLancets.cfm)). In addition, some mail-in kits can be obtained at local pharmacies, such as the BD™ Sharps Disposal by Mail kit.

When there are no practical disposal alternatives, place your sharps into a rigid plastic container with a screw-on cap (e.g. a detergent bottle), seal it with duct tape and clearly label the container as “SHARPS - DO NOT RECYCLE” before throwing it into your trash.

### **Packaging Materials (see “Plastics”)**



## **Paint and Paint-Related Products**

If your unwanted paint is of high quality and condition, consider asking a local school/community theatre group or a charitable organization (such as Habitat for Humanity) if they can use it. You can also offer it to others for reuse through [www.FreeCycle.org](http://www.FreeCycle.org). Petroleum (oil-based) paints, stains, thinners and varnishes are hazardous materials, and should be brought to a household hazardous waste collection. Latex paint and water-based stains can be disposed of in household trash *only when no longer in liquid form*. Speed up the drying process by stirring in clean kitty litter or “Speedi-Dri” to the consistency of thick oatmeal, and then let the mix harden for 3-5 days with the lid off. When there are no free-flowing liquids, you may throw the paint can away without the lid. Hardware stores sell paint hardeners that will do the same job.

## **Pallets**

Pallets can be reused or recycled as “clean wood waste”. Contact your community representative to find out if clean wood is accepted at your local recycling/transfer station. For large quantities, options include (but are not limited to) Martin’s Farm (413-774-5631), Index Packaging (800-662-3626 x111), LTL Pallet Services (978-939-4302), Full Cycle Composting (413-562-0193) and Industrial Pallet, LLC (860-974-0093).

## **Pizza Boxes**

Only clean portions of the box (completely free of grease and food) can be recycled with paper and cardboard through your local recycling program. The soiled portion of the box is accepted by municipal food waste collection programs in New Salem, Northampton, Northfield and Whately; residents in these communities should call their representatives for more information.

## **Plastics**

### **NEW! *Clear plastic “clamshells” are now recyclable!***

Clamshells are clear, hinged plastic containers used primarily for packaging of berries, produce, deli and bakery items. These containers should be emptied and rinsed, and recycled with your bottles and cans. Do not include clamshell containers or trays that are made of black plastic, Styrofoam or compostable materials.

### **NEW! *Plastic caps and lids are now recyclable!***

After rinsing plastic bottles, jars, jugs or tubs, put the cap or lid back on the container. Loose caps and lids may “fall through the cracks” during the sorting process, and may not get recycled. To make more room in your recycling box, crush the plastic container flat before putting the top back on to keep the container compact.

### **NEW! *Stretchy plastic films are now recyclable!***

Lightweight plastic bags and other plastic film products cause litter and problems with equipment at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility. Do NOT include them with your recyclable papers, bottles & cans. The use of durable reusable shopping bags is gaining popularity as a way to address the environmental issues associated with the use of plastic bags.

Clean and empty bags (no receipts or debris) can be recycled at most supermarkets (Big Y, Stop & Shop, Whole Foods), at many large retail stores (Lowe’s, Staples, Wal-Mart) and at some dry cleaners. Include the following “stretchy” plastic films wherever plastic bags are accepted for recycling: any clean, dry bags labeled #2 or #4, grocery and other plastic retail bags (hard plastic and string handles removed), newspaper bags, dry cleaning bags, bread bags (no crumbs), produce bags, toilet paper/napkin/paper towel wraps, furniture wrap, electronic wrap, plastic food storage bags (clean and dry Ziploc® bags), plastic cereal box liners (if it tears like paper do not include), Tyvek envelopes (no glue, labels, other material), disposable diaper packaging, plastic shipping envelopes (no bubble

wrap/remove labels), shrink wrap (from cases of water bottles, snacks) and deflated sealed air packaging. Do not include pre-packaged food bags (including frozen food bags and pre-washed salad bags), bubble wrap, food or cling wraps (Saran wrap), bio-based or compostable plastic bags, film that has been painted or has excessive glue, or bags from pellet fuel, mulch, potting soil, salt, compost or stone. Call your community representative to learn more about options in your area.

**NEW! Rigid plastics are becoming recyclable!**

Bulky plastic products that are hard, durable, and molded with a seam may be accepted at special collections (do not include them in your recycling bin!). These “rigid plastics” include (but are not limited to) plant pots and trays, laundry baskets, outdoor furniture, playground equipment, trash cans and car seats. Northampton collects rigid plastics on a regular basis; call 413-587-1059 for more information.

**Bubble wrap and inflated plastic packaging**

Bubble wrap is not recyclable. Generally, mail service centers (such as a FedEx office or a UPS Store) will accept clean bubble wrap for reuse. You may be able to locate others who need packaging materials through [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org). Plastic inflatable packaging (sealed plastic bags filled with air) can be delivered to plastic bag recycling collection bins at supermarkets and other retail stores. The bags must be popped and flattened before recycling.

**#5 plastic products**

Food containers with a #5 code are recyclable with bottles and cans. Plastic bags with a #5 code are not recyclable and must be placed in the trash. The “Preserve Gimme 5” program recycles Preserve brand products (toothbrushes, razors, etc.) and Brita brand filters. Whole Foods (327 Russell Street, Hadley, MA) is a participating drop-off site.

**#1 polyester film**

Visit 3M’s free Transparency Recycling Program website for instructions and a mailing label [http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en\\_US/Meetings/Home/ProductsAndServices/Product\\_Catalog/Transparency\\_Film/RecProg](http://solutions.3m.com/wps/portal/3M/en_US/Meetings/Home/ProductsAndServices/Product_Catalog/Transparency_Film/RecProg) or call 1-800-328-1371.

**Styrofoam (Extruded Polystyrene Foam or EPS)**

Regardless of its form (cups, plates, trays, peanuts, blocks), there are no municipal recycling programs for Styrofoam at this time. Reuse is preferable to disposal; commercial mailing services may accept clean and dry packing peanuts for reuse, try to give them away through FreeCycle [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)), or call the Plastic Loose-Fill Peanuts hotline at 1-800-828-2214 to locate reuse alternatives. Styrofoam blocks (like those used to package new electronics) can be recycled by mailing them to: Polyfoam Corporation, 2355 Providence Road, PO Box 906, Northridge, MA 01534. For more information about Styrofoam recycling, call 410-451-8340 or go to [www.epspackaging.org](http://www.epspackaging.org).

**Non-recyclable plastics**

Plastic containers greater than 2 gallons are not accepted by the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility. Other plastics that are not currently recyclable include (but are not limited to): plastic cups, black plastic items (microwavable containers, food trays, etc.), containers made from plant materials that say “biodegradable” or “compostable”, foam packaging (egg cartons, take-out containers, food trays, packaging peanuts, coffee cups, etc.), hard bubble packaging (the kind that is difficult to open!), manufactured wood substitutes (decking materials), plastic binders, plastic coated paper, compact disks, video and audio tapes, thin plastic nursery pots and trays, and plastic utensils.

**Pressure-Treated Lumber (see “Building & Remodeling Materials”)**

**Propane Tanks**

Propane tanks can be refilled at many locations throughout the Valley, and these businesses will usually accept empty tanks that meet certain specifications. Call your community’s representative to find out if propane tanks or other types of pressurized containers (e.g., oxygen/acetylene/helium tanks) are accepted at your

recycling/transfer station. For a fee, Whiting Oil Corporation (300A King Street, Northampton) will accept propane tanks. Call 413-584-3500 prior to delivery.

### **Scrap Metal**

Many metal items (like bicycles or BBQ grills) can be repaired, sold or donated to extend their useful life. Discarding scrap metal as trash is banned by State regulations. To recycle any metal item, it should be at least 50% metal by weight (aluminum, steel, iron, lead, stainless steel, copper, brass, bronze, etc.) and separated from any contaminating material (e.g. concrete attached to a metal post) as much as possible. There are some important exceptions to this rule, because some scrap metal items contain toxic or pressurized materials that require special handling (e.g., 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 ¼” thick, 12” in diameter and 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 gas-powered 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”.

### **Smoke Detectors**

The most common type of smoke detector is an ionization device that contains a small amount of Americium 241, a radioactive material. Call your community representative for more information. Some communities allow smoke detectors to be thrown away in the bulky waste box at a recycling/transfer station.

### **Styrofoam** (see “Plastics”)

### **Televisions** (see “Electronics”)

### **Tennis Balls**

To recycle old tennis balls in good condition, go to [www.rebounces.com](http://www.rebounces.com). Or you can donate tennis balls that have seen better days to a local animal shelter.

### **Thermometers & Thermostats** (see “Mercury and Mercury-Containing Products”)

### **Tyvek Envelopes**

Tyvek envelopes (large, white envelopes that you can’t rip) cannot be recycled with paper. To recycle them, turn a Tyvek envelope inside out (so that the unprinted white surface shows on the outside), address it to Tyvek® Recycle, Attn. Shirley B. Wright, 8401 Fort Darling Road Richmond, VA 23237, stuff it full of used Tyvek envelopes and mail it off. For larger quantities, call 866-33-TYVEK and ask about the “pouch recycling program.”

### **Vegetable Oil** (see “Cooking Oil”)

### **X-Ray Film**

There are no special disposal requirements. Radiology departments at most hospitals will accept them back for recycling at no cost. For larger quantities, check out [www.xrayfilmsrecycling.com](http://www.xrayfilmsrecycling.com).

### **Yard Waste/Leaves and 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**

That old mat can still go with the flow. Go to [www.recycleyourmat.com](http://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 Karen Bouquillon at 413-587-1059 or at [kbouquillon@nohodpw.org](mailto:kbouquillon@nohodpw.org). Thank you!