



City of Taunton, Massachusetts  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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**Solid Waste, Recycling and Composting Regulations**

As ratified by the Municipal Council Committee on Solid Waste on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1996  
And amended through July 28, 1998  
Further amended through January 1, 2015

Pursuant to the provisions of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Taunton, Section 8-3, the following regulations regarding the preparation, sorting, and collection of solid waste, recyclables, and compostables are hereby issued, to be effective January 1, 2015:

**Section I. Curbside Collection Program**

**Purpose**

This regulation is enacted in order to protect public health and the environment by reducing the amount of solid waste sent to landfills and incinerators and to comply with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Waste Ban Regulations (310 CMR 19.017). In addition, [M.G.L. Chapter 40, Section 8H](#) authorizes cities and towns to establish recycling programs and require residents, schools and businesses to separate solid waste for recycling ("mandatory recycling rules"). It is the policy of the City to reduce the amount of solid waste generated and to require the recycling of recyclable materials to the fullest extent possible. All elements of these regulations shall be in compliance with applicable local, state, and federal laws and regulations.

**DEFINITIONS**

**Bulky Items:** shall mean individual items too large or too heavy for a City of Taunton PAYT Bag, but not classified as (a) White Goods or Metal Bulk Waste; (b) other MassDEP Solid waste banned items (such as CRTs); or (c) items explicitly excluded from normal solid waste collection per the City's municipal solid waste and recycling collection contract. Examples of Bulky Items are upholstered chairs, furniture, beds, mattresses, sofas, and the like. The City will not collect more than one Bulky Item per week from each residential unit. The City may require stickers on Bulky Items in the future to offset the cost of managing these items.

**Bulk Metal:** shall mean recyclable metal that is (a) too large for inclusion in the commingled sort of the Designated Recyclables (such as bedsprings, gas grills, metal barrels, bicycles); and (b) not White Goods.

**City of Taunton Pay As You Throw (PAYT) Bags:** shall mean official bags that have been purchased with the logo that identifies them as City of Taunton bags, to be used to dispose of residential solid waste.

**Recyclables:** shall mean discarded items that the City authorizes for mandatory collection for the intent of recycling and shall include Designated Recyclables as listed in the City's solid waste and recycling collection contract, including: paper/cardboard stream and commingled container stream (glass, steel, aluminum, and plastic containers). Items included in this list may be modified over time to accommodate MassDEP waste bans as well as new markets for discarded materials.

**Service Recipients:** shall mean customers who receive collection services provided through the City's solid waste and recycling collection contract.

**Solid Waste:** shall mean all materials or substances discarded or rejected as being spent, useless, worthless, or in excess to the owners at the time of such discard or rejection, and consists of without limitation, garbage and refuse, rubbish, Residential Garbage, Bulky Waste and solid waste as defined in 310 CMR 19.006. Unacceptable Waste is specifically excluded from Solid Waste. Bulky Items, White Goods, Bulk Metal, Acceptable Yard Waste, Tires, and CRTs (cathode ray tubes) are also specifically excluded from Solid Waste.

**Unacceptable Solid Waste:** shall mean all Hazardous Waste, Commercial Waste, items banned from disposal as per 310 CMR 19.017 (MassDEP Waste Bans), those items covered under the mercury disposal prohibition 310 CMR 76.00, all solid waste rejected from a disposal facility, Residential Construction Debris, Construction and Demolition Waste from contracted or commercial work, ashes from heating plants, wood and coal stoves, stones, rocks, automobile parts, waste oils, pesticides, sewage waste, and other items identified in the City's solid waste and recycling collection contract.

**Waste Bans:** prohibitions on the disposal and transfer for disposal of certain toxic and/or recyclable items per 310 CMR 19.017.

**White Goods:** appliances employing electricity, oil, natural gas or liquefied petroleum gas to preserve or cook food; wash or dry clothing, cooking or kitchen utensils or related items. These typically include refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers, clothes dryers, gas or electric ovens and ranges, air conditioners, and hot water heaters. White Goods shall be classified as either Freon-containing or non-Freon containing.

**Yard Waste:** shall mean all tree trimmings, grass cuttings, leaves, bushes, hedges, weeds, dead trees, wood chips and shavings, and other waste associated with residential yard maintenance.

#### **A. General Rules for Curbside Collection of Residential Solid Waste, Recyclables and Yard Waste**

Bags, Containers (Solid Waste containers and Recyclable Material containers), Bundles, White Goods, Bulky Waste, and Yard Waste shall be placed at the curb or at a point no further than five (5) feet from the back of the curb in front of that property. In areas where there are no curbs, pick-up shall refer to items placed no further than five (5) feet from the edge of the traveled roadway in front of that property. No materials will be placed in the roadway. In addition:

- Residential solid waste, recyclables, and yard waste shall be put out for collection no earlier than the day of collection (per 105 CMR 410.600), and should be placed out no later than 7:00 a.m. the day of collection.
- All sharp objects being disposed as residential waste, such as broken glass, shall be wrapped or packaged to prevent puncturing the container or injuring the collector.
- Waste must be generated from the specific household in front of which trash and recyclables are placed.
- Nothing of value will be placed at or near the collection point for household waste or recyclables (no gratuities). Only solid waste and recyclables set-out for collection in appropriate containers, as per these regulations, shall be placed at the collection point for curbside pick-up.
- Owner/Manager of a property shall be responsible for immediate removal of all trash and/or recyclables placed on or near the side of a street for collection which does not comply with these solid waste regulations. Failure to remove within 24 hours may result in a fine being issued.
- Household waste may not be disposed of in public trash receptacles or in municipal or school dumpsters.
- Waste and recyclables must be placed at curbside for collection.
- Landlords must ensure that each unit has a blue recycling bin and that the bins remain with each unit after changes in tenancy and are available to new tenants.
- Recycling receptacles that are lost or stolen will be replaced by the City under the following conditions (and as long as the City's supplies last): (a) If a resident claims their recycling bin has been stolen, the recycling foreman will determine if the claim is legitimate. A resident may receive one free replacement receptacle, (b) If resident claims their recycling bin is broken, the broken box must be exchanged for the new box. Residents with broken recycling bins may receive one free replacement.
- It is the owner's or designated agent's responsibility to maintain safe and sanitary conditions at the collection point.

## **B. Eligible Participants**

Occupants of residential structures not exceeding four (4) units, as well as City facilities covered under contract (municipal buildings, schools, housing authority properties), may participate in the City's curbside collection program for solid waste, recyclables, and yard waste. Eligible items, generated by said participants in accordance with these rules and regulations, may be placed on the curb in front of that property for scheduled collection by the City or its contractor(s), or at designated locations for City facilities.

The Commissioner may allow additional categories of waste generators to place eligible **recyclables** curbside for collection, provided there is no additional cost to the City, i.e. mobile home parks, condominium complexes, and large apartments.

## **C. Residential Solid Waste**

### Eligible Items

Acceptable residential wastes shall mean all solid wastes which can be placed into official City of Taunton PAYT bags not exceeding 50 lbs in weight, excluding, however, inherently dangerous, toxic, and hazardous wastes which shall from time to time be designated as "hazardous wastes" by State and/or Federal regulatory authorities having appropriate jurisdiction.

Solid Waste means all materials or substances discarded or rejected as being spent, useless, worthless, or in excess to the owners at the time of such discard or rejection, and consists of only normal household materials such as wrappings, floor sweepings, broken or discarded drinking glasses and dishes, vegetable matter and putrescible wastes from residential kitchens and other similar routine household wastes.

Specifically excluded from acceptable solid wastes shall be:

- Construction/demolition/remodeling debris, defined as any material resulting from the excavation, construction, demolition or renovation or repairs to any structure regardless of cause of said operations
- In whole or in part, any of the following: auto hulks, engine blocks, transmission blocks, heavy machinery, ski mobiles, motorcycles, riding type lawn mowers, tractors
- All landfill banned wastes, including organic material such as tree stumps, limbs and brush of any size. Leaves, grass and Christmas trees may be picked up only under special conditions provided for by the City.
- Pathological wastes and animal carcasses
- Hazardous wastes, toxic and volatile chemicals and explosives
- Liquid wastes including specifically herbicides/pesticides/acids/bases and pool chemicals
- Items containing mercury
- Waste medications and sharps (hypodermic needles)
- Eligible recyclables and MassDEP waste disposal banned items

### Containers and Placement

Residential solid waste may be placed curbside in front of the specific property in the following manner:

- All trash shall be placed in official City of Taunton PAYT bags, securely closed or tied, and bags shall not exceed fifty (50) lbs in weight.
- Closed PAYT trash bags may be placed curbside in plastic or metal trash barrels not exceeding 35 gallons in size, but the total weight of each barrel shall not exceed 50 lbs.
- Barrels must have handles or handholds for pick-up, and the top diameter may not be smaller than the rest of the barrel. Any number of bags can be placed in a barrel.
- One bulky item per week from each residential structure may be placed at the waste collection point. Bulky items include individual items too large or too heavy for a bag or barrel, but not classified as White Goods, Bulk Metal items, or televisions or computer monitors). Examples of bulky items are upholstered chairs, sofas, and mattresses (NO SOFA BEDS, NO RECLINERS).

## D. Residential Recycling

### Eligible Items

The following materials shall be separated from residential solid waste for recyclables collection:

- **Paper/Cardboard Materials:** newspapers (including all inserts), magazines, catalogs, telephone books, brown paper bags, office type paper, computer paper, junk mail; box/chipboard (cereal/ shoe/pasta boxes, etc.); books (with hard covers removed), corrugated cardboard 3' x 3' or smaller (flattened), and poly-coated juice/milk cartons.
- **Commingled Materials:** glass containers (clear and colored), metal containers (aluminum, steel, and tin cans), aluminum pans and foil, empty aerosol cans, plastic marked with a recycling symbol #1 through #7, bottle caps and lids OK.

### Containers and Placement

- The City provides one recycling container per service recipient at no charge. These bins must remain with the property for exclusive use in the recycling program. Additional recycling bins are available at the City of Taunton DPW located at 90 Ingell Street.
- Residents shall use recycling containers provided by the City DPW for paper/cardboard materials and commingled recyclables (glass, plastic, metal containers). Paper/cardboard materials and commingled items will be placed loose in these containers, and shall not be placed in plastic bags inside of the containers.
- Recyclables must be clean and free of food debris and liquid before placement at the curb.
- Items and containers for recycling shall be kept clearly separate from residential solid waste.
- Effective July 1, 2014, the City's curbside recycling program will accept single stream recyclables for pick-up. Recyclables including paper/cardboard materials and commingled materials may be mixed together in one container for collection.
- Paper/cardboard/cereal-box type items may be placed in paper bags or bundled, and placed on top, inside, or next to the recycling container. Bundles shall not exceed 3 feet in length by 3 feet around and 50 lbs. in weight.
- Service recipients may also use a suitable alternative container acceptable to the City's recycling contractor, clearly marked for recycling and placed away from solid waste. The container must not weigh more than 50 lbs when full. The City of Taunton provides large "Recycling Stickers" that can be affixed to containers used for recycling. These are available at the City of Taunton DPW located at 90 Ingell Street.

It shall be mandatory for each owner or occupant who receives City-provided solid waste and recycling collection services to separate from solid waste all recyclable materials designated by the DPW Commissioner in these regulations. Recyclable materials collected at the curb shall be placed in clearly marked recycling containers. Containers with mixed residential waste and recyclables will not be collected.

- In addition, white goods (refrigerators, washing machines, etc.) and Bulk Metal items (e.g., gas grill with tank removed) may, if provided for by contractor, be placed at the curb one day per month by appointment for collection by the City's contractor. Resident must contact the Contractor to schedule such pick-up.

## E. Residential Yard Waste

### Eligible Items

- **Leaves and Yard Waste for Composting:** tree trimmings, grass cuttings, leaves, bushes, hedges, weeds, dead trees, wood chips and shavings, and other waste associated with residential yard maintenance.

### Containers and Placement

- Leaves and yard waste to be composted may be picked up through special collections, as scheduled by the City and its Contractor. Such material will be placed at the curb on the designated date(s) in barrels, boxes, or paper bags. No plastic bags shall be used for these special collections.
- Christmas trees may be picked up through a special collection. Decorations, tinsel, etc., must be removed by the resident. Christmas trees shall be placed at the curb on the designated date(s) for pick-up. Residents shall insure the trees do not blow out into the street.

## **F. Violations**

Violation of any of the above rules regarding preparation, or the inclusion of ineligible items in either residential solid waste or recyclables will cause the City or its contractor to leave behind waste, recyclables, and/or yard waste at the curb. The City or its contractor(s) will affix stickers identifying the problem to educate the resident. Violation of these regulations may result in fines as noted below. Curbside residential solid waste that is not in official PAYT bags will not be picked up by the City trash collector (other than as permitted by the DPW Commissioner, for one bulk item per week, items allowed under special white good, yard waste, and other collections, and for dumpster collection included in the municipal curbside contract). If said material is not removed from the curb by 7:00 p.m. on the day after collection, the individuals responsible for the placement of the items shall be subject to fines, as noted below. Removal for public safety reasons (solid waste, white goods, bulky items, etc.) by an agent of the City of Taunton, shall be charged a fee at the City's current cost.

Curbside recyclables that are mixed with solid waste, either in the recycling container or in the trash, and are visible to the City's contracted waste hauler or any party responsible for municipal waste collection, will not be picked up. Uncollected materials will be stickered and left at the curb, notifying resident of the noncompliant action and where to get information to remedy the problem. If said material is not removed from the curb by 7:00 p.m. on the day after collection, the individuals responsible for the placement of the items shall be subject to fines, as noted below. Removal for public safety reasons (solid waste, white goods, bulky items, etc.) by an agent of the City of Taunton, shall be charged a fee at the City's current cost.

Individuals responsible for the placement of waste from ineligible structures at the curb or in other locations other than legal disposal sites shall be charged with illegal dumping, and shall be fined pursuant to Chapter 8 of the City Ordinances. Owners of rental or commercial properties that do not provide for alternative means of collection and disposal shall also be charged with a fine of \$200 per item, barrel, and/or bag, per day.

Each unit participating in the curbside trash program will obtain an official recycling bin from the City. Recycling bins issued by the City remain the property of the City of Taunton. Use for any other purpose than curbside recycling shall constitute a violation of public property ordinances.

The DPW Commissioner or his designee shall be authorized to enforce these provisions.

Violation of these regulations shall be punishable by fines per the Revised Ordinances of the City of Taunton, Section 8-28 (g) (2), as follows:

- (a) First violation: : \$50.00
- (b) Second violation: \$100.00
- (c) Third violation: \$200.00
- (d) Fourth and each subsequent violation: \$300.00

As per the Revised Ordinances of the City of Taunton, Section 8-28 (g) (2), this section may also be enforced by any lawful method, criminal process or by non-criminal disposition as provided in General Law Chapter 40, sec. 21D. Each occasion on which a violation is identified will be considered a separate offense and any person in violation of this section shall be subject to these fines.

## **Section II. Landfill/Recycling Drop Off**

Use of the City's designated landfill/recycling drop-off which is operated by the City or its contractor is available to residents of Taunton, and to authorized persons engaged in business activities related to the disposal of solid waste at the landfill or depositing of recyclables at the drop-off area. All such use shall be in accordance with these regulations set forth by the Commissioner of Public Works.

1. The DPW Commissioner or his designee shall be authorized to enforce these provisions.
2. All persons, except City employees acting within the scope of their employment, using the landfill/recycling drop-off shall do so at their own risk.
3. Materials may only be delivered during operating hours, unless authorized by the DPW Commissioner.

4. No person or business shall dump solid waste or fee-based items without payment or authorization per the City of Taunton Revised Ordinances or Solid Waste, Recycling, and Composting Regulations. The attendant may authorize free disposal to Taunton residents if a) solid waste is in official PAYT bags, or b) Taunton residents age 65 and older deliver one bag of trash per day (with identification), or c) items are delivered for recycling.
5. Recyclables must be separated from solid waste as per these solid waste regulations and the direction of the station attendant. All material delivered to this facility shall be placed in the appropriate designated area or receptacle. No material which is rejected for any reason shall be left at this facility.
6. All vehicles entering this facility are subject to inspections of loads to identify any hazardous or prohibited material.
7. No scavenging is allowed in any area of this facility.
8. Smoking is prohibited at this facility.
9. The following items are banned from disposal as solid waste at this facility, per 310 CMR 19.017. However, some of these items may be delivered to the landfill for processing or proper disposal, see #11 or contact the landfill
  - a. Asphalt pavement, brick & concrete
  - b. Cathode ray tubes
  - c. Clean gypsum wallboard
  - d. Ferrous & non-ferrous metals
  - e. Glass & metal containers
  - f. Lead acid batteries
  - g. Leaves & yard waste
  - h. Recyclable paper, cardboard & paperboard
  - i. Single resin narrow-necked plastics
  - j. Treated & untreated wood & wood waste
  - k. White goods (large appliances)
  - l. Whole tires
10. Also excluded from disposal: Liquid wastes including specifically herbicides/pesticides/acids/bases and pool chemicals.
11. The items below are accepted for recycling or disposal at the landfill, as follows:
  - a. Residential solid waste in PAYT bags
  - b. Loose waste including construction and demolition debris (recycle) and acceptable solid waste (disposal) in excess of 500 pounds shall be weighed and charged a disposal fee with a ½ ton minimum charge (landfill fee schedule applies for smaller quantities).
  - c. Newspaper, mixed paper, and flattened cardboard: recycle, no charge for residents
  - d. Commingled bottles & cans (plastic/glass/metal): recycle, no charge for residents
  - e. Leaves, grass, and brush (less than 1" diameter): compost area, no charge for residents (proof of residency required). No plastic bags, barrels, solid waste, or other material shall be left in the compost area.
  - f. Brush (1" diameter or greater): compost, fee applies
  - g. Large branches and logs will be weighed and charged gate rate: fee applies
  - h. Leaves and yard waste from commercial sources will be weighed and charged gate rate: fee applies
  - i. White Goods: recycle, fee applies
  - j. Bulk Metal Items: recycle, fee applies
  - k. Mattresses: disposal, fee applies
  - l. Oil based paint: recycle, no charge
  - m. Tires: recycle, fee applies
  - n. Motor oil: recycle, no charge, limit 5 gal per day (residents only)
  - o. Automotive batteries: recycle, fee applies
  - p. Propane tanks: recycle, fee applies
  - q. Clothing/Textiles: recycle, no charge
  - r. TVs, computer monitors (CRTs and flat screen), and electronics: recycle, no charge
  - s. Mercury-containing items: recycle, no charge

**Effective Date: January 1, 2015**