

Recycling & Trash Guide



INFORMATION FOR RESIDENTS ON RECYCLING, YARD WASTE, TRASH AND HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

DPW Business Hours

Mon 8:30 am - 8:00 pm, Tues-Thurs 8:30 am - 5:00 pm, Fri 8:30 am - 12:00 noon

Recycling Center Hours

Tues & Thurs 4:00 pm - 7:30 pm, Sat 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

www.cambridgema.gov/recycle

617.349.4800 TTY/TDD 617.349.4005

MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



Photo: Norton Photography

Cambridge residents are great recyclers, but we still have a significant amount of trash that ends up in landfills and incinerators. That is why the City is pleased to introduce single stream recycling in Cambridge beginning October 25, 2010.

Single stream means you can mix clean bottles, cans, paper and cardboard together in one recycling bin. With the big totes, recycling is easier than ever. We can recycle at least 50% of our trash and reduce disposal costs.

The new recycling trucks will accept cardboard of all sizes. More materials will be accepted, including empty pizza boxes and large plastics such as laundry baskets and toys.

Waste prevention and recycling are critical to lessening the effects of climate change and protecting our waterways. Energy is used to mine, extract, harvest, process, transport, and manufacture raw materials. Making products using recycled rather than virgin material saves substantial energy in virtually every case. Recycling preserves forests, which absorb the greenhouse gas, CO₂. By recycling paper and cardboard and composting yard waste and food scraps, we reduce methane, a greenhouse gas emitted from landfills.

We greatly appreciate your continued commitment to recycle as much as possible and reduce your trash. Together, we can make a difference and sustain the City's position as an environmental leader. Thank you for your participation and support.



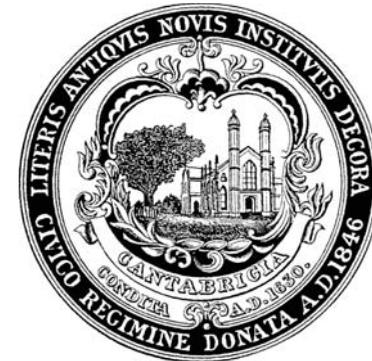
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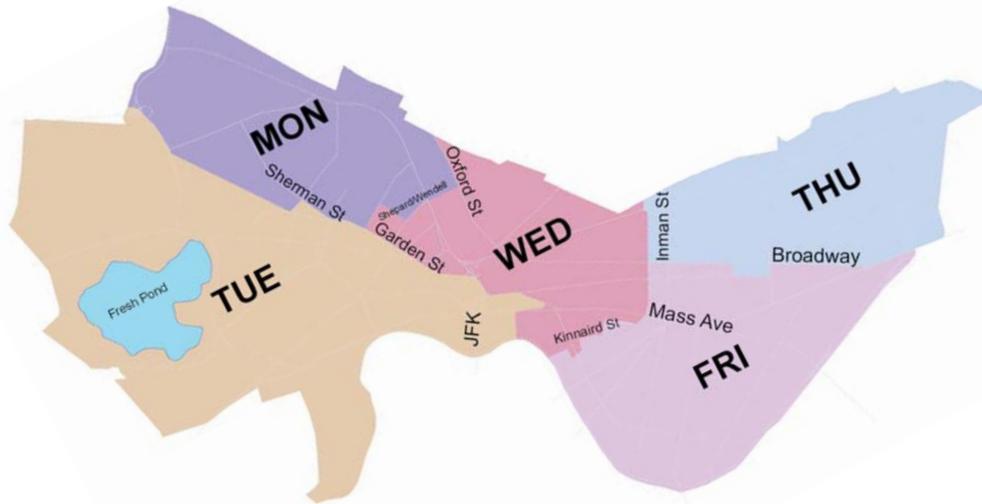


SCHEDULE & FAQs

Collection Day

The City is divided into five collection districts. Recycling and trash collection occurs weekly on the same day. Yard waste pickup occurs on collection day from April 1 through the second full week in December.

During holiday weeks, collection is delayed one day, such as the week of New Year's Day and Memorial Day. For specific dates, contact DPW or check the website. You can also visit the City's homepage to sign up for E-Line to receive email alerts and/or text messages regarding holidays, street cleaning, street closings and parking bans.



Curbside Setout

Place recycling, trash and yard waste at the curb by 7:00am on collection day or after 6:00pm the night before. No trash in plastic bags at the curb the night before collection. Remove empty containers by 6:00pm on pickup day. During winter, clear snow to curb. Do not place barrels or totes behind snow banks. Ensure that the sidewalk is completely clear for pedestrians, including wheelchairs and strollers.

Missed Pickups

If you think your address was missed, contact DPW at 617.349.4800 or missedpickup@cambridgema.gov by noon the day after collection, include your address, phone number and what was missed. Pickup will occur no later than the next collection day. If your recycling was rejected with an orange sticker, please prepare properly for next week.

How can I avoid a trash violation?

Working together, we can reduce rodent problems, protect public health, ensure cleaner streets and protect the environment. To avoid violations, prepare trash correctly. Place items at the curb by 7:00am on collection day or after 6:00pm the night before. Remove empty containers or rejected items by 6:00pm. Purchase a sticker for large appliances or metal items. Recycle cardboard, paper, bottles, cans and yard waste.

How do I get rid of furniture or appliances?

Donate items in good condition. The City will pick up one piece of furniture per week on your regular collection day. Large appliances require a sticker for recycling removal; see page 9.

How can I recycle plastic bags?

Bring clean bags to the Recycling Center during open hours, or to local supermarkets. Bags are not accepted for curbside recycling as they jam equipment at the recycling facility causing costly delays and repairs.

What is single stream recycling?

It means no more sorting. Beginning October 25, 2010, residents can mix clean bottles, cans, paper, and cardboard in one recycling bin. The City expects at least 10% more tons of recycling with single stream!

Where does my recycling and trash go?

The City's hauler, F.W. Russell, brings recycling to Casella in Charlestown where the material is sorted into different categories. View a video of the recycling facility on the DPW website. Russell brings yard waste to composting facilities in MA. DPW brings trash to Waste Management's transfer station in Somerville. 50% of trash is burned at incinerators in MA, and 50% is buried in landfills in NH and MA.

Does single stream recycling affect quality?

To ensure high quality, please recycle the right materials; see page 7. Drivers can reject recycling mixed with trash or unaccepted items. Casella has invested millions into new sorting technology to ensure recyclables meet strict quality requirements set by mills that make new products from your recyclables. Glass is separated out at 5 different points and all material is recirculated to maximize recycling.

RECYCLING

Recycle More. Trash Less.

Starting October 25, 2010, you will no longer need to separate paper and cardboard from bottles and cans. Instead, with single stream recycling, you may mix all recyclables together in one large bin.

Recycling Toters

The City will deliver large wheeled recycling toters to 1-5 unit residences in October 2010.

6+ unit buildings should already have toters.

Please put your address on your new toter. If you move, leave the toter for the next resident.

Call DPW or email toters@cambridgema.gov to order more toters or to replace broken ones.



Large 95 gallon toter,
45"H x 26"W x 35"D

Small 65 gallon toter
44"H x 25"W x 28"D

Convert a Trash Can for Recycling

If space for storing toters at your residence is a problem, share toters with a neighbor or convert any 32 gallon barrel for recycling with a sticker. Call DPW for City-issued stickers and face it to the street when using for recycling. Barrels may not exceed 50 pounds.

Recycling Bins

Residents may still use bins. New bins will be available on a limited basis, while supplies last. Email bluebins@cambridgema.gov or call DPW with your address, phone, and zip. Place broken bins upside down at the curb on collection day for the recycling truck. Bring unwanted bins to the Recycling Center during open hours, or call DPW for pickup.

Recycling Center

The Center is located at 147 Hampshire Street near Inman Square, in the back right corner of the DPW yard. Cambridge residents and Cambridge businesses/nonprofits with 50 employees or less may use the Center.

The Center is open Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:00pm-7:30pm and Saturdays 9:00am-4:00pm. Proof of residency is required upon request. The DPW yard is closed to the public at all other times.

Finished compost is available to residents in small quantities April through October.

Accepted Materials:

- ✓ Batteries (non-alkaline only)
- ✓ Books (hard and soft covers, binders OK)
- ✓ Cans & Bottles
- ✓ Cardboard & Paper
- ✓ Cell Phones
- ✓ Flags
- ✓ Food Waste (no liquids, no grease)
- ✓ Mercury Items (fluorescent bulbs, thermometers, thermostats)
- ✓ Metal Items (no sealed containers)
- ✓ Motor Oil
- ✓ Packaging Peanuts (no block Styrofoam)
- ✓ Plastic Bags (bubble wrap OK)
- ✓ Small Appliances & Electronics (no TVs, no monitors)
- ✓ Toner & Ink Cartridges

For 6+ Unit Multi-Family Buildings

The City provides free weekly recycling collection and offers assistance to increase participation. Call DPW at 617.349.4836 for requests including site visits, flyers, toters or labels.

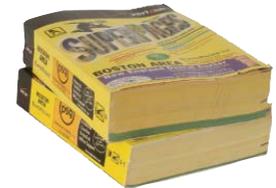
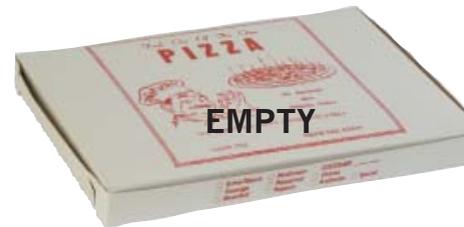
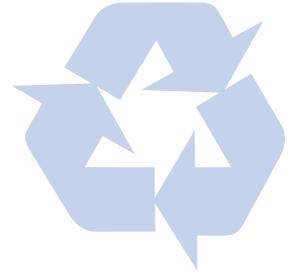
CURBSIDE RECYCLING

Containers

- ✓ Aerosol Cans (empty)
- ✓ Aluminum Cans, Trays & Foil
- ✓ Glass Bottles & Jars
- ✓ Metal Cans
- ✓ Milk Cartons & Juice Boxes
- ✓ **NEW!** Large Plastics (buckets, laundry baskets, toys)
- ✓ Stiff Plastic Containers
- ✓ **NEW!** Spiral Cans (potato chip, nut cans)



**No sorting with single stream!
Mix clean containers and papers
together in one bin. Flatten or nest
cardboard boxes when possible.**



Papers

- ✓ **Books** (rip off hard covers)
- ✓ **Cardboard Boxes**
- ✓ **NEW!** Coffee Cups (empty, no Styrofoam)
- ✓ **NEW!** Frozen Food Boxes (if it rips)
- ✓ **Paperboard** (cereal boxes, paper towel rolls)
- ✓ **Phone Books & Junk Mail** (remove free samples)
- ✓ **NEW!** Pizza Boxes (empty, no food)
- ✓ Newspapers & Inserts
- ✓ Magazines & Catalogs
- ✓ Paper Bags
- ✓ Shredded Paper (in clear plastic or a paper bag)
- ✓ **White & Colored Paper** (staples, paper clips, spirals OK)
- ✓ Wrapping Paper



NO

- × No TRASH
- × No PLASTIC BAGS
- × No STYROFOAM
- × No FOOD WASTE
- × No Ceramics, Dishes or Glassware
- × No Clothes Hangers
- × No Electronics
- × No Light Bulbs
- × No Paint Containers
- × No Paper Towels or Napkins
- × No Photographs or Blueprints
- × No Pots, Pans or Scrap Metal
- × No VCR or Cassette Tapes
- × No Windows, Plate Glass or Mirrors



TRASH & LARGE ITEMS

Trash Preparation

1. Trash barrels / bags cannot exceed 50 gallons or 50 pounds.
2. No trash in cardboard boxes. Trash must be in barrels with a tight lid when stored on your property and when set at the curb.
3. No trash in bags at the curb the night before collection. Only heavy duty bags accepted. No thin grocery or kitchen bags.
4. Place trash, recycling and yard waste at the curb by 7:00 am on collection day or after 6:00 pm the night before.
5. **If you have a disability** that makes it difficult to set your trash and recycling out after 6:00 pm or you need other accommodations, call the Commission for Persons with Disabilities at 617.349.4692 for an exemption application.

Large Items

Call 617.349.4800 to schedule pickup and purchase stickers in advance. \$25, \$20 for seniors. No commercial or industrial items.

- ✓ Air Conditioners
- ✓ Clothes Washers & Dryers
- ✓ Copiers & Printers (more than 40 lbs)
- ✓ Dehumidifiers
- ✓ Dishwashers
- ✓ Exercise Equipment & Bicycles*
- ✓ Lawnmowers (remove gas)
- ✓ Metal Filing Cabinets & Desks*
- ✓ Radiators
- ✓ Refrigerators & Freezers (must remove door per state law)
- ✓ Snow Blowers (must remove gas)
- ✓ Stoves (gas & electric)
- ✓ Trash Compactors
- ✓ Water Coolers & Heaters
- ✓ TVs & Computer Monitors (over 20" diagonal length)

*No charge for exercise equipment, bicycles, metal filing cabinets or desks, but please call ahead.



Accepted Items

- ✓ Electronics (microwaves, stereos, box fans for recycling)

1 Per Week:

- ✓ Computers & TVs (20" or less diagonal length with hard drive, keyboard, mouse, & small printer or fax for recycling)
- ✓ Furniture, Mattress & Boxspring (or post at www.craigslist.org or www.freecycle.org)
- ✓ Toilet & Sink

3 Tied Bundles Per Week

- ✓ Carpet (3 ft x 3 ft x 1 ft tall)
- ✓ Lumber / Tree Limbs (3 ft x 3 ft x 1 ft tall, no nails)

Unacceptable Items

You must call a private hauler for:

- × Boilers & Furnaces
- × Property Cleanouts
- × Tree Stumps, Rocks, Soil, Dirt or Sand
- × Automotive Parts
- × Construction & Demolition Debris (Including bathtubs, cabinets, pipes, sawdust, drywall, windows, etc. Contractors are responsible for disposal. Donate materials in good condition: www.bostonbmerc.org or www.bostonrestore.org)

YARD WASTE & COMPOST



Yard Waste

Place yard waste in paper leaf bags or loose in barrels with City-issued stickers facing the street. Collection begins April 1 and ends the second full week in December. Call 617.349.4800 for stickers.

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| ✓ Leaves, Grass & Plants | ✗ No Plastic Bags |
| ✓ Thin Shrub Prunings & Twigs
(up to 1" in diameter and 3 ft long) | ✗ No Food |
| ✓ Thick Limbs (3 tied bundles, 3 ft x 3 ft) | ✗ No Dirt |
| | ✗ No Trash |

Christmas Trees

Weather permitting, bare trees are generally collected for recycling for 2 weeks beginning the first two full weeks in January. Remove stand and decorations. Do not put in a plastic bag.



Fats, Oils & Grease (FOG)

Do not pour grease or oil down any drain. Pour into a can or jar with a lid, store until full and then place in trash. FOG causes sewer blockages leading to spills and overflows harmful to public health.

Home Composting

Composting is nature's way of recycling and is one of the best things you can do to reduce waste and protect the climate. Turn food and yard waste into soil for gardens or houseplants. Visit our website for more information or to find out about upcoming workshops.

1. In Your Backyard

For \$50, buy a rodent-resistant compost bin from DPW during business hours or when the Recycling Center is open. Roughly 30 inches square, the bin holds over 11 cubic feet. You can produce compost in 6-12 months!



Add **3 parts "browns"** (i.e. leaves, shredded cardboard) to **1 part "greens"** (i.e. food scraps, grass). Always bury greens or cover up with browns. No meat, bones, fat, dairy, oily or cooked foods. Rinse out eggshells.

2. Indoors with Worms

Perfect for apartment dwellers, composting indoors is easy with red worms. Use a plastic tub and drill small holes in the lid and halfway down the sides to keep aerated. Fill with damp newspaper strips as bedding. Bury food scraps. Manage excess moisture. The worms will eat the food and make vermicompost.



3. Drop Off Food Scraps

Residents may bring food scraps and food-soiled paper to the Recycling Center during open hours. Collect all food scraps including vegetable & fruit peelings, bread, and coffee grounds in a reusable container or bucket with a tight lid. Wrap meat and fish in newspaper to reduce odors. No yard waste, no liquids, no grease, no diapers and no pet/human waste.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

To Ensure Safety...

Never pour hazardous products down drains, catchbasins, or place in the trash. Household hazardous waste must be brought to a collection event. Report illegal dumping into catch basins or dirty-looking discharges from outfalls to DPW.

Never mix chemicals. Avoid spills. Sort and pack items separately. Do not place in trash bags. Keep in original labeled containers, with caps tightened. Keep children and pets away from toxic items. Never smoke while handling items.

Collection Days

2011 collections: April 9, June 4 and October 1. All are held on a Saturday from 9:00am-1:00pm. Proof of residency required. No commercial or lab items.

NEW LOCATION: Parking lot on Field St at Fern St by Danehy Park. Call DPW or check website to confirm location in June and October.

YES

- ✓ Batteries: Vehicle & Non-alkaline*
- ✓ Chemicals
- ✓ Car Tires (4 per car)
- ✓ Fuels, Motor Oil* & Antifreeze
- ✓ Fluorescent Bulbs* (accepted at hardware stores)
- ✓ Prescription Medicine (bring in sealed plastic bag)
- ✓ Mercury Items* (thermometers & thermostats)
- ✓ Paints (oil & latex)
- ✓ Propane Tanks (20 lbs or less)

NO

- ✗ Alkaline Batteries
- ✗ Ammunition, Fireworks, etc. (call 617.349.3300)
- ✗ Asbestos (call a private hauler)
- ✗ Bleach or Ammonia
- ✗ Construction Debris
- ✗ Compressed Gas Cylinders
- ✗ Computers / TVs (curbside pickup only)
- ✗ Empty Aerosol Cans (recycle curbside)
- ✗ Fire Extinguishers
- ✗ Infectious, Biological or Radioactive Waste
- ✗ Smoke Detectors (OK in trash)
- ✗ Syringes (call 617.665.3848)

*Non-alkaline batteries, motor oil, fluorescent bulbs and mercury items are accepted at the Recycling Center during open hours.

Paint

Dried out latex paint is accepted for trash pickup, lids off. Let evaporate outside or add kitty litter to speed drying.



Syringes & Needles

Collect used needles and syringes in detergent bottles, coffee cans, or other puncture-proof containers, sealed with tape. Residents can deposit used needles and syringes at the Health Center at 119 Windsor Street, in the kiosk on the ground floor. No loose needles, no medications and no other medical supplies. Residents may request sharps containers at the Health Center.

Batteries

Non-alkaline batteries such as button cell, lithium, or rechargeable should be recycled. Bring to the Recycling Center during open hours or hazardous waste collections. Alkaline batteries made in the USA after 1994 do not contain mercury and can be disposed of in the trash.



Mercury

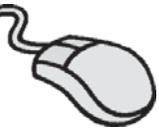
Glass thermometers, thermostats and fluorescent bulbs contain mercury. Bring these items to the Recycling Center during open hours, or hazardous waste collections. Fluorescent bulbs are also accepted at local hardware stores for recycling. Though fluorescent bulbs contain mercury, their use is encouraged because they are highly energy efficient.



Can't Make the Next Collection?

- ✓ Ask a neighbor to bring your items for you.
- ✓ Bring items to Clean Harbors in Braintree, 781.380.7100. Small fee per pound. Saturday mornings, March-November. Call for details.
- ✓ Bring items to Minuteman Facility in Lexington, 781.862.0500. Fee based on quantity. 8 collection days per year. Call for details.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE



Check out our “Get Rid of It Right” list with details on how to recycle, donate or dispose of just about anything. You can also sign up for our monthly email newsletter.

www.cambridgema.gov/recycle

PRESORTED STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
CAMBRIDGE, MA
PERMIT 58646

147 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
617.349.4800
Info Line: 617.349.4005
www.cambridgema.gov/recycle



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