HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENTS

Household hazardous waste events are held four times per year. Generally, items labeled as HAZARDOUS, POISON, DANGER, WARNING or CAUTION must be disposed of at one of DPW’s hazardous waste events. Proof of residency is required. Protect our waterways and the environment by getting rid of it right!

IMPORTANT

• Never pour hazardous products down drains or catch basins, or put in the trash.
• Never mix chemicals.
• Sort and pack items separately.

Accepted items include:

- Latex* & oil-based paints
- Chemicals
- Medication
- Fluorescent bulbs
- Propane tanks
- Fire extinguishers
- Car batteries
- Tires (Up to 4)

Some hazardous items may be safely disposed of without attending an event. Visit CambridgeMA.Gov/Recycle for our “Get Rid Of It Right” tool or app.

Hazardous waste events are announced in early February. For more info, visit CambridgeMA.Gov/Recycle or call 617.349.4800.

* Dried-out latex paint cans can also be set out, with lid off, next to your household trash. Let paint evaporate outside, or add kitty litter to speed drying.
Compost? Recycle? Trash?
“Get Rid Of It Right” with our online tools
CambridgeMA.Gov/Recycle

Hey, Cambridge!
Get Rid Of It Right

Recycling  Composting  Trash  Furniture and Large Appliances  Yard Waste  Hazardous Waste
Did you know that more than 50% of what ends up in the trash could be recycled, composted, reused, or otherwise kept out of the trash?

LET’S WORK TOGETHER TO REDUCE WASTE IN CAMBRIDGE.

ABOUT COLLECTION SERVICES

The Cambridge Department of Public Works (DPW) provides curbside collection services to most Cambridge residents for:

- Recycling, Yard Waste, and Trash
- Composting (as of 2018, available to all buildings with up to 12 units)
- Furniture & Large Appliances (available to all buildings with trash service)

Collections occur once a week. Visit CambridgeMA.Gov/Recycle to check your collection schedule or sign up for reminders.

- Place recycling, trash, compost and yard waste at the curb after 6pm the night before or by 7am on collection day.
- Following a holiday, collection is delayed one day.
- After collection, remove carts and barrels from sidewalk by 6pm.
- During winter, clear snow to curb.

NOT on the DPW collection routes?

All Cambridge residents can use the Recycling Center, attend hazardous waste events (see Recycling Center page), and drop off compost (see Compost page).

MISSED COLLECTION?

Report missed pickups at CambridgeMA.Gov/311 by 9am the day after collection, or call us at 617.349.4800. Leave it at the curb and pickup will be done by the end of the next collection day.

NEED SUPPLIES?

The City provides some materials for waste collection, including recycling carts, composting bins and instructions, and yard waste stickers. To order supplies, visit CambridgeMA.Gov/RecycleSupplies

“Get Rid Of It Right”

Use our online tool and app to:

- Get schedule and reminders
- Search for how to dispose of everyday items
- Play the waste sorting game

Visit CambridgeMA.Gov/Recycle or search for “Zero Waste Cambridge” in your favorite app store.
Curbside recycling is mandatory in Cambridge. Together, we have diverted thousands of tons of materials from the trash.

Recycling is easy!

- Rinse containers. No food or liquids.
- Flatten or nest boxes when possible.
- Do not bag recyclables in a plastic bag.

What can you recycle?

**METAL CANS & FOIL**

- Metal cans
- Foil

**GLASS BOTTLES & JARS**

- Glass bottles
- Jars

**PLASTIC CONTAINERS**

- Plastic containers

**PAPER & CARDBOARD**

- Paper
- Cardboard

**Clothing / Textiles**

- Clothing, linens, shoes and accessories in all conditions can be donated. For info, use online search tool or app.

Plastic bags?

- Bring plastic bags and plastic film to the grocery store or Recycling Center.

Important!

Some items DO NOT go in the recycling cart:

- Plastic Bags / Film, Wrappers (See below)
- Hoses & Cables
- Clothes Hangers
- Clothing / Textiles (See below)
- Electronics
- Pots/Pans, Scrap Metal
- Paper Towels (See Composting Section)
- Takeout Containers

Plastic bags?

- Bring plastic bags and plastic film to the grocery store or Recycling Center.

Clothing / Textiles?

- Clothing, linens, shoes and accessories in all conditions can be donated. For info, use online search tool or app.

Search for how to dispose of everyday items!

Visit CambridgeMA.Gov/Recycle to use our online search tool, or download the “Zero Waste Cambridge” app. You can also call us at 617.349.4800
In 2018, curbside compost collection expanded to all 1 to 12-unit buildings. Approximately 40% of Cambridge’s trash is food scraps and compostables. With your help, we can reduce the trash going to landfills and reduce our impact on climate change.

**Composting is easy!**

- Line kitchen bin with a compost bag (paper bags are also OK to use).
- Every few days, tie the bag and drop it in your curbside cart.
- Lock cart to keep critters out.
- Keep bins clean:
  - Drain liquids from scraps. Use food-soiled paper towels and napkins to soak up any liquids on bottom of bin.
  - Keep food scraps in a compost bag or other container in refrigerator or freezer until just before collection.
  - Rinse bins as needed.

**Do NOT Compost:**
- Pet Waste or Diapers
- Yard Waste
- Liquids
- Plastic Bags

**Don’t have curbside compost collection?**

Bring your food scraps and compostable paper to any of these locations:

**Recycling Center**
147 Hampshire St.
(Tue./Thurs., 4pm–7:30pm & Sat., 9am–4pm)

**Cambridge Community Center**
5 Callender St.
(compost bins on Howard St.)

**Danehy Park**
New Street parking lot

For more information about composting and how our food scraps are turned into clean energy and fertilizer, visit CambridgeMA.Gov/Compost
**TRASH**

- Trash barrels are provided by the property owner.
- Barrels must have a tight lid.
- Trash bags not in a barrel may only be placed at the curb on the morning of collection, and must be heavy-duty (at least 3 mils thick). No thin kitchen bags.
- Bags and barrels cannot exceed 50 gallons or 50 pounds.

**FURNITURE**

Each building is allowed to set-out one piece of furniture per week, free of charge.

⭐️ Consider donating items in good condition or posting online (NextDoor, Freecycle, or Craigslist).

**LARGE APPLIANCES OR ELECTRONICS**

Most appliances and large electronics require a permit for disposal.

🌟 Visit CambridgeMA.Gov/Recycle for a complete list of items that can be set out, and permit info.

**YARD WASTE**

- Place yard waste in paper leaf bags or loose in barrels with City-issued stickers facing the street (order stickers online). Limbs and twigs cannot be longer than 3 feet.

- Leaves, Grass and Plants
- Twigs (up to 1" in diameter)
- Thick Limbs (more than 1" diameter) (3 tied bundles per week)
- No Plastic Bags or Dirt/Soil
- Barrels or Bags cannot exceed 32 gallons or 50 pounds.

- Yard waste collection begins April 1 and ends the second full week in December.
- Holiday trees are collected for recycling the first two weeks in January. Remove decorations. Do not bag!

**Want more info?**

Email us at Recycle@CambridgeMA.Gov to sign-up for our monthly newsletter on waste services.

Visit CambridgeMA.Gov/Subscribe to sign-up for waste collection or street cleaning reminders (emails, texts, or calendar reminders) or push notifications when you download the Zero Waste Cambridge app.