



BEDFORD

Refuse and Recycling Directory



BEDFORD

Refuse and Recycling Directory for Bedford Residents



TOWN OF BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Department of Public Works
314 Great Road MA 01730

Dear Friends,

The Town of Bedford is pleased to announce a new program for collecting refuse and increasing our recycling efforts. A new automated refuse collection program will begin on October 5, 2011.

This guide will provide you with information about the new program and details on all facets of allowable refuse disposal and recycling options. We believe the chosen program is the most cost-effective and environmentally responsible program available.

Thank you for all you do to make Bedford a great town!

Sincerely,

Richard Warrington

Director of Public Works

www.bedfordma.gov/public-works



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REFUSE



Refuse Program Basics

- Use the new cart for all refuse. Please have refuse in bags inside the cart to keep the cart clean and prevent litter.
- All refuse must fit into the cart with the lid completely closed. Do not put anything on top of the cart because of the way the automated truck arm operates.
- Lids must always be completely closed to avoid spillage when the automated collection arm lifts the cart and to avoid problems with insects and pests.
- Refuse will be collected on Wednesdays, as before, except on holiday weeks when it is collected on Thursdays.
- Leave your refuse at the curb by 7am on collection day.
- Recycling is collected weekly on the same day as refuse.
- Please leave recyclables separated clearly from the refuse.
- Recyclables can go into your existing recycling bins or you can convert your old refuse barrel to use for bottles and cans if you use a sticker to mark the barrel. See Page 7 for more details on recycling.
- For bulky waste, appliances or electronics, call 800-442-9006 to schedule a pickup. See Page 6 for more details.
- To find out if your collection schedule is impacted by a holiday, please visit www.bedfordma.gov/public-works or call 781-275-7605.
- If inclement weather will delay collection, residents will receive an automated phone message from the town.



Placement of New Refuse Carts

The new 48-gallon carts will be collected by a truck with an automated arm. To ensure that the collectors can access your refuse cart, please place it in front of your residence facing the street as shown:



In your driveway placed away from mailboxes, telephone poles, trees, fences or other obstacles.* The cart should face the street.



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

REFUSE



Items Needing a Phone Call 1-800-442-9006

- The Town will pick up one bulky item per household per week (furniture, mattresses, a single tire without rim, other large items). Call by 5pm on Tuesday for next day pick-up.
- For electronics (computers, TVs) or appliances (refrigerators, air conditioners, washer/dryers, microwaves, stoves or dehumidifiers), call to schedule a pickup on the next available collection date.



Unacceptable Refuse Items

- Bricks, stone, shingles
- Construction or demolition debris
- Recyclables
- Hazardous waste
- Medical waste, sharps, medicines
- Yard waste or brush

What about extra refuse?

Anytime you have more refuse than fits into the wheeled cart, you can purchase official overflow bags. They will be for sale at local stores including Moison Ace Hardware, Whole Foods and Stop and Shop.

Other ways to reduce your waste are listed on Page 13.



Can I get an extra refuse cart?

Yes, but there is a cost. Extra carts cost the Town for the time to pick up and for the added weight of material disposed, in addition to the cost to purchase the cart. Overflow bags are available for occasional extra refuse. If, after every attempt is made to recycle, you routinely cannot fit all your refuse into the Town-provided cart, you can request an extra cart by going to the Department of Public Works building, 314 The Great Road. Residents will be charged for the extra carts and will be billed annually to cover the additional cost to the Town.

RECYCLING



Use a bin or convert an old barrel into a recycling container

Recycle more and save space! The town will offer a “BOTTLES AND CANS” sticker, which you can use on an old barrel. Please do not use a barrel for paper because it gets too heavy to lift when filled with paper.

No Limit!

There is no limit to how much recycling you can put out for free collection.



There are Lots of Options to Recycle More!

Continue Using Your Bins

You can continue to use your small recycling bin or bins. These bins are available for sale at the Bedford Department of Public Works.



Acceptable Materials for Recycling – CONTAINERS

Plastic, glass and metal cans can be recycled together in a bin or a barrel. Bottles and cans only need to be rinsed. Leaving on labels and rings is OK.



all plastic containers



aluminum and tin cans



glass jars and bottles



NEW ITEM

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

Acceptable Materials for Recycling – PAPER

Recycling is easier now than ever. All paper can be recycled together. Paper is OK even with staples, paper clips, envelopes with windows, and spiral bindings.



flattened food boxes



junk mail, colored paper



newspapers with inserts, magazines, catalogs



NEW ITEM

milk and juice cartons



flattened cardboard boxes

paper back books



NEW ITEM

spiral cans (potato chips, snack cans, etc)

LEAF & YARD WASTE



Fall Leaf Collection

In accordance with state regulations, leaves and yard waste are banned from disposal as refuse. For four weeks in the fall, leaves are collected at the curb and turned into useable compost and used on town projects. Place leaves in brown kraft paper leaf bags at the curb on Monday of each of the four leaf collection weeks. For collection dates, visit www.bedfordma.gov/public-works or call 781-275-7605.

Place leaf and yard waste in large paper leaf bags; Do NOT use plastic bags or open barrels!



Brush

For brush burning, contact the Fire Department at 781-275-7262 for permitting and regulations.

Drop-off Options

The old Town landfill on Carlisle Road is open 15 Saturdays per year for residents to drop off leaves and other yard waste such as brush and grass clippings.

Christmas Trees

Christmas Trees should be set at the curb on your refuse day during the first two weeks in January

Home Composting

Composting is a great way to reduce waste and produce a natural soil supplement. Composting can include yard waste as well as kitchen food scraps.



Backyard Compost Bins for Sale

You can compost in your own backyard using a compost bin. Bins will be available to Bedford residents at subsidized prices to encourage backyard composting. The Town will be offering one of the two composters shown below. Call 781-275-7605 or visit bedfordma.gov/public-works for details on how to sign up for one.



“Earth Machine”

“New Age Composter”

HAZARDOUS WASTE



Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Days

Never place hazardous waste with your regular refuse. Instead, residents should contact the Bedford Health Department at 781-275-6507 or go to the office at the Town Center, 12 Mudge Way for registration information, dates, and location of the Minuteman Hazardous Household Products Collection Center in Lexington. It is open 8 weekend days per year. Please note that advanced registration is required.

Household Hazardous Waste includes:

- Stains and oil-based paints (not latex paint)
- Motor oil, antifreeze, brake fluids
- Paint stripper, turpentine, paint thinner, mineral spirits
- Pesticides, herbicides, rodenticides, “Weed and Feed” products (not fertilizer alone)
- Pool chemicals
- Cleaning chemicals labeled caustic, flammable, or toxic (not soaps or waxes)

Dry Out Latex Paint

Dry out latex paint by adding a cup of kitty litter or a commercially available latex paint hardener then put into the refuse.



Mercury

Never put mercury-containing items in the regular refuse.

Mercury Containing Items include:

- Old style thermometers with silver liquid.
- Older thermostats with a cylinder inside containing silver liquid.
- All fluorescent and compact fluorescent lightbulbs.
- Button batteries for cameras, watches, hearing aids, etc. also contain mercury
- All of the above mercury items may be brought to the Department of Public Works, Monday through Friday, 8am-4pm.



Other Difficult to Manage Materials

For other difficult-to-manage materials, please look for information about future specialized collection days to be sponsored by the Town.

REUSE & MORE



Donate

To donate items, contact a charity such as one of the following organizations. Clothing donations are accepted by:

- Big Brother, Big Sister, 800-483-5503 or BBBSFoundation.org
- Epilepsy Foundation, 888-322-8209 or schedule a pickup at DonateNewEngland.org
- Vietnam Veteran's of America, 800-775-8387 or ScheduleaPickup.com

Clothing, furniture and household items are accepted by

- Lowell Wish Project, 978-441-WISH (9474) or TheWishProject.org
- Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA), 978-687-7453 or mspca.org

Give Away or Sell Other Items

- Craig's List, Craigslist.com
- Freecycle, Nearby towns have local internet-based exchanges. Find them at Freecycle.org
- Vietnam Veteran's of America, 800-775-8387 or ScheduleaPickup.com

Other Options for Clean-outs, Construction and Demolition Waste: Frequently Asked Questions

To dispose of larger quantities of waste from clean-outs, construction or demolition projects, residents can contact a private refuse disposal service, rent a dumpster, or use a "Bagster" (available at area retailers). Pieces of wood that are cut into lengths of 3' or less and tied into a bundle for easy handling can be disposed of as a bulky waste item.

Return Plastic Bags to Grocery Stores

Plastic bags cause endless problems in the recycling facilities. They can be safely recycled at Stop & Shop, Whole Foods and other grocery stores. Check with local stores for details and locations of collection bins.

Reuse or Recycle Cell Phones

Cell phones can be recycled at many locations including retailers that sell them and at the Bedford Police Department.

Recycle Rechargeable and Household Batteries

Rechargeable batteries (Nickel-cadmium, Nickel-metal hydride, lithium, lead-acid, small sealed lead-acid batteries) are hazardous in various ways and can be taken to a household hazardous waste collection or to a local Radio Shack (331 Great Road), Home Depot or other retailer that is a member of the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (visit www.RBRC.org for details).

Household alkaline batteries (D-cell, C-cell, A, AA, AAA-cells) are now free of mercury and can be safely disposed of in the regular refuse.



How does my recycling get recycled?

Bedford's recycling is collected and taken to the recycling facility in Hooksett, NH owned by the town's contracted hauler. The facility sorts the recyclables using a variety of technologies including magnets, blowers, electric eddy currents, optical sorting and manual sorting. The separated products are baled and shipped to multiple markets in the US and other countries. The recycling companies are always seeking to expand their markets for materials so new materials are often added to the list of acceptable items.

Other Questions

To ask other questions or obtain the most current collection schedule, please visit www.bedfordma.gov/public-works or call 781-275-7605.