



BEDFORD

FY2026 Annual Trash and Recycling Guide

BEDFORD



Department of Public Works
314 Great Road, Bedford MA 01730

Dear Resident,

Public Works recently solicited resident feedback using an online survey in an effort to better understand how the public learns about Trash & Recycling programs and initiatives. The clear favorite was this guide. The 2026 version has been updated to be even more user-friendly and to include FAQs (or Frequently Asked Questions) in key areas, such as on the Curbside Recycling page, in response to comments on the survey.

If you participated in the survey, thank you for your thoughtful feedback. DPW strives to ensure that we are meeting the diverse needs of Bedford's residents and your insight is truly appreciated as part of that process. Please don't hesitate to share your thoughts or questions with us via email at trashrecycling@bedfordma.gov.

If you haven't already done so, please be sure to check out the **Waste Wizard tool**, located on the Trash & Recycling subpage on the Town website. This powerful tool can send collection reminders and service alerts, help you find disposal advice and schedule bulky items all in one place.

Liz Antanavica
Trash & Recycling Administrator

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View this information
online by scanning
the QR code.



CURBSIDE

Curbside Collection

Collection Schedule –Curbside trash and recycling is collected on **Mondays**, see calendar on back for holiday schedule.

Use only town-issued carts or official overflow trash bags. Materials in unapproved containers or left on the ground will not be collected.

Missed Collection—Report missed collection online using the Waste Wizard tool (click “Need Help” tab at the top) at www.bedfordma.gov/recycling.

Cart Set Out Instructions

Place carts curbside on Sunday evening or not later than 6AM Monday. Cart handle and wheels should face the house.



Carts must be placed 2-3 feet away from objects, including mailboxes, utility poles and other carts.

Cart lid must be closed. Use an Official Town of Bedford overflow bag for occasional excess trash material. See page 6 for more details. Additional trash cart service is also available for an annual fee.



Cart Damage happens. Don't worry! Cart damage that occurs as a result of normal use will be replaced by the DPW at no charge. Contact the DPW to request a repair or replacement.

If you believe your cart to be lost or stolen, please obtain a police report prior to contacting the DPW for a replacement to avoid the \$75 replacement fee.



What if I can't fit all my trash in the cart?

If you occasionally have more trash than can fit into the cart with the lid closed, **use an official overflow**

trash bag. *Overflow bags are not intended for home cleanouts or to replace the need for an additional cart.*



The cost of overflow bags is \$12/roll. Bags are sold at ACE, Whole Foods and Stop & Shop. The price paid reflects additional fees paid by the Town for disposal of excess material.

An example of when to use an overflow bag.



Can I request an extra/bigger carts?

Yes. Additional Cart Services are available.

- Additional 48-gal trash carts are \$185 annually.
- **NEW:** Beginning Fall 2025, residents may swap the standard 64-gallon recycle cart for a 96-gallon cart for \$30 annually. *35-gallon recycle carts are also available at no cost, on a case-by-case basis, for those whom the standard cart presents a hardship.*
- **Requests will include a one-time \$75 administrative fee. Visit Town website for more information.**

CURBSIDE SERVICE

Appointment-Based Services

Bedford offers appointment-based curbside collection of bulky furniture items and mattresses, as well as appliances, electronics and other items.

Bulky Furniture Route (Mondays)

\$20 PER PIECE. Bulky items are regular household items that are too large to fit into the trash cart or an overflow bag. Items for this route should be kept whole. For items that must be disassembled, such as a bedframe, loose parts must be securely bundled.

Schedule online at www.bedfordma.gov/recycling

Residents may schedule **one bulky item per week** for disposal. *Please note: This is a disposal stream. Items will not be reused. Consider donating items that are still in good shape. See page 13.*



Mattress Collection

Schedule mattress and box spring collection at www.utecinc.org/mattress-recycling

\$20 PER PIECE. Mattresses and box springs are collected twice per month, by appointment. UTECH will not enter private property to collect items.

Service available for addresses serviced by the municipal route only. Residents in complexes with private trash service should contact their property manager for disposal options.

All size mattresses accepted. **NO** futons or fold out sofa bed cushions. **NO** air mattresses, water beds or infant sleeping pads. *Limit 10 units per household per year.*

SERVICES

White Goods Route (Wednesdays)

PRICE VARIES. This route includes recyclable items such as appliances, electronics and tires. *Many of the items collected with this route may be dropped off at the Bedford Recycling Center at no cost. See page 8 for more details.*

Schedule online at www.bedfordma.gov/recycling

Item Type	Fee
Metal Items (up to 48", 50LBS)	\$41.75
Small Engine Items (drain oil & gas)	\$41.75
Tires (each, no rim)	\$41.60
Appliances (with freon, each)	\$52.00
Appliances (without freon, each)	\$46.80
CRTs/TVs - Small (smaller than 24")	\$41.75
CRTs/TVs - Medium (25"-49")	\$62.40
CRTs/TVs - Large (50+")	\$173.94
Small Electronics (each)	\$20.87

Unacceptable Trash Items

Disposal of any building, renovation or construction material is the responsibility of the property owner.

This includes toilets, sinks, bathtubs, wood waste/pallets, doors, brick, concrete etc. Residents should contact a private disposal service or utilize a dumpster bag (such as Bagster).



Where does my trash go?

The Town of Bedford is contracted with ReWorld (formerly Covanta) for disposal of our "MSW" or Municipal Solid Waste. The disposal facility, located in Haverhill, MA, is a waste-to-energy combustion facility that generates electricity from the incineration of the trash material.

Yard Waste

Yard Waste is collected on select dates throughout the year. See calendar page on back cover for more details.

RECYCLING



Can I recycle ____ in the blue cart?

If you don't see your item listed to the left, it's likely NOT accepted for curbside recycling. Still not sure if your item is recyclable? Use the online **Waste Wizard tool at www.bedfordma.gov/recycling** to search our database of over 700 common household items.

NO!



No Plastic Bags
Do Not Bag Recyclables



No Hazardous Items
no propane tanks, batteries, sharps,
or chemicals



No Clothing or Linens
use donation programs



No Tanglers
no hoses, wires,
chains or electronics



No Food or Liquid
empty all containers



Why can't I find which numbers are accepted?

Curbside recycling has changed in the last 30 years and the numbers don't mean much anymore. The "recycling triangle" only indicates the *type* of resin a container is made of and not *whether that container is accepted for curbside recycling*. **Bedford's program accepts plastic bottles, jars, jugs and tubs.** Residents should focus on the shape of a plastic container and not the number.

DROP-OFF SITE

Bedford Recycling Center (BRC)

Location: 108 Carlisle Road

Hours: Wed & Sat, year-round (8AM-1PM)

- Resident stickers are required and can be obtained at no cost at the DPW Building, 314 Great Road, with vehicle registration showing your Bedford address.
- **Open to Bedford Residents ONLY. No contractors.**

The BRC has expanded services over the past few years to meet the diverse needs of Bedford's residents.

What You Can Drop Off at the BRC

The site accepts the following materials:

Yard Waste & Brush: Yard trimmings, leaves & grass clippings; brush logs and natural Christmas trees.

Cardboard: Flatten all boxes and remove packing materials such as paper stuffing and bubble wrap.

Glass Bottles & Jars: *No ceramics, Pyrex, decorative glass/vases or non-glass items such as metal lids and plastic caps.*

Food Waste: All food material such as veggie peels, plate waste, meat, bones, shells, coffee grounds/tea bags, etc.

Clothing & Textiles: Clothing, shoes and other fabric-based materials including stuffed animals, pillows, cushions and bags/backpacks.

Bulky Rigid Plastics: Oversized/large plastic items such as storage containers, bins, and furniture items made of plastic. *NO hoses, tarps, inflatables, PVC or mixed material items.*

Scrap Metal: Items that are primarily metal such as bicycles, bed frames, grills (no tanks), treadmills, microwaves and small engine items (oil and gas must be drained). *Small metal items, such as nails, MUST be contained in a metal container.*

Styrofoam: Solid, white packaging bracing (EPS #6) only.

Batteries, Bulbs & Mercury-containing items: The Universal Waste Shed keeps toxics out of the environment, specifically mercury and PCBs. Items such as fluorescent bulbs, rechargeable batteries are accepted.

RVICES



What NOT to Drop Off

While the BRC accepts a wide range of materials, there are still some things you should *not* bring to the facility.

Mixed Material Items: If you cannot separate the materials, DPW cannot accept item. Please break items down, for example, remove metal table legs from a plastic folding table top.

Household Trash: The BRC does not accept trash.

Hazardous Waste: Paint, solvents, motor oil, pesticides and other hazardous materials need to be disposed of as Household Hazardous Waste. See page 14 for details.

Lumber, Wood Waste or Pallets: The BRC does not accept scrap wood or pallets. Contact a private junk company to properly dispose of this material.



Where does all this stuff go?

The answer depends on which material stream you are talking about. DPW works with each of our vendors to find the highest and best use for each material stream. The cleaner (and less contaminated) we keep the separated materials, the better the end user!

SPECIAL EVENTS

DPW accepts electronics, propane tanks and fire extinguishers, by appointment, at monthly special events. On-site Paper Shredding is offered quarterly. Latex Paint recycling is offered each Fall. Sign up at www.bedfordma.gov/809-Special-Collection-Events

FOOD WASTE

Resolve to Reduce Your Food Waste

This year, consider making food waste reduction a priority. Banana peels, egg shells, coffee grounds and toilet paper tubes—all compostable at home or with a curbside service.

It's achievable! Everyone can start to reduce some amount of compostable material from ending up in the trash.

It's measurable! You'll start to see the impact right away in terms of how many kitchen trash bags you put in your black trash cart.

It's good for the planet! No matter how you choose to compost, the end result of that decomposition is nutrient rich earth that can be applied to a lawn or garden.

Did you know? Food waste accounts for nearly 40% of typical household trash. Reduce waste by composting.

Three ways to start composting:

1. CURBSIDE SERVICE

Sign up for subscription curbside service and receive a free starter kit that includes a green wheeled cart for your use while subscribed and a roll of compostable liners. **Sign up at www.blackearthcompost.com** *Wheeled carts are the property of Town of Bedford.*



2. BACKYARD COMPOSTERS

Available at the DPW Building, \$45 each.

3. DROP-OFF FOOD WASTE PROGRAM at the BRC

This free program is for those without backyard access or space for composting or for those who would simply prefer to drop off. *Pre-register at www.bedfordma.gov/recycling*

E & MORE

Clothing & Textile Recycling

Residents can schedule curbside pick up of unwanted textiles, in any condition—ripped, worn/torn is fine—as long as the items are clean and dry.



Schedule pick up at www.cmrkne.com or call (508)466-4590.

- Clothing, all sizes and seasons
- Bedding, curtains, blankets, towels
- Shoes, bags/backpacks, jewelry and accessories
- Stuffed animals and small toys (must fit into a box)

CMRK will also accept books, household items and bikes. **NO** mattresses, furniture of any kind, lamps or suitcases.

Textile donations bins are also located at the Bedford Recycling Center (BRC), 108 Carlisle Road.

Donate Furniture & Baby Gear

Organizations accepting gently used items that will be re-used. Contact organizations for donation guidelines.

- **Lowell Wish Project**—166 Middlesex St, N. Chelmsford, MA (866)947-4360.
- **Household Goods, Inc**—530 Main St, Acton, MA (978)635-1710, curbside pick up available for a fee.
- **Savers**—235 Main St, Wilmington, MA (978)658-4930.

Donate Building Materials

Organizations accepting reusable building materials, including project leftovers, and some appliances.

- **Habitat for Humanity ReStore**— 100 Chelmsford Rd, N. Billerica, MA (978)215-9975, curbside pick up available.
- **Boston Building Resources**— 100 Terrace St, Boston, MA (617)442-2262.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Hazardous Waste Collection Events

Never place hazardous waste in your regular trash or recycling. Instead, residents should register for an upcoming collection event at

www.bedfordma.gov/208/Household-Hazardous-Waste



Events are held one day per month, April-November. **Pre-registration required.**

Hazardous Waste includes:

- Stains and oil-based paints (not latex paint)
- Motor oil, anti-freeze, brake fluids
- Paint stripper, turpentine, paint thinner, mineral spirits
- Pesticides, herbicides, rodenticides
- Pool chemicals
- Cleaning chemicals labeled caustic, flammable or toxic.

Dry out Latex Paint by adding a cup of kitty litter or commercially available latex paint hardener. Once dry, latex paint can be disposed of in the regular trash.

ELEMENTAL LIQUID MERCURY SAFE DISPOSAL

FREE* PICKUP:

Call Complete Recycling Solutions

1-866-277-9797 x705

**For elemental liquid mercury only, and location depending.*



COMMONLY FOUND IN:

- GARAGES
- STORAGE AREAS
- ATTICS/BASEMENTS

WARNING:

IF YOU HAVE ELEMENTAL LIQUID MERCURY - DO NOT TRANSPORT IT OR THROW IT IN THE TRASH!

Mercury must be kept in glass or plastic jars as it will corrode a metal container.

If spilled, mercury can vaporize and be inhaled into your respiratory system.

Sponsored by

COVANTA
Powering Today. Protecting Tomorrow.

Report missed collection at www.bedfordma.gov/recycling

July 2025

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September

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28	29	30				

October

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26	27	28	29	30	31	

November

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December

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	1	2	3	4	5	6
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2026

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April



S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



May

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

-  Holiday Trash Schedule
-  Curbside Yard Waste

-  Christmas Tree Collection
-  Bedford Recycling Center Open 8-1
(see [website](http://www.bedfordma.gov/recycling) for holiday hours)

Cut here. Hang on your fridge.





Town of Bedford
Dept. of Public Works
314 Great Road
Bedford, MA 01730

Presrt Standard
US Postage
Paid
Burlington, MA
Permit #42

**NO PLASTIC BAGS
IN THE RECYCLING CART**



**Residential Customer for Bedford
Bedford, MA 01730**



**Recycle
Smart**

Collecting recyclables in a bag?
Empty the contents into the cart.
Return plastic bags to retailers.