

Tip 1

Where can I get more information on recycling?

Try these resources:

- Recycle Smart MA has several resources, including the “Recyclopedia”, a search engine that lets you look up 400 different items. www.recyclesmartma.org
- The National Resource Defense Council has a good page on “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle” here: www.nrdc.org/stories/reduce-reuse-recycle-most-all-reduce
- MassToss.com lists local resources: www.masstoss.com
- Businesses that want to increase recycling can check out: www.RecyclingWorksMa.com
- Look up items in the Beyond the Bin Recycling Directory: www.recyclesearch.com/profile/ma

This recycling tip is brought to you by the Transfer Station Committee.



Tip 2

What are the Massachusetts Waste Bans?

In 1990, the MA Department of Environmental Protection began to ban some items from disposal that could either be easily recycled (glass, metal, paper) or that need special handling. The Waste Bans reduce the volume of municipal waste, as well as recover valuable resources, save energy, and reduce greenhouse emissions.

The following items are banned from disposal in MA:

- Glass, metal, and plastic containers
- Paper, paperboard, and cardboard
- Leaves, grass, yard waste (excluding diseased plants), and brush (less than 1 inch in diameter)
- Large appliances (e.g., refrigerators, stoves, dryers)
- Tires
- Cathode ray tubes
- Vehicle and lead acid batteries
- Construction materials (e.g., asphalt, brick, concrete, metal, wood, clean gypsum wallboard)

For more information see:

www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/solid/massachusetts-waste-disposal-bans.html

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Tip 3

How do I get rid of hazardous household items?

Harvard residents can take hazardous items to the Devens Regional Household Hazardous Products Collection Center. Devens HHW is open the first Wednesday and following Saturday of the month from March through December. Located at 9 Cook St. (Rear) on Devens. Fees apply and proof of residency is required. Info at www.devenshhw.com. Please contact HHW for the acceptability of any items not listed.

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Tip 4

How do I recycle plastic bags and film?

Many different types of plastic bags and packaging are melted down and turned into other products (including Trex decking). The website www.plasticfilmrecycling.org has lots of useful information on what plastic can and can't be recycled, and provides a search engine to find your closest drop off. Many stores that distribute bags also have collection containers (e.g. supermarkets and big box stores). "Recycle Your Reusables" (Ayer, each October) also takes plastic bags and films.

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Tip 5

How do I recycle fluorescent bulbs?

Long and compact fluorescent bulbs can be dropped off at the Transfer Station during normal hours. The Transfer Station attendants are trained to pack up fluorescent bulbs and ship them out. Place CFLs in the white 5 gallon buckets outside the shack and long fluorescent tubes in the plastic water drum.

Be careful not to break the bulbs. If a bulb does break, see www.keepmercuryfromrising.org for cleanup tips.

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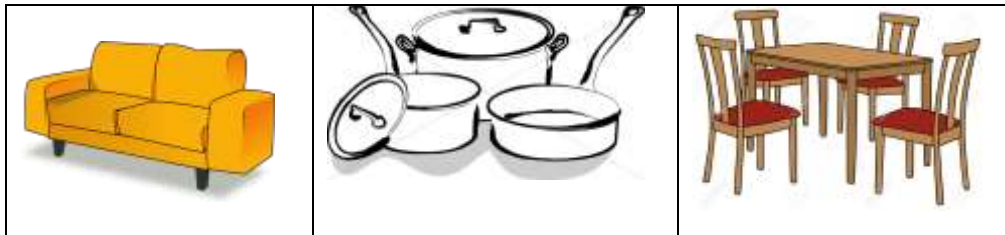
Tip 6

Where can I donate household goods?

Note that all items must work and should be good condition. Organizations below have final decision on whether they can accept an item. Some of these will pick up (eg ReStore). Some places to donate household items in the Harvard area:

- Acton: Household Goods. www.householdgoods.org
- Clinton: WHEAT Hidden Treasures. www.uwotc.org/HiddenTreasures
- Hudson: Fresh Start Furniture Bank. www.freshstartfurniturebank.org
- Leominster: Ginny's Helping Hand (clothes only). www.ginnyshelpinghand.org
- Leominster: Habitat for Humanity ReStore. <http://ncmhabitat.org/restore>

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Tip 7

How do I recycle textiles?

Almost all clean, dry textiles – including shoes, backpacks, stuffed animals, and old sheets – can be repurposed. Look for the two, white “Harvard Recycles” bins at the Transfer Station. In 2018 the textiles collected in the bins earned the Town \$0.025/pound. Textiles must not be wet, or moldy, and must be bagged. See the list here: <http://www.masstoss.com/docs/Textileflyer.pdf>.

Various groups also occasionally have textile collection drives.

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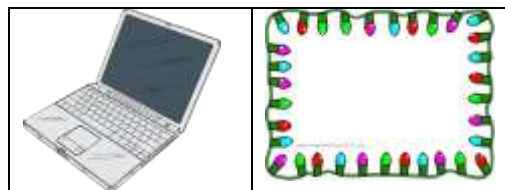


Tip 8

How do I recycle electronics?

- Some electronics can be taken to the Transfer Station (fees apply).
- Some electronics can be taken to Devens Household Hazardous Waste days (fees apply).
- All American Recycling in Fitchburg takes a wide variety of electronics, for residents and businesses (<https://all-american-recycling.com>), including laptops/computers, cables, and strings of lights. Some fees apply; discounts for schools and hospitals.
- Best Buy www.bestbuy.com. Click on Services, then Haul Away & Recycle (fees apply).
- Staples www.staples.com/sbd/cre/marketing/sustainability-center/recycling-services/electronics (fees apply).

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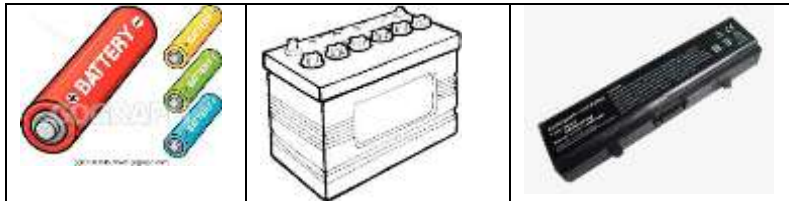
Tip 9

How do I recycle batteries?

Batteries can be dropped off at the Transfer Station during normal hours. The Harvard Transfer Station accepts all non-leaking batteries for free: alkaline, car, lithium-ion. Place smaller batteries in the white 5-gallon bucket next to the shack; attendants will take larger batteries. If you can, tape over both ends of the batteries so that the batteries don't 'touch' in the bucket and start a fire. The Transfer Station staff is trained to pack up batteries and ship them out.

Do not deliver leaking batteries to the Transfer Station. Check the Devens Regional Household Hazardous Waste Center for handling instructions: www.DevensHHW.org.

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Tip 10

How do we reduce the number of catalogs and junk mail we get in the mail?

Catalog Choice (www.catalogchoice.org) lets you specify which catalogs you want, and contacts the merchant on your behalf with an opt-out request to stop sending their catalog.

Their goal is to protect natural resources. The service is free.

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Tip 11

How do I dispose of mercury?

All items containing mercury can be dropped off at the Transfer Station during normal hours. Some common household items that contain mercury are thermometers, thermostats, blood-pressure cuffs, and fluorescent bulbs. All mercury must be in a sealed container (an unbroken fluorescent bulb is fine). Carefully place your item in the appropriate 5-gallon bucket or blue rain barrel outside of the shack.

If you break a mercury thermometer or fluorescent bulb in your home, see www.keepmercuryfromrising.org/spills for advice, contact information, and cleanup tips. The Transfer Station staff is trained to pack up items containing mercury and ship them out.

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Tip 12

How do I compost?

Let nature do the work by decomposing organic materials into humus. Place raw and cooked vegetable and fruit scraps, as well as food wastes such as coffee grounds, tea bags, and eggs shells in a compost pile or compost bin and it will break down into soil. You can also add leaves, grass clippings and weeds, but avoid invasive weeds and weeds that have gone to seed. Do not add meat, bones, fatty food wastes (such as cheese, grease, and oils).

You can buy a compost bin from the Ayer Recycling Committee for \$45. Email Laurie Sabol: LSabol@ayer.ma.us. They also have compost buckets for under the sink for \$6. Read about composting here: www.masstoss.org/compost.htm

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Tip 13

What paper can and can't be recycled at the Harvard Transfer Station?

Yes, recycle	No, do not recycle
Mixed/office paper, staples ok	Dirty, wet, or soiled paper
Cardboard (flattened)	Wrapping paper (especially with metallic threads)
Envelopes with plastic windows	Brightly colored paper
Greasy pizza boxes	Pizza boxes contaminated with food
Cereal/cookie/cracker, etc, boxes	Milk and juice cartons (aseptic and gable-topped cartons)
Magazines	Frozen food boxes

Do not put books in the paper compactor; put them in More Than Words book deposit bin near the clothes donation bins.

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Tip 14

What glass can and can't be recycled at the Harvard Transfer Station?

Yes, recycle	No, do not recycle
Clean clear or colored glass bottles and jars with lids removed	Plate glass
	Incandescent light bulbs
	Mirrors
	Baking dishes (e.g., Pyrex)
	Ceramics
	Bottles that contained hazardous substances

Plate glass, light bulbs, mirrors, and baking dishes can not be recycled with glass bottles and jars because they have different melting temperatures. Bottles that contained motor oil, pesticides, or other hazardous substances cannot be recycled due to the chemical residues in the bottles.

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Tip 15

What plastic and metal cans can and can't be recycled at the Harvard Transfer Station?

Yes, recycle	No, do not recycle
Plastic food, beverage, detergent and personal care containers #1 thru #7, under 2 gallons (clean)	Styrofoam ®
Aluminum cans, foil, pie plates (clean)	Flower pots
Steel (tin) food and beverage cans (clean)	Colored plastic cups (e.g. Solo)
Clear plastic take out lids (clean)	Black plastic (e.g., take out trays)
	Bottles that contained hazardous substances
	Plastic wrap, plastic bags
	Clothes hangers
	Spray and aerosol cans
	Bulky plastic (over 2 gallons)
	Paint cans
	Scrap metal

Scrap metal should not go in the compactor but on the scrap metal pile. Some Lowes Garden Centers will take rigid plastic flower pots and trays at no cost. Black plastic is banned as scanners can not read the recycling code. Take clean plastic wrap and bags to grocery stores or find a location here: www.plasticfilmrecycling.org.

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Tip 16

What do I do with an expired fire extinguisher?

The Harvard Fire Department will take your old fire extinguisher. Call them or leave it next to the side door with a note. You can also bring it to the Transfer Station (see the Transfer Station rates for the fee).

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Tip 17

How do I recycle Styrofoam® ?

There are fewer places taking Styrofoam®, but there is a vendor who comes to the Ayer Recycling Committee's "Recycle Your Reusables" event every October and other 'Zero Waste' events around Harvard. Use this map to find other collection sites:
www.recyclemoreplastic.org/view/psmap.

Vendors will take:

- Bulk Styrofoam®, pre-formed packing and coolers, white only. It must have the #6 symbol.

Some vendors will take:

- Styrofoam®: Insulation board (aka Owens Foamular (pink) or Dow Styrofoam (blue board)). Must have the #6 symbol.
- Spongy foam, white or clear only. Must have the #4 symbol.

All items must be absolutely clean and dry with all labels removed. Food containers or trays are not accepted.

Packing peanuts are sometimes accepted by stores that ship breakable items (e.g. antique stores).

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Tip 18

How do I recycle used motor oil and antifreeze?

The Harvard DPW will take both used motor oil and antifreeze (do not mix together). Drop off during normal Transfer Station hours. DPW can use the used oil to heat the garage and they can recycle antifreeze.

Motor oil or antifreeze that have been mixed with other items can be disposed of at the Devens Household Hazardous Waste: www.DevensHHW.com.

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Tip 19

Where can I learn how to repair a lamp/toaster/shirt/etc?

Many surrounding towns have Repair Cafes (repaircafe.org) and Fixit Clinics. Volunteers will work with you to show you how to repair a range of items, including sewing projects, small appliances, outdoor equipment, jewelry, and many others. The Bolton Repair Café is sponsored by the Nashoba Valley Rotary. The calendar on the lower-right of the Bolton Local webpage lists upcoming repair events in our area: www.boltonlocal.org/initiatives/repair-cafe.

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Tip 20

How do I dispose of expired or unused medicines?

Tablets: You can drop off unused or expired pills and tablets at:

- The Harvard Public Safety Building. The drop box is in the entryway and is available 24/7. Note: this location does *not* accept liquids, creams, or sharps.
- Many local CVS stores: <https://www.cvs.com/content/safer-communities-locate>
- Look for National Drug Take back days and take medicines there.

Sharps (must be empty):

- Find a sharps disposal site: safeneedledisposal.org
- Buy a 4-quart sharps container at Nashoba Associated Boards of Health (NABH), Ayer, for \$5. Return container to same location. For more information call NABH: 978-772-3335; read: www.nashoba.org/images/Sharps_rev_2019.pdf

Expired EpiPens:

- Devens Household Hazardous Products Waste (DevensHHW) can accept expired EpiPens in their original packaging from Harvard residents. More info at www.DevensHHW.com; and www.nashoba.org/news-events/65-epi-pen-disposal

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Tip 21

How do I recycle eye glasses?

Lions Club International collects used eye glasses. Drop eye glasses in the bin at the Harvard Post Office.

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Tip 22

How do I recycle cell phones?

Cell phones shouldn't be thrown away due to their reuse value and hazardous/recyclable components. Numerous charitable and for-profit organizations accept cell phone donations. Visit www.earth911.com, and use the Recycling Locator to find a local drop-off. Most stores that sell cellular phones and electronics will also accept them back for free (see list under "electronics")

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Tip 23

How do I dispose of construction & demolition debris?

Take construction and demolition debris to Devens Recycling: www.devensrecycling.com. There is a fee. They also rent dumpsters.

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore in Leominster will accept usable building materials, including lumber, doors, windows, tiles, hardware, etc. Donations must be approved by staff but are tax deductible.

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Tip 24

How do I recycle corks, tires, Styrofoam, art supplies, hard plastic, foil-lined power bar wrappers, and hundreds of other hard-to-recycle items?

The Ayer Recycling Committee runs an annual Recycle Your Reusables event each October; open to all. The tentative date for 2019 is Oct 26. Information available at: <https://recycleyourreusables.wordpress.com>. Click on "Accepted Items" to see the 8-page list of items you can drop off – most are free.

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Tip 25:

When in doubt, throw it out.

You have an item you want to recycle. You've looked it up on RecycleSmartMA, you've checked the Transfer Station website, but you still don't know if you can recycle it or not. If in doubt, throw it out to avoid contaminating the load.

If the wrong items are put into the recycling stream, or if recyclable items are prepared the wrong way, it can contaminate the entire load. When that happens, the entire recycling load could end up becoming trash. So, in Harvard, at the time of printing:

- No plastic bags/film (can get tangled in sorting machines). Take back to store.
- No food remnants: rinse jars and cans.
- No brightly colored paper (it's like a red sock in the white load).
- No milk and juice (paper) cartons in the trash (they're lined with plastic).
- No hazardous waste.
- No paperboard boxes from a frozen food item (the coating gums up machines).
- Remove lids from glass jars.

Don't be a wishful recycler. When in doubt, put it in the trash.

This recycling tip was brought to you by the Transfer Station Committee. Thank you for reading! These tips will be archived on the Transfer Station Committee website.