

Batteries

- “Lead acid” motor batteries – Most auto battery retailers will accept your dead battery when you purchase a new one. They may also be brought to Enviro-Safe in Lowell (263 Howard St. – 978-453-7772; <http://www.nces-ne.com/>). \$5 each. AAA also has an annual collection – check their website for the next collection date.
- Rechargeable batteries should not be thrown out in the regular trash. These include small batteries used in watches, hearing aids, calculators, cell phones, cameras, pacemakers, etc; many contain metals that are harmful when released through incineration. Please bring them down to the collection containers at one of the following locations: library, senior center, Enterprise Bank (1120 Main St.), Rite Aid (935 Andover St. and 1777 Main St.), Rogers Hearing Solutions (461 Main St.), Tewksbury Paint & Hardware (853 Main St.), Town Hall, all three fire stations, police station, and Tewksbury Camera & Repair (1215 Main St.).
- **Heavy duty or alkaline flashlight type, copper top, energizer, batteries may be disposed of in the regular trash.** These are not hazardous any more. All alkaline batteries now manufactured are mercury free. **If a battery is rechargeable, it should be recycled. If it is not rechargeable, it may be thrown out.**
- MassDEP website for battery collection centers - <http://www.mass.gov/dep/recycle/hazardous/batthous.htm>

Bicycles

- Bikes Not Bombs (Boston with potential suburb drop-off locations, www.bikesnotbombs.org, \$5 donation requested to get bike into shape)

Books

- Got Books, Inc. – They will take all and any books you have. There is a drop-off container behind Town Hall (1009 Main Street) and at the Dewing School. They will even come and pick them up. The web site is www.gotbooks.com. The address for the Got Books Inc. building is 35 Concord Street, N. Reading, MA 978-664-6555. They are open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 9 to 4. The warehouse is open Monday through Friday from 8 to 5. The ones that they sell are all \$1.00 each and they even have charity book sales. They will also take videos, CDs, DVDs, audio books, video games, sports cards and small sports memorabilia, plus LPs/records (no magazines).
- Tewksbury Library – The library often collects used books in a bin near the entrance. If the bin is not out, check with one of the librarians to see if they are taking any books at that time.
- Andover Library (www.mhl.org); frequently asked questions on donations are posted on <http://www.mhl.org/about/facts/friends/donationfaqs.htm> ; also accept audio books, CDs, videos, and DVDs
- Andover Historical Society (Andover, www.andhist.org, 978-475-2236); also accept records, videos, CDs, and DVDs
- If all options above are for some reason unavailable, used books may also be recycled along with curbside collection of paper and cardboard

Branches and Shrubs

- Branches are collected curbside twice a year (October and April – see Recycling Calendar and website for specific dates). Cut to less than 3 ft long and less than 4 inches in diameter. Tie into bundles or place in separate barrels. Do not put branches in plastic or paper bags.

Building Materials

- Good building materials (e.g., solid doors, double pane windows, cabinets) may be donated to Boston Building Materials Resource Center (Boston, www.bostonbmrc.org, 617-442-8917). Check out the website or call to confirm that they will take your item(s).

Cars

- Donate your car to Special Olympics Massachusetts and potentially receive a tax deduction. Visit www.recycleforgold.org or call 1-800-590-1600.
- Salvation Army (vehicle donation: 888-999-ARMY)

Cell Phones

- Cell phones (any condition) can be recycled at Staples and Radio Shack. A search on the internet will also result in finding many organizations which will make donations to charity when receiving your used cell phone.
- Cell phones may be left in the collection container at the library.

Christmas Trees

- Christmas trees – Christmas Trees are typically collected curbside during the first week of January. Refer to your recycling calendar for any changes to this. Trees must be bare (i.e., no decorations and not in a plastic bag). They may also be dropped off at the DPW (999 Whipple Road).

Compost Bins

- Compost bins – Backyard composting is a simple way to produce fertilizer for your lawn and garden while dramatically reducing your weekly household waste. When combined in a compost pile, organic materials such as table scraps, vegetable trimmings, coffee grounds, egg shells, and fruit rinds, as well as lawn clippings and leaves, all break down to form earthy-smelling soil enrichment. Avoid composting meat, bones, fatty foods such as cheese, grease or oil, dog feces, cat litter or diseased plants. The Town of Tewksbury has home composting bins for sale. They are lightweight, easy to assemble, and rodent proof. Each comes with composting instructions. They are made of 100% recycled detergent bottles and hold 1 cubic yard of material. They are available at the DPW, 999 Whipple Road, during normal business hours. Currently \$30.

Construction Debris

- Check www.earth911.org for locations which accept construction debris.
- Asphalt Shingles - The following information is from a Tewksbury resident who found a location to bring shingles in July 2007:

“I found a place in Boxborough MA only 21 miles from Tewksbury right off of Rt. 495 very easy access from the highway.

Rooftop Recycling Incorporated

369 Codman Hill Rd.
Boxborough, MA 01719
978-263-1899

Current rate is \$80.00 per Ton
\$40.00 minimum

Was able to make several trips with small pick-up truck and then total the weight.
I had just over 2 Tons, stripped off two layers to re-roof.”

- See FAQs on website for further discussion.

CRTs/Televisions

- CRTs/Televisions – Call Appliance Recyclers to schedule a curbside pickup and obtain a fee schedule – 1-877-228-2898. www.applrecycl.com These items will NOT be picked up without a prior call to schedule the pickup.

Electronics

- Electronics/microwaves – These items are allowed to be disposed along with standard refuse, but other options should be attempted first (see Freecycle link on website and below)
- Microwave ovens may be placed out with normal trash. They are not considered “white goods” like a stove, refrigerator, or air conditioner. To recycle white goods, call Appliance Recyclers to schedule a curbside pickup and obtain a fee schedule – 1-877-228-2898. www.applrecycl.com
- Computers - Afrihope International, Inc. (Boston, 617-957-1613) accepts donations. Also see Freecycle link on website and below.

Eyeglasses

- Wal-Mart and Lions Clubs (drop-off box at the Senior Center, Town Hall, library, and post office) accept eyeglasses for reuse. You can also contact local eye doctors, opticians, and eye clinics. Most will take your glasses for reuse.

Fire Extinguishers

- Fire extinguishers can be placed in your regular trash, but they must be discharged first.

Fluorescent Bulbs

- See Mercury

Freecycle

- To give and get items for free (“freecycle”), check out <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Tewksburyfreecycle/> This is a local group which is part of www.freecycle.org, covering many different locations. Post an item on the list and there is usually someone who wants it. What a great way to reduce/reuse/recycle!

Furniture

- Tewksbury residents are allowed to dispose of furniture with their trash, while a better idea is to recycle it by donating to a friend, neighbor, shelter or other charitable organization (which may also save you money come Tax Day). Some of those same people will be happy to accept your unwanted clothing, toys, and many other items.

Grass Clippings

- Don't Trash Grass! Save Time and Money! Reduce Waste! ♦ Did you know that a ½ acre lawn in New England produces over 3 tons or nearly 260 bags of grass clippings each year? ♦ The key word is "less"...less fertilizer, less water, less work, and best of all, less waste ♦ You can have a healthy green lawn by leaving grass clippings where they fall.
- Mowing techniques and tips: Any mower can recycle grass clippings; simply remove the grass catcher. If the grass gets too high, mow over the clippings. Keep the mower blade sharp. Keep your grass mowed to 2"-3" tall; Mow when the grass is dry; Do not remove more than 1/3 of the grass in a single mowing.; If you follow these "Don't Trash Grass" tips, not only will you have a healthy lawn, you'll never have to bag grass clippings again.
- Grass clippings – BMC (978-667-2171 – www.tsoil.com) located on South Street takes leaves, grass clippings and brush, but you have to get it there and there is a charge (e.g., leaves - \$5/yd, 2 yd minimum). Call for current pricing.
- Also see "Compost Bins"

"Hazardous" Waste

- Minuteman Hazardous Waste Products Facility, 60 Hartwell Ave., Lexington. This is where you can bring hazardous materials [such as flammable liquids (solvent-based paints, thinner, stain, varnish, mercury-containing antifreeze, brake fluid, household cleansers), pool chemicals, and pesticides]. <http://www.lexingtonma.gov/dpw/hhhwfacility.cfm> Open 8 Saturdays out of the year (see website) from 9 am to 2 pm.
- www.wegetridofit.com - \$24 per gallon of hazardous materials - 1-866-952-8400.

Ink Cartridges

- Ink Cartridges – Bring to the schools or check online resellers. All Tewksbury Public Schools collect all types of used inkjet and laser cartridges. They send them to a company that recycles them and donates cash for each cartridge (anywhere from 50 cents to \$5). There are also special envelopes to mail cartridges to resellers at the Post Office and a box at the library. You may also check online at www.123inkjets.com or www.collectinc.com.

Leaves

- Leaf pickup occurs twice a year for multiple weeks (see recycling calendar or website). Place leaves in paper bags or separate trash barrels (plastic bags will not be collected) next to the road. Avoid mixing a lot of grass clippings, pine needles, pine cones, and small sticks with the leaves; better to compost if possible.
- BMC (978-667-2171 – www.tsoil.com) located on South Street takes leaves, grass clippings and brush, but you have to get it there and there is a charge (e.g., leaves - \$5/yd, 2 yd minimum). Call for current pricing.

Mercury

- Mercury-containing thermometers, switches, liquid mercury, thermostats – Accepted at Town Hall and the Board of Health
- Fluorescent bulbs (including compact fluorescent bulbs) – Drop off at DPW (999 Whipple Road), M-F, 8:30 to 3:00 pm. Aubuchon Hardware (2261 Main St.) also takes them.

Metals

- Betty Scrap Metal (BSM) (17 Rock St., Lowell, 978-454-0311) accepts non-ferrous metals (e.g., copper, brass, aluminum)
- Max Levine & Co. (270 Tanner St., Lowell, 978-454-7786) accepts non-ferrous metals (e.g., copper, brass, aluminum) and appliances which do not contain refrigerants.

Miscellaneous Items

The following locations/organizations accept donations of items such as clothing, sneakers, household furnishings, kitchen items, toys, linens, towels, blankets, books, CDs, DVDs, baby items, rugs and carpets, appliances in good condition, large furniture in good condition, and many other items. Please contact them or check out their website to see what they accept. Some of the organizations will also provide pickup services.

- Andover Thrift Shop (10 Park St., Andover, 978-475-0957)
 - Lazarus House Thrift Shops (Lawrence, www.lazarushouse.org, 978-689-8575)
 - Salvation Army (Wilmington, 978-988-9488)
 - Neighbors in Need (Lawrence, www.neighborsinneed.net, 978-685-8321)
 - Big Brother Big Sister (www.bbbsfoundation.org, 800-483-5503, drop-off box for clothes and linens at the N. Reading Stop & Shop)
 - Angels Above Thrift Shop (Lowell, www.angelsabovecharity.org, 978-452-4833)
 - Suitability (Lowell, www.suitabilityma.org, 978-934-8898)
 - My Father's House (N. Chelmsford, 978-251-8191)
 - Mission of Deeds (Reading, 781-944-9797)
 - Household Goods Recycling Ministries (Acton, www.hgrm.org, 978-635-1763)
 - Lowell Wish Project (36 Florence St., Lowell, www.lowellwishproject.org)
 - MSPCA – (Methuen, www.mspca.org, 978-687-7453)
 - Nike – (check website www.nikebiz.com Reuseashoe for locations) - Any brand sneaker, any condition.
- An excellent resource for finding places that will take your “leftovers” is www.earth911.org

Motor Oil

- Needs to be in clear containers; cannot be mixed with anything – First Class Auto Service (2532 Main St. – 978-657-8888) or M&S Service Inc. (1857 Rear Main St. – 978-851-6800)

Paint

- Latex paint cans can be thrown away in the regular trash. Remove the lids and allow the remaining paint to dry out prior to placing in your trash.
- Oil-based paint – See “Hazardous” Waste.

Paper

- Remember that paper and cardboard make up a significant, if not the largest, portion of our refuse mass...and it should almost all be recycled. This saves the town money in a time when funding continues to be an issue in the Commonwealth. Please take a little time to break down/cut up cardboard boxes and recycle as much paper as you can. For people who are trying to keep town finances in the best shape possible by recycling, it becomes frustrating to see people throwing out so much cardboard which is just costing the town more money. A few more minutes of effort will help

both your pocket (when the town won't have to ask for more money) and the environment. Also remember that you can include all colored and white paper, magazines, phone books, newspaper, junk mail (the plastic windows are okay to include!), receipts, tags, wrapping paper, egg cartons, paper towel and toilet paper tubes, cereal boxes, and pasta boxes (again, the plastic windows are okay).

- Wrapping paper can be recycled with your paper/cardboard (no foil gift wrap). While it can be crumpled up and thrown in a bag, you'll find that if you flatten it and roughly fold it, what filled two large garbage bags can actually fit in 2 paper grocery bags!
- PaperRetriever bins located at almost all schools and the library. (No cardboard)

Plastics

- Plastics numbered 1 through 7 are recyclable in Tewksbury. Many people still think the program is limited to the lower numbers. Styrofoam is not part of the program even if it has a number on it. Please check out our website (www.tewksbury.info/recycle/) for some styrofoam recycling options, primarily with respect to packing peanuts. Plastic grocery/shopping bags should not be placed in the recycling bins (they get caught in the mechanical separators at the recycling facility). They should be recycled at the stores distributing them. In general, items in Tewksbury's recycling program should be considered "rigid plastic containers."

Propane Tanks

- Propane Tanks – Bring to one of the following locations: Taylor Rental (\$8 per 20 lb tank); Aubuchon Hardware (2261 Main St.; currently no charge); In all cases, fees are subject to change.

Recycling Bins/Stickers

- Note that the blue recycling bins are NOT necessary for recycling pickup. If recyclables are placed in a container separate from refuse and is clearly distinguished from the normal trash (for example, trash on one side of the driveway and recyclables on the other side), they should be collected separately. Many people have enough recyclables such that another garbage can is used. If you would like a sticker on the container stating that it is recyclables, they are available at the Selectmen/Town Manager's office and DPW.
- Additional recycling bins may be purchased at the DPW (999 Whipple Road) for the current price of \$7.

Recycling Calendar/Committee

- Need to figure out if you are Red or Blue? Go the TRC website to check out your street listing.
- Until recycling increases further, it is not cost-effective to collect each week. The town currently does not recycle enough to offset the additional costs of weekly collection and other area towns have shown that changing to weekly collection did not increase the recycling substantially (see report to BOS at website).
- Recycling calendars are sent out annually and are available at Town Hall (and on the website). Keep your calendar posted in a convenient location, as it contains much of the information included in this booklet.
- If you are aware of improper collection methods (e.g., recyclables or yard waste being thrown in with regular trash), please contact Sandy at 978-640-4300 so that she can straighten things out.
- Look for TRC yard sales to clear out unwanted items and make some cash at the same time!

Scholarship

- Did you know that the Tewksbury Recycling Committee/Allied Waste has a scholarship available for a senior entering college in a program geared towards environmental pursuits? See the website for more information. Application forms can be found at the high school or the TRC website.

Styrofoam

We do not recycle Styrofoam here in Tewksbury (even if it has a number on it), but you might want to check out the website for some options.

Tires

- Tires – Schlott Tire (663 Main Street) accepts tires all year long for a fee (978-858-0181) - \$2.50 per tire, \$3 if on a rim. M-F, 8 am to 5 pm, Sat, 8 am to 2 pm.
- Penny’s Auto & Junk Yard (11 Kitterage Ave. – 978-851-5351) – also takes batteries and metals

Waste Ban

- Q: What are the “Waste Bans?” A: The “Waste Bans” are restrictions on the disposal and transfer for disposal of certain hazardous and recyclable items at solid waste facilities in Massachusetts. Listed below are the restricted materials.
 - Lead-acid batteries (e.g., car batteries)
 - Leaves and yard waste
 - Whole tires
 - White goods (appliances – see below)
 - Metal containers (aluminum, steel, or bi-metal beverage and food containers)
 - Glass containers (bottles and jars excluding light bulbs, plate glass, ceramics, Pyrex cookware, drinking glasses, windows, and windshields)
 - Single-resin narrow-necked plastics
 - Recyclable paper
 - Cathode ray tubes (CRTs)

White Goods

- White Goods (stoves, refrigerators, air conditioners, water heaters, washers, and dryers) – Call Appliance Recyclers to schedule a curbside pickup and obtain a fee schedule – 1-877-228-2898. www.applrecycl.com These items will NOT be picked up without a prior call to schedule the pickup. Remove any doors.