



2021-2022

# Annual Recycling & Solid Waste Guide

Department of Public Works 9 Alpha Road 1.978.250.5203  
[www.townofchelmsford.us/200/recycling-solid-waste](http://www.townofchelmsford.us/200/recycling-solid-waste)



## How to Use this Guide

### **Welcome to the 2021-2022 Recycling & Solid Waste Guide!**

We have created this guide to help you reduce, reuse, recycle, compost and dispose of refuse here in Chelmsford. Use the table of contents to the right, to help you navigate based on your disposal needs.

### **Stay Updated!**

Event reminders, notifications, and other helpful information is posted on the DPW Facebook Page @ChelmsfordDPW and on the Town website. To subscribe to these updates, visit: [www.townofchelmsford.us/list.aspx](http://www.townofchelmsford.us/list.aspx), enter your email address and click "login." Scroll down and click the "mail" icon next to "Home Page News Flash," and you will be enrolled in updates.

### **Get Involved!**

Are you interested in helping make Chelmsford a more sustainable community? The Recycling Committee is always looking for volunteers and input from residents. Check it out!

## Find it Here

A quick reference to the information contained in this guide:

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## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Who do I call if my trash wasn't picked up?**

A: Call Republic Services Customer Service at 1.800.442.9006.

**Q: Who do I call if my recycling wasn't picked up?**

A: Call Waste Management Customer Service at 1.800.972.4545.

**Q: What do I do if my textile recycling, pink bags were not picked up?**

A: Visit [www.simplerecycling.com](http://www.simplerecycling.com) and notify them of a missed pick up.

**Q: How can I get rid of TVs, appliances, electronics, tires and other large metal items?**

A: Call Republic Services Customer Service at 1.800.442.9006 to schedule a pick up. A fee will be charged.

**Q: How can I get rid of items including a couch, table, chairs or other bulk waste items?**

A: One item per week, per household, can be placed curbside on your regular trash collection day. There is no bulk pick up on holiday weeks. **\*Mattresses and Box Springs are now being RECYCLED, see page 4 for more information\***

**Q: How can I get rid of Mattresses and Box Springs?**

A: Visit [www.utec-mattress.org/schedule](http://www.utec-mattress.org/schedule) to schedule a pick up. A fee will be charged.

**Q: How do I know if something is recyclable or not?**

A: Visit [www.recyclesmartma.org](http://www.recyclesmartma.org) and use the Recyclopedia to determine if your item can be recycled.

\*\*\*Information in this guide is current as of October 1, 2021 revision\*\*\*

Please check the Town Website, call or email Melissa Joyce, Sustainability Manager at 1.978.250.5203 or [mjoyce@chelmsfordma.gov](mailto:mjoyce@chelmsfordma.gov) to confirm details.

## Reduce

If you can avoid buying that new thing, especially if you're only going to use it once, you can also avoid having to dispose of it later. Check out Chelmsford Library's **Library of Things** to BORROW it instead! To learn more about what items are available, including stud finders, hand trucks, tile cutters, projectors, ukulele kits, metal detectors, portable shredders, etc., visit: [www.chelmsfordlibrary.org/services/library-of-things/](http://www.chelmsfordlibrary.org/services/library-of-things/)

## Reuse or Donate

### Boy Scout Troup 74

Drop-off at Central Congregational Church parking lot at 1 Worthen Street

For dates and times call 1.978.935.9474 or visit [www.giantyardsale.org](http://www.giantyardsale.org)

### Habitat for Humanity Restore

100 Chelmsford Road, North Billerica 1.978.215.9975

Accepts new and gently used building materials and household goods

#### **Accepting new and used clothing, household goods, and many other items:**

- Epilepsy Foundation 1.800.332.1000
- Big Brother Big Sister 1.800.483.5503
- Savers 1.603.888.0409
- Household Goods Recycling 1.978.635.1710
- Lowell Wish Project 1.866.947.4360
- Mass Coalition for the Homeless 1.781.595.7570 extension 13
- Salvation Army 1.800.958.7825; 1.603.880.0271
- St. Vincent de Paul 1.800.675.2882; 1.978.453.7750
- Goodwill Industries 1.617.628.3618; 1.603.742.4299

Drop-off at Goodwill Location: Stop & Shop parking lot, 299 Chelmsford Street, Open 7 days a week, 8 am-4 pm

Check out MA DEP's Beyond the Bin Directory at <https://recyclesearch.com/profile/ma> to find additional options.

Additionally, check Facebook's "Buy Nothing Chelmsford" or "Freecycle Chelmsford MA" Groups

## Preparation of Material for Recycling and Solid Waste

### RECYCLING

#### Limit:

- Unlimited BUT containers must not exceed 50 pounds or 64 gallons each.
- Containers should be labeled as recycling. Free recycling stickers are available at the DPW.

#### Time:

- Place containers at the curb by 6:30 am, every other week (see page 7) on your collection day.

#### What to Include:

- Collection is single stream so material can be comingled in one container (see page 3).
- Please flatten boxes and cut corrugated cardboard into 3'x 3' pieces.

**NO STYROFOAM  
NO PLASTIC BAGS**

### SOLID WASTE

#### Limit:

- TWO, 32 gallon barrels or bags AND containers must not exceed 50 pounds each.
- 1 bulk item, per household, per week can be placed curbside, except during a holiday week.
- Town overflow bags are available (5 for \$10) at:
  - Chelmsford Lumber on Boston Road
  - Hannaford on Drum Hill
  - Maxwell's on Maple Road
  - Pine Tree Market on Boston Road
  - Stop and Shop on Chelmsford Street
  - Walgreens on Chelmsford Street

#### Time:

- Place containers at the curb by 6:30 am, every week on your collection day.

**NO BATTERIES or MERCURY CONTAINING PRODUCTS  
NO CONSTRUCTION and DEMOLITION MATERIAL  
NO ELECTRONICS, TVs or TIRES  
NO APPLIANCES or LARGE METAL ITEMS  
NO MEDICAL SHARPS NO YARD WASTE**

## Recycling and Solid Waste

### Tips for Successful Recycling

- Recyclables can be comingled into one bin
- Food and beverage residue is considered contamination so it is important to rinse containers before you recycle them
- Do not bag recyclables
- No plastic bags or plastic wrap
- No clothing or textiles
- No tangles (no hoses, wires, chains, or electronics)
- Remove straws and plastic liners
- Empty and flatten items to make more room in your bin and more room in the truck for collection

If you are unsure whether an item is recyclable, please visit [www.recyclesmartma.org](http://www.recyclesmartma.org) and use the Recylopedia or visit [www.chelmsfordrecycles.org](http://www.chelmsfordrecycles.org) for more information!

### RECYCLING

- Aluminum foil
- Aluminum pans
- Books (soft cover)
- Bottles (soda, water, sports drink, juice, milk, etc.)
- Boxes (cereal, shoe, gift, tubes, etc.)
- Butter/margarine tubs
- Cans
- Cardboard boxes (flatten and cut to 3' x 3')
- Colored and construction paper
- Cottage/cream cheese tubs
- Detergent bottles/jugs
- Dressing/condiment bottles
- Egg cartons
- Envelopes with/without windows
- Food jars (jelly, jam, sauce, gravy, etc.)
- Magazines and catalogs
- Newspapers and inserts
- Paper (staples, paper clips, and stamps are okay)
- Paper bags
- Phone books
- Pizza boxes (CLEAN portions ONLY)
- Shampoo/conditioner bottles
- Soap/hygiene bottles
- Wrapping paper (no foil-type)
- Yogurt tubs

### SOLID WASTE

- Aerosol cans (empty)
- Broken glass
- Camping-sized propane fuel cylinder (empty 16 oz)
- Carbon paper
- Ceramics
- Drinking glasses
- Foil wrapping paper
- Hazardous waste containers (empty)
- Helium tanks used for balloons (empty 8.9 cu ft)
- Ice cream containers
- Napkins
- Non-fluorescent light bulbs
- Packing peanuts (take to the UPS store on Drum Hill Road—978.454.4700)
- Paper plates, bowls, or cups
- Paper towels
- Photographs
- Plastic bags (recycle at grocery stores)
- Plastic cutlery
- Plastic furniture
- Plastic straws
- Plastic without a recycle symbol
- Plumbing parts
- Pots and pans
- Pyrex
- Soiled paper/cardboard (contaminated with food)
- Styrofoam
- Tissues
- Toys
- Waxed paper and cardboard
- Window glass

### Bulk Waste

Bulk waste items are large items that do not fit into the regular trash and include items like:

- Chairs, couches, tables, dressers, etc.
- For items like carpet, windows, toilets, tubs, and showers, see Construction and Demolition Waste section on page 4
- ***Mattresses and Box Springs are now being RECYCLED, see page 4 for more information***

***Each household is allowed to place ONE (1) bulk item, curbside per week with their regular trash, EXCEPT on Holiday Weeks.***

## Textile Recycling

Simple Recycling offers free collection of textiles and household goods right at your front door! Even if an item is worn, stained or torn, it can be recycled as long as it is clean and dry. Acceptable items include:

- Clothing, shoes, accessories such as handbags, backpacks or jewelry
- Pots, pans, dishes and silverware
- Linens such as bedding, tablecloths, towels, and pillows

To schedule a pick up online, see a complete list of acceptable items or notify Simple Recycling of a missed pick up visit: [www.simplerecycling.com](http://www.simplerecycling.com) or call 1.866.835.5068. On your scheduled day, place items outside of your door in self provided bags or boxes (you can use former pink bags) and wait for pick up!

## Mattress and Box Spring Recycling

UTEC will collect and recycle mattresses and/or box springs at the curb every two weeks. Visit [www.utec-mattress.org/schedule](http://www.utec-mattress.org/schedule) to schedule and pay for collection. The fee for pick up is \$30 per piece (\$30 for the mattress and an additional \$30 for the box spring). You will receive your scheduled collection date in a confirmation email from UTEC once scheduling is complete. Once payment is processed it will not be refunded.

## Appliances and Electronic Waste

Republic Services will collect appliances and other large metal items, electronics and tires at the curb every two weeks. Call 1.800.442.9006 to schedule a pick up. A fee will be charged. Once payment is processed it will not be refunded. Items must be at the curb by 6:30 am on collection day.

Prices for items July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

- Appliances without Freon: \$22.28
- Appliances with Freon (refrigerators, freezers, ACs, etc.): \$33.42
- Console, Plasma or Projection TVs: \$55.70
- CRTs/TVs/monitors up to 24": \$27.85; over 24" \$44.56
- Flat Screen TVs over 30": \$38.99
- Large metal items: \$27.85
- Tires without rims: \$11.14

## Construction and Demolition Waste

Construction and demolition waste includes debris from home improvement projects and house clean outs. It is also trash that exceeds curbside pickup requirements, including bulk. Call Republic Services at 1.800.442.9006 for vendor preferred pricing or dumpster rental for Chelmsford residents.

### Other Construction and Demolition Material:

- Latex Paint: Place up to 5 cans per week with lids off next to trash for collection
  - Open the lid and let the paint dry completely, using kitty litter to absorb the paint
- Carpet: Place up to 5 rolls per week curbside for collection
  - 3' strips, tied/taped into rolls up to 12" diameter
- Windows: Place up to 3 windows per week curbside for collection
  - Cover glass with tape completely on both sides
- Toilets, tubs, and showers: Place 1 item per week curbside for collection
  - Remove toilet tank from seat (if possible), cut tub/shower into pieces (if possible)
- Smoke/carbon monoxide detectors
  - Remove batteries and dispose of them in the trash
- Fire extinguishers are collected for a fee at:
  - ASAP Fire and Safety Corporation in Tyngsboro. Call 1.978.649.4945
- Propane tanks are collected for a fee at:
  - Maxwell's: 1.978.256.9991 or Colonial Oil: 1.978.256.0151

## Household Hazardous Waste

Household hazardous waste includes common household items that contain *toxic* chemicals. Products such as non-latex paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, pesticides and similar products can contain hazardous ingredients and need to be disposed of properly. The list below contains many, but not all, hazardous products you may find in your home that will be accepted at a Household Hazardous Waste Day.

- Antifreeze
- Batteries— rechargeable and vehicle
- Brake fluid
- Car polishes and waxes
- Degreasers
- Drain openers
- Driveway sealers
- Epoxies, adhesive strippers and preservatives
- Fertilizers, fungicides, herbicides, and pesticides
- Hobby/photography chemicals
- Metal or furniture polish
- Motor oil, gasoline, and transmission fluid
- Oil paint, paint thinner, solvents, stains, and varnishes
- Oven cleaners
- Pool chemicals
- NO SHARPS (see page 5)
- NO LATEX PAINT (see page 4)

### Household Hazardous Waste Day DPW at 9 Alpha Road

Proof of residency is required!

- Saturday, October 30, 2021 from 9 am— 1 pm
- Saturday, April 23, 2022 from 9 am— 1 pm
- LIMIT: 1 trunk load per household
- Fees may be charged for these items
- Call 1.978.250.5203 with questions
- NO LATEX PAINT WILL BE ACCEPTED

### Did you miss Chelmsford's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day?

Visit: [www.townofchelmsford.us/204/Household-Hazardous-Waste](http://www.townofchelmsford.us/204/Household-Hazardous-Waste) for more information on regional disposal opportunities that are open to Chelmsford residents for a fee.

## Mercury Waste

Mercury is toxic and state law prohibits the disposal of mercury products in the trash.

These products include:

- Blood pressure cuffs
- Button batteries
- Electrical switches
- Mercury thermometers and thermostats
- Fluorescent and neon bulbs

These items can be dropped off at the Bulb Shed located behind Town Offices, during open hours (see page 7) or at the recycling table located in the lower level of Town Offices. For disposal of elemental mercury call 1.978.250.5203.

## Medical Waste

### Prescription Drugs

Items can be dropped off in sealed plastic bags in the disposal box located in the lobby of the Chelmsford Police Station. Items accepted include:

- Unused pills
- NO needles or liquid

The lobby is open 24/7  
There are no questions asked

### Sharps

Sharps can be dropped off at the Chelmsford Board of Health Office during their scheduled Sharps Disposal Collection. Residents can pre-register two weeks prior to the event (see page 7). Items accepted include:

- Needles
- Syringes with needles
- Lancets
- Empty or full EpiPens

## Organic Waste

### Brush

- Do not dispose on Town property or in wetlands
- Brush may be burned from January 15<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Visit <https://www.townofchelmsford.us/796/Open-Burning> to obtain a permit
- Drop Off Day in the Spring and the Fall at Community Tree located at 163 Billerica Road (see page 7)
  - 6" diameter x 8' long
  - Rope, wire, bags etc. must be removed by resident
  - Community Tree accepts brush all year for a FEE: 978.256.0341

### Leaves and Grass Clippings

- Drop Off Day at DPW in the Spring and the Fall (see page 7); In PAPER bags
- Fee based leaf drop-off at Jones Farm located at 246 Acton Road, 1.978.256.8065; Must be in Jones Farm bags
- Mulch leaves and grass clippings into your lawn as a natural fertilizer

### Christmas Trees

- For a donation, the Boy Scouts will pick up Christmas trees after the holidays, visit: [www.troopseventy.com](http://www.troopseventy.com)

### Pet Waste

- Dog and cat waste contains much more harmful bacteria than other wildlife
- Never use pet waste as a "natural" fertilizer or throw it in a storm drain as it washes into the waterways
- Clean up after pets by disposing of waste in the TRASH, never in the recycling

## Compost Bins and Rain Barrels

Every Spring the DPW partners with a vendor to offer compost bins and rain barrels to residents. Composting at your home is easy and a great way to divert food waste from the trash. Collecting rain water run-off from the impervious surface of your roof to water plants, grass and gardens is an easy way to reduce your water and sewer bill! Check out [www.townofchelmsford.us/735/Compost-Bin-and-Rain-Barrel-Program](http://www.townofchelmsford.us/735/Compost-Bin-and-Rain-Barrel-Program) for more information on the annual program.

## Multi-Family Guidance

The Chelmsford collection program services condominium complexes and multi-family apartments with up to three units. Recycling and solid waste may be collected in centrally located dumpsters and totes or curbside.

### Central Collection

- Extra pick ups are paid for by property owner/manager
- Prepare recyclables according to instructions. NO PLASTIC BAGS and NO TRASH!
- Contaminated recycling loads are paid for by property owner/manager
- Do not park in front of trash or recycling dumpsters, totes, or barrels
- Place bulk items next to the dumpster (NOT inside of it)

### Curbside Collection

- Follow same guidelines as single family homes
- Set trash out separately from other units so trash hauler can see that you're within the limits



## Curbside Collection and Events Calendar








July 2021							August 2021							September 2021							October 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4						1	2	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31	26	27	28	29	30	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					

November 2021							December 2021							January 2022							February 2022								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1				1	2	3	4	5
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
									26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28						
																			30	31									

March 2022							April 2022							May 2022							June 2022														
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S								
			1	2	3	4	5						1	2							1	2	3	4	5							1	2	3	4
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11								
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18								
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25								
27	28	29	30	31	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31	26	27	28	29	30																

-  Holiday observance: There is no collection on the holiday and the rest of the week runs on a one-day delay. NO bulk items are collected on holiday weeks.
-  Bulb Shed Open: Located behind Town Offices-open the first Wednesday of the month from 9 am-5 pm April-November, or by appointment.
-  Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Distribution: Pre-ordering closes one week prior to pick up, located at the DPW-open from 9 am -1 pm
-  Medical Sharps Collection: Register in advance with the Health Department at 1.978.250.5241
-  Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off: Located at the DPW-open from 9 am-1 pm.
-  Leaf and Brush Drop Off: Leaves at the DPW and brush at Community Tree-open from 9 am-1 pm
-  Shredding Event: Located at the DPW-open from 9 am-1 pm

## Important Information to Remember

- Red and Blue weeks denote recycling collection routes
- Call 1.978.250.5203 for your collection week and day based on your address
- Place recycling and solid waste at the curb by 6:30 am on your collection day
- Do not block sidewalks or mail boxes
- Leave 3' between recycling and trash barrels/bins

Town of Chelmsford  
Department of Public Works  
9 Alpha Road  
Chelmsford, MA 01824  
978.250.5203

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## Talkin' Trash and Recycling!

### Where It Goes and How It Works

Have you ever wondered what happens to your recycling and trash after it is picked up curbside?

- Recycling
  - Your recycling is picked up by Waste Management and is brought to their Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in Billerica, MA where it is dumped on the tip floor and processed through a series of machines that sort the material based on composition. This video is a great overview of the process: <https://youtu.be/7CFE5tD1CCI>
  - The material is baled and sold as a commodity in the US and international recycling market. You may have heard that China is no longer accepting recycling from the US and that has dramatically impacted the market. Recyclers work hard every day to improve processes and product to get the most value out of their recycled material.
- Trash
  - Your trash is picked up by Republic Services and is brought to Covanta in Haverhill, MA. Covanta is a resource recovery or waste to energy facility that incinerates trash and generates electricity. This facility processes 1,650 tons of solid waste a day and generates up to 49 megawatts of electricity. This video is a great overview of the process: <https://youtu.be/lmtOuAed5nM>
  - This process, although beneficial in the generation of electricity, is expensive and takes a toll on the environment. Anything we can do as residents to divert material from the incinerator (reduce, reuse, recycle, compost) will minimize our impact on the local environment and ensure that tax dollars go to funding other important services.

If you are looking for more information, have additional questions or want to get involved, please contact Melissa Joyce, Sustainability Manager at [mjoyce@chelmsfordma.gov](mailto:mjoyce@chelmsfordma.gov) or 1.978.250.5203