



2023-2024

Annual Recycling & Solid Waste Guide

Department of Public Works 9 Alpha Road 1-978-250-5203

www.chelmsford.gov/200/recycling-solid-waste



- **Important New Service Information: (Effective 7-1-2023)**
- E.L. Harvey & Sons is the new Trash and Recycle Hauler.
- Curbside recycling is now **Weekly**.
- Added 5 Curbside yard waste collection days.
- Free Bulk collection changed to 1x a month.
- “Chelmsford Recycle” App available for download.

Chelmsford Recycle APP:

- See your **Waste Collection Schedule**
- Receive reminders about your collection Day.
- Learn if materials can be Recycled.
- Receive event and service updates.



How to Use this Guide

Welcome to the 2023-2024 Recycling & Solid Waste Guide!

DPW has 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, and now on the Town’s “Chelmsford Recycle” App.

[Chelmsford Recycle - Apps on Google Play](#)

[Chelmsford Recycle on the App Store \(apple.com\)](#)

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 by visiting www.chelmsfordrecycles.com/

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 or Recycling wasn't picked up?

A: Call E.L. Harvey & Sons Customer Service at 1-800-321-3002.

Q: What do I do if my textile recycling was not picked up?

A: Visit 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 E.L. Harvey and Sons Customer Service at 1-800-321-3002 to schedule a pickup. 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 month, 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 to schedule a pickup. A fee will be charged.
see page 4 for more information

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

A: Download our App (“Chelmsford Recycle”) and type in the Green Wiki Search bar Or Visit [ANNOUNCEMENTS | Chelmsford, MA - Official Website \(chelmsford.gov\)](#) and Type in the Green Wiki Search Bar.

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/

Reuse or Donate

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
- Chelmsford Senior Center's Treasure Shop 1-978-251-0533

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 Recycling, containers must not exceed 100 pounds or 96 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 week 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
NO STRAWS**

SOLID WASTE

Limit:

- 64-Gallon barrel limit and containers must not exceed 50 pounds each.
- 1 bulk item, per household, per month 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 Road
 - Maxwell's on Maple Road
 - Pine Tree Market on Boston Road
 - Stop and Shop 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
NO CLOTHING (TEXTILES)**

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 tanglers (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 Download our App (“Chelmsford Recycle”) and type in the Green Wiki Search bar. or visit www.chelmsfordrecycles.org for more information!

RECYCLING

- Aluminum foil (CLEAN, NO food waste)
- 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 (not black plastic)
- Soap/hygiene bottles (not black plastic)
- Wrapping paper (no foil-type)
- Yogurt tubs
- See more on the App’s “Green Wiki” search function.

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 and clean)
- Helium tanks used for balloons (empty 8.9 cu ft)
- Ice cream containers
- Napkins
- Non-fluorescent light bulbs
- Packing peanuts (can 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
- Black Colored Plastic Containers/Lids
- Plumbing parts
- Pots and pans
- Pyrex
- Soiled paper/cardboard (contaminated with food)
- Styrofoam
- Tissues
- Toys
- Waxed paper & Waxed cardboard (Milk Cartons)
- Window glass
- Shredded Paper (can be brought to Shred Events)

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
 - ***NO Mattresses or Box Springs. They are now being RECYCLED, see page 4 for more information*** Mattresses have been added to the MassDEP Waste ban list and must now be recycled.
- Each household is allowed to place ONE (1) bulk item, curbside per Month 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 if 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, food delivery denim packaging.

To schedule a pickup online, see a complete list of acceptable item's or to notify Simple Recycling of a missed pick-up visit: 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 and wait for pick up! Disposal of textiles is Prohibited from the waste stream.

Mattress and Box Spring Recycling

UTEC will collect and recycle mattresses and/or box springs at the curb every two weeks. Visit [Mattress Recycling - UTEC \(utecinc.org\)](http://Mattress Recycling - UTEC (utecinc.org)) 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

E.L. Harvey & Sons will collect appliances and other large metal items, electronics, and tires at the curb every two weeks. Call 1-800-321-3002 to schedule a pickup. 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, 2023 to June 30, 2024

- Appliances without Freon: \$25-\$50
- Appliances with Freon (refrigerators, freezers, ACs, etc.): \$35-\$50
- CRTs/TVs/monitors up to 19": \$50; over 19" \$60
- Flat Screen TVs over 30": \$60
- Large metal items: \$30-\$70
- Tires without rims: \$30
- For complete List of prices please contact E.L. Harvey & Sons at 1-800-321-3002

Purchase Trash or Recycle Bins

Call E.L. Harvey to order and have new bins delivered.

96 Gallon **Recycle Only** Bin: \$90

64 Gallon Trash or Recycle Bin: \$80

35 Gallon Trash or Recycle Bin: \$70

New for July 1st, 2023!!

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 E.L. Harvey & Sons at 1-800-321-3002 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 month 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 bowl - (if possible), cut tub/shower into pieces (if possible)
- Smoke/carbon monoxide detectors
 - Remove batteries and dispose of detectors 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 28, 2023 from 9 am—1 pm
- Saturday, April 27, 2024 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.chelmsford.gov/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).
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
- If in doubt, follow FDA guidelines for disposal.

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 with a permit from January 15th through April 30th
 - Visit <https://www.chelmsford.gov/796/Open-Burning> to obtain a permit
- Curbside Pickup service 5 times a year. See Calendar for dates (page 7)
 - Max size of 3" diameter x 6' long, brush piles must be no larger than 4' x 6'. No more than 3 piles.
 - Brush must be tied in Rope or Twine.
 - Real Christmas Trees will only be accepted during brush pick up days, all wires and ornaments must be removed.
 - Curbside Brush or leaf pick up collection is not offered to multi-family or condominium complexes
- Community Tree accepts brush all year for a FEE: 978-256-0341

Leaves and Grass Clippings

- Curbside Pickup service 5 times a year. See Calendar for dates (page 7); Must be PAPER bags or Barrels.
- Mulch leaves and grass clippings into your lawn as a natural fertilizer
- NO Rocks, dirt, sand, or mulch will be accepted.

Christmas Trees

- For a donation, the Boy Scouts will pick up Christmas trees after the holidays, visit: 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 rainwater 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 for more information on the annual program. Compost can also be used in your gardens. It slowly releases nutrients into the soil and can make your plants more productive and resistant to disease.

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 toters 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, toters, 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 Brush or leaf pick up collection is not offered to Multi-family or condominium complexes.

Curbside Pick Up and Events Calendar

July 2023						
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30	31					

August 2023						
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September 2023						
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October 2023						
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November 2023						
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December 2023						
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31						

January 2024						
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February 2024						
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March 2024						
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31						

April 2024						
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May 2024						
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June 2024						
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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. 1 Saturday open: Aug 5th, 2023 9am-3pm
-  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 Pick-up: Leaves & brush pick up curbside. Leaves and grass must be in paper bags or barrels.
-  Paper Shredding Event: located at the DPW from 9 am-1 pm
-  Zero Waste Day + Shred Event: Located at McCarthy School Parking lot from 9 am-1 pm (details on page 8)

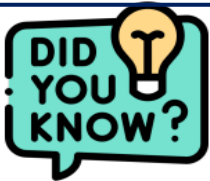
This information can also be found on the new “Chelmsford Recycle” App

Zero Waste Day

- Zero Waste Day is an opportunity for residents to keep usable goods out of the waste stream. This is a FREE “one-stop drop” event that allows residents to donate used items to multiple non-profits at the same time and same place.
- The Shred event (for Chelmsford residents only) will be incorporated during this event.
- The Full list of vendors who will be available at the event will be announced later via our media and the Recycle App.

Paper Shredding Event

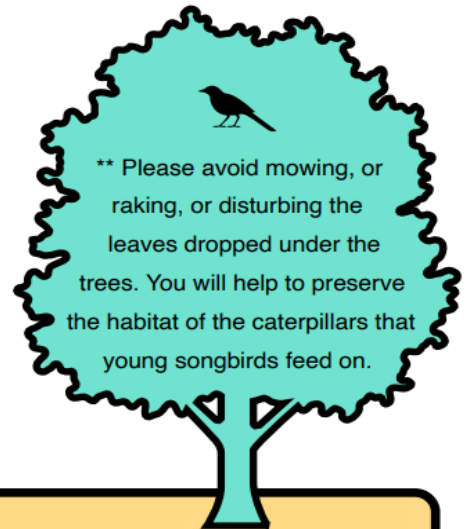
- Events are located at the Chelmsford DPW (May 11th) and at the Zero Waste Day at McCarthy School (Nov 4th)
- Events offer a way to securely recycle your paper documents.
- Shredded paper is not recyclable through the Curbside collection program but can still be recycled through this event.
- After the paper has been securely shredded into small pieces during the event, 100% of that paper will be recycled.
- Shredded paper can also be composted. Paper that is safe for composting is the following: Bills, Envelopes, Junk mail (no glossy paper), Memo paper, Newspapers, Notebook paper, Personal letters, Printer paper, Receipts.



... mowing leaves is better than raking them?

Mulching leaves instead of raking:

- improves the health of your soil *
 - supports microorganisms that live in the soil
 - helps insects and critters that live in the soil
 - returns nutrients to the soil
- saves you money on bags and synthetic fertilizers *
- eliminates the need of a noisy leaf blower
- reduces the need for town pickup / drop-off and disposal
- creates mulch for other areas of the garden
- saves time and effort, since mowing to mulch is quicker



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

1. Shred the leaves that fall on your lawn** as you mow.
2. If you get too much mulch, use some of it on your gardens, flower beds, or compost pile.
3. Put any leftovers out for collection.



* Also consider removing your mower’s bag for good. Take advantage of those nutrient-rich clippings!

There's an app for that!

Download our mobile app *"Chelmsford Recycle"*



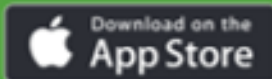
See your waste collection schedule



Receive reminders about your collection day



Learn if materials can be recycled



Important Information to Remember

- Check the "Chelmsford Recycles" App or check [ANNOUNCEMENTS | Chelmsford, MA - Official Website \(chelmsford.gov\)](https://www.chelmsford.gov) for your collection week and day based on your address.
- Place Weekly 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
- Download the "Chelmsford Recycle" App for Realtime updates and events.

Department of Public Works
9 Alpha Road
Chelmsford, MA 01824
978-250-5203

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 E.L. Harvey & Sons and is brought to Waste Management's 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://youtube/7CFE5tD1CCI>
 - The material is baled and sold as a commodity in the US and international recycling market. Recyclers work hard every day to improve processes and product to get the most value out of their recycled material. The Value of these materials change throughout the year.
- Trash
 - Your trash is picked up by E.L. Harvey & Sons 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://youtube/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 Chris Haley, Sustainability Manager at chaley@chelmsfordma.gov or 1-978-250-5203