



SOLID WASTE BANNED MATERIALS FACT SHEET

“Waste bans” are designed to restrict certain recyclable or compostable materials from being disposed of at solid waste facilities in Massachusetts, and to:

- Reduce the use of and need for disposal facilities.
- Encourage recycling by ensuring large volumes of material on a consistent basis.
- Minimize the release of certain toxic materials to the environment when these materials are landfilled or incinerated.

What You Need To Do! *Be Green – Recycle and Compost*

Facility and project managers should separate out any banned materials from the “trash stream” they generate. Areas must be established for the management of the recyclable and compostable materials. Generally, our recycling partner can accept a broad “Single Stream” of recyclables for recovery; however some materials, such as food waste, must be collected separately. Work with FMO or your waste vendor to establish the proper recycling and composting procedures.

Recycling and composting can reduce disposal costs and may save businesses money by diverting materials away from the trash dumpster. Those who fail to dispose of those materials properly are subject to regulatory enforcement and fines from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

What Is Banned?

- Commercial Organics (Food Waste): Facilities that generate over one ton per week of organic (compostable) waste now must have composting programs in place (each campus of a university is viewed as a “facility”). This includes food items from kitchen waste and non-consumed portions of meals. These items must be segregated from trash and recycling and managed as compost.
 - The ban does not cover animal bedding.
- Recyclable Paper: All paper, cardboard, and paperboard products.
 - The ban does not cover tissue paper, toweling, paper plates and cups, wax-coated cardboard, and other low-grade paper products.
- Glass Containers: Glass bottles and jars.
 - The ban does not cover Pyrex cookware, plate glass, drinking glasses, windows, windshields, and ceramics.
 - *Note that fluorescent light bulbs are regulated as “Universal Waste” due to low levels of mercury, so they also cannot be disposed of in the trash. See <http://www.ehs.harvard.edu/programs/chemical-waste>*
- Metal Containers: Aluminum, steel, or bi-metal beverage and food containers.
- Single Resin Narrow-Necked Plastics: For example, a soda bottle is narrow-necked but a yogurt container is not.



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- Leaves and Yard Waste: Leaves, grass clippings, weeds, garden materials, shrub trimmings, and brush one-inch or less in diameter (excluding diseased plants).
- Batteries: Lead-acid batteries used in motor vehicles or stationary applications.
 - *Note that batteries are considered “Universal Waste” and are covered under those regulations when shipped from Harvard. See <http://www.ehs.harvard.edu/programs/chemical-waste>*
- White Goods: Appliances employing electricity, oil, natural gas, or liquefied petroleum gas. These include refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers, clothes dryers, gas or electric ovens and ranges, and hot water heaters.
- Whole Tires: Motor vehicle tires of all types. (Incinerators and transfer stations can accept whole tires. Shredded tires are not restricted.)
- Cathode Ray Tubes (e.g., Televisions or Computer Monitors): Any intact, broken, or processed glass tube used to provide the visual display in televisions, computer monitors, and certain scientific instruments.
- Asphalt Pavement, Brick, and Concrete: From construction and demolition of buildings, roads, bridges, and similar sources.
- Metal: Ferrous and non-ferrous metals derived from used appliances, building materials, industrial equipment, vehicles, and manufacturing processes.
- Wood: Treated and untreated wood, wood waste (trees, stumps, and brush, including but not limited to sawdust, chips, shavings, and bark).

Did You Know?

- The waste bans apply to all solid waste destined for a Massachusetts landfill, incinerator, or transfer station.
- Harvard is responsible for ensuring that banned items are recycled and do not accidentally end up in our trash dumpsters.
- Disposal facility operators are responsible for ensuring that prohibited quantities of banned materials are not disposed of or transferred for disposal from their facilities, and must check incoming waste in two ways:
 1. All loads must be visually monitored for the presence of banned materials.
 2. Random inspections of waste load contents must be conducted.
- MassDEP conducts inspections at solid waste facilities to identify haulers and generators (businesses, institutions, municipalities, etc.) that dispose of banned materials.
- Harvard runs the risk of having solid waste facilities reject our waste or charge additional handling fees, and of receiving enforcement penalties from MassDEP if we do not redirect banned materials.

For More Information...

On the waste bans or commercial recycling, contact Rob Gogan, Supervisor of FMO Recycling and Solid Waste Removal at 617-495-3042 or rob_gogan@harvard.edu, or Kathryn Kaminski at 617-496-2445 or kathryn_kaminski@harvard.edu.