Recycling, Composting & Trash Disposal

in Brattleboro, Vermont

Recycling

Compost

Trash

Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT)

Hazardous Waste

Dear Brattleboro Resident:

The days of waste in one bag, no thought required, and "free" are behind us.

Fortunately, we live in a town that has many options for recycling, reusing and composting. By taking advantage of these services, **you can reduce your trash volume and the number of Pay-As-You- Throw (PAYT) bags you need to purchase!** It takes a little more effort, but less waste means fewer resources thrown away with the trash.

This guide will help you find the answers to your questions about trash, PAYT, recycling, curbside compost collection, hazardous waste and disposal of non-curbside items.

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If you can't find the answers in this guide, check the town website (www.brattleboro.org) or call the town offices at 254-4541.

You can also contact the Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD) for additional information. Visit their website (www.windhamsolidwaste.org) or call 257-0272.

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Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT)

If you currently have trash and recycling picked up at your curb by the Town's contractor, as of June 29, 2015 you will need to purchase special yellow or purple PAYT bags for your trash.

Why? – Vermont's Universal Recycling Law (Act 148) requires that the cost of trash collection and disposal be paid for according to weight or volume (PAYT).

What are the benefits? – Less trash will be landfilled or incinerated which benefits the environment. More recycling stretches our resources. Composting yields nutrient rich soil additive. And it's fair! Households that put out a lot of trash pay more than households that only put out a little.

Two sizes of PAYT bags – 15 and 32 gallon

Type of bag – 1.5 mil, drawstring (made w/ recycled content)

Color of the bags – **Yellow** (small) & **Purple** (large)

Cost per bag -- $2 ea. for 15-gallon; $3 ea. for 32-Gallon

Packaged in rolls – 5 bags per roll ($10 & $15)

Stores Selling PAYT bags (proposed)

Brattleboro Food Coop (downtown)

Dottie's Discount Foods (downtown)

Hannaford (Putney Rd.)

Price Chopper (Canal St.)

Cumberland Farms (West Brattleboro)

Brown and Roberts Hardware (downtown)

Fireside True Value Hardware (Putney Rd.)

Individual bags for sale at the Recreation Dept. (Gibson Aiken Center) and the Treasurer's Office (Municipal Center).
Both are located downtown on Main St.

PAYT FAQ

I have bulky items that won't fit in a PAYT bag – Curbside trash must be contained in a closed PAYT bag! Items too large for a PAYT bag can be disposed at Windham Solid Waste Management District located on Old Ferry Rd. in Brattleboro -- some for a fee, some for free. Call 257-0272 for information.

What if I put out a regular non-PAYT trash bag? – The driver will affix a violation sticker and leave the bag at the curb.

What if my PAYT trash bag rips? – You can either put the ripped PAYT bag in a clear plastic bag so the driver can see the PAYT bag; or, if the failure is due to a manufacturing defect Waste Zero will replace it at no cost (call 800-866-3954). You will have to return the defective bag to Waste Zero for inspection.

Is there a weight limit? – Yes! A large PAYT bag must weigh no more than 30 lbs.; a small bag no more than 20 lbs. A trash barrel with PAYT bags must weigh no more than 40 lbs. Trash exceeding these limits will be left at the curb with a violation sticker.

Will PAYT lead to illegal dumping? – There has always been and always will be some amount of illegal dumping. The Town will make every effort to identify those who dump illegally and fine them as the Town Ordinance allows. Please report any illegal dumping.

Can I put a regular trash bag inside a PAYT bag? – Yes! Some families will collect multiple weeks of trash in standard kitchen bags and then place them in one large PAYT bag.

Is PAYT going to cost me an arm and a leg? – That's up to you! If you recycle all that is allowed and participate in the curbside compost program you will find that there is pretty much only plastic film left to put into your PAYT bag!

PAYT bags are packaged five to a roll. Can I buy individual bags? – Yes! (See bottom of page 2 for details)

For additional information go to www.brattleboro.org
Or call the town offices at 254-4541.

Vermont state law -- Recycling is Mandatory!

Basic Information

Single Family Residences
Apartment Buildings with 2, 3 or 4 units

- **Picked up weekly at the curb** (along with your trash and compost) on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday
- **Which day is your day?** Ask a neighbor, check the town website (www.brattleboro.org) or call the town at 254-4541.
- **Remember the holidays** – There is **NO CURBSIDE SERVICE** on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Pick up will resume the following day.

  This means that all curbside collections will be delayed by one day for the remainder of the week following these holidays.
- **Place at the curb by 6:30am on collection day** – All containers must be removed from the curb by midnight of the collection day.

Apartment Buildings with 5 or more units
(Town provided curbside pick-up is NOT available)

- **Recycling sites** are located on Fairground Rd. next to the Public Works Department (open 24 hrs.) and on Old Ferry Rd. at Windham Solid Waste Management District.
  Open M-F (8:00am - 3:30pm) and Saturday (8:00am - noon).
- **Check with your landlord** – He/she may offer other recycling options.

More Recycling Information

Common Mistakes & Confusing Items

- **It *looks* and *feels* like paper…..is it paper**? – A good way to tell is to give it the "tear test." If it tears easily it is paper. If it doesn't tear or tears with difficulty – put it in the trash (not in recycling or compost!)

- **Milk/Juice/Soy Milk/Soup Broth Cartons…where should they go?**

  If the carton has a foil lining inside it is called an "Aseptic" container. It can't be recycled or composted -- IT ALWAYS GOES IN THE TRASH!

  If the carton has a waxy inside (like a typical half gallon milk carton) it can go in the curbside compost (please tear out the plastic spout!) or it can go in the trash – IT SHOULD NEVER BE PUT IN RECYCLING!

- **Aluminum Baking Pans & Foil** can now be recycled! Only clean pans & foil, please! If gunked up with food, put in the trash.

- **What Plastics Can I Recycle?**

  Any plastic items with recycling #'s:

Exceptions

Please put these items in the trash:

- Any sheet or film plastic -- if you can crumple, bend, fold it like paper it goes in the trash! Even if it has a recycling # on it!
- Styrofoam packaging, "packing peanuts," cups and food containers all go in the trash – even if it has a recycling number on it!
- Tyvek mailing envelopes – in the trash, please.
- Large plastic items – buckets 5 gallons & larger, toys
- Plastic cutlery

- **Other Confusing Items – where should they go?**

  Go to this website -- https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1V97B20gAg36IhknJ_d6njVuFvkJUZeSg-sHxG2pfRR8/edit#gid=0

  or call the Windham Solid Waste Management District -- 257- 0272

Brattleboro has Dual-Stream Recycling

- Please separate paper recycling from cans, bottles & containers by using a paper bag or use two different bins/containers. DO NOT mix the two types of recyclables together.
- DO NOT recycle plastic bags or put your recyclables into plastic bags. Plastic bags go in the TRASH or check with local retailers about plastic bag recycling or reuse.
- It's OK for your recyclables to get rained on and wet.

Curbside

Proud Participant!

Compost

WHY? Your food scraps and organics are valuable resources, not trash! By curbside composting you help to produce nutrient rich compost, reduce methane gas, save dwindling landfill space, save taxpayers from paying expensive tipping fees and reduce the number of Pay-As-You-Throw trash bags you have to buy!

Curbside Composting (Step-by-Step)

(1) Place kitchen container in a handy spot, such as on or below the kitchen counter.

(2) Place **ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS** In kitchen container:

NO PLASTIC, GLASS or METAL!

(3) Empty kitchen container into curbside cart regularly – at least twice a week.

(4) Place curbside cart at the curb by 6:30am on your regular collection day.

Compostable Liner bags

- Compostable bags are not required, but they reduce the "Yuk!" factor dramatically!
- Commercial bags lining your kitchen or curbside container must be BPI certified and display this logo.
- Alternatively, you can line your containers with paper bags or newspapers

Join the Over 1,000 Curbside Compost Participants!

Sign Up, Information & Tips

Go to the Town website to sign up, or find information and helpful tips.

www.brattleboro.org

Questions?

Email: solidwaste@brattleboro.org; or call 254-4541

Acceptable Material

Non-Recyclable Paper and Cardboard

Tissues • Paper Towels • Milk/Juice Cartons (Please remove plastic spout),
Soiled/Waxed Paper • Soiled/Waxed Cardboard • Cardboard Egg Cartons
Frozen Food Containers • Sugar/Flour Bags • Paper Cups/Plates
Pizza Trays • Q-Tips • Butcher Paper • Butter Wrappers (paper)

Food Scraps

Bread/Rolls/Crackers • Rice/Pasta/Beans • Egg Shells • Cooked/Raw Fish
Cooked/Raw Meats • Cheese/Dairy Products • Fruit/Veggie Peelings
Tea Bags • Coffee Grounds/Filters • Cooking Oils/Fats
Shellfish • Bones • Nuts and Shells

Other Acceptable Compostables

Pet Waste (no plastic) • Small Wooden Crates/Berry Baskets
Hair & Fur • House Plants • "Compostable" Cups/Plates/Utensils

DO NOT COMPOST! (Not Acceptable)

Plastic Bags • Plastic Wrappers • Liquids • Metal • Aluminum Foil • Textiles
Plastic Utensils • Corks • Aseptic Containers • Sanitary Products • Diapers
Cigarette Butts • Chewing Gum • Wood Ashes • Tableware • Styrofoam
Hazardous Materials • Rope/String • Packing Peanuts • Wood Scraps
Vacuum Cleaner Bags & Contents

Curbside Compost Carts

Purchase at WSWMD (after 7/1/2015)

Old Ferry Rd. – ph. 257-0272
(Call or check the town/WSWMD website for cost)

- 13-gallon (pictured at right)

  Suitable for 1-4 person households.

- 21-gallon

  Suitable for 4+ person households.

…Or Provide Your Own!

Must be a rigid container with tight fitting lid
that is easily opened/removed by the driver.

Must be clearly labeled "Compost."
"Curbside Compost" stickers are available from the town.

Kitchen Containers

Purchase at WSWMD

Old Ferry Rd. – ph. 257-0272
(Call or check the town/WSWMD website for cost)

- "Max Air" by Bio Bag –
  Includes roll of compostable bags (25 ct.)

  Note: This container MUST be used with a BPI certified compostable bag.

- "Sure Close"
  Use with or without compostable bags

…Or Provide Your Own!

Whatever tickles your "Compost Fancy!"

Odor Control Tips

- Empty your kitchen container before it is jammed packed full – at least once in the middle of each collection week.
- Store your curbside compost cart in a cool location – out of the sun.
- Put meats & especially stinky items in your freezer until collection day.
- Rinse out containers as necessary – use a mild detergent.

Collection Tips

- Set your curbside compost cart at the curb by 6:30am on your regular collection day. Do Not set your kitchen container out.
- Place your curbside compost cart next to your weekly recycling – one truck collects both.
- Set your PAYT trash separate from your recycling and compost – a different truck collects trash.
- Put your compost out for collection every week – even if your curbside cart is not full. This will help control odor and insects.

Don't Forget – Backyard Compost And "Project Cow!"

- Backyard compost piles are encouraged! But please put your non-backyard compostables in your curbside compost cart.
- You can get backyard compost bins and information from WSWMD on Old Ferry Rd. – call 257-0272.
- You can also bring your compostables to the "Project COW" dumpster at WSWMD's Convenience Center on Old Ferry Rd.

Brattleboro is a member of the
Windham Solid Waste Management District

WSWMD is located on Old Ferry Rd. in Brattleboro
All non-curbside items can be disposed of there --
Some for a fee and some for free!

Monday - Friday (8am – 3:30pm) / Saturday (8am – noon)

www.windhamsolidwaste.com / 802-257-0272

Hazardous Waste

Most homes have toxic products. They may be found under the sink or workbench, in the basement, garage or garden shed. If the label has these words: **Warning, Caustic, Harmful, Caution, Flammable, Hazardous, Explosive, or Irritant** the material is hazardous and should not be put in your trash!

The following toxic products are collected daily at WSWMD:

- Mercury items (fluorescent bulbs, thermometers, thermostats, etc.)
- Rechargeable batteries
- Used Motor Oil / filters (must have no gas, water or antifreeze in it)
- Medical Needles & Syringes (place in a sturdy plastic container with a screw-on lid, tape shut and label "SHARPS!" or "NEEDLES!")
- Oil Based / Latex Paint, Stains and Polyurethane

Other Hazardous Waste is collected at WSWMD
All Year Round • Call for details

Directions to WSWMD

Directions from Route I-91……

- Take Exit 3 and go around round-a-bout.
- Proceed north on Route 5.
- Go ½ mile and make right turn at traffic light (Old Ferry Rd.).
- Continue ½ mile and WSWMD will be on your right.
- Proceed to the scale house where the attendant will assist you.

WSWMD Accepts the Following:

- Residential Household Trash, Food Scraps & Organics
- Appliances (Refrigerators, Stoves, Washers, Dryers, etc.)
- Batteries -- some are hazardous, some are not – ASK!
- Electronics
  - TV's, Computers & Computer peripherals are FREE!
  - For other electronics there may be a fee – ASK!
- Fluorescent Bulbs (CFL's & tubes)
- Mattresses & Box Springs
- Upholstered & Un-upholstered Furniture
- Metal Scrap
- Oil and Latex Based Paints
- Tires
- Construction Debris
- Mirrors and Windows
- Bicycles
- Toys -- Children's plastic toys (all sizes) are NOT recyclable!

Swap Shop

A GREAT PLACE to take reusable items!

The swap program on Old Ferry Road is a free outlet for items that are still usable but for which there is no traditional re-use program.

Location – At WSWMD on Old Ferry Rd.

Spring-Summer-Fall – Every Saturday (9am - noon)

Winter – Every second Saturday of the month (9am - noon)

Website: http://www.windhamsolidwaste.org/index.php/swap-shop

Check website for acceptable and non-acceptable items!

Helpful Curbside Hints

1. Please **put your curbside materials in appropriate containers** (trash, recycling and compostables).
2. If you do not use the Town provided containers for recycling and compostables **be sure your containers are clearly labeled** "Recycling" & "Compost." Place containers so the labels face the street.
3. Make sure that any cardboard boxes are flattened and measure **less than 36" on a side**.
4. **Place materials at the curb by 6:30am on collection day**. Please put your PAYT trash bag in a trash can/barrel can so animals cannot tear open the bag and make a mess.
5. **Store your curbside compost cart out of the sun** – Wash out periodically with mild detergent. Put at curb EVERY WEEK!
6. Compost or recyclables **should NOT be placed in plastic bags!**
7. PAYT bags must be **pulled shut with drawstring closure** – Loose trash or open, overflowing PAYT bags will **NOT** be picked up.
8. **Items too large for PAYT bags** should be taken to WSWMD. Some items are free, some have a fee. Check website or call 257-0272
9. **DO NOT PUT THESE ITEMS AT THE CURB** (They will not be picked up!): trash in non-PAYT trash bags, construction or demolition materials, any electronics (such as DVD players, TV's, computers or cell phones), large items such as furniture, mattresses, children's outdoor plastic toys.

Leaf and Yard Debris

Leaf and yard debris is collected via the curbside program twice in the spring and twice in the fall. Watch the local paper or call the town at 254-4541 for dates.

Special paper bags for this purpose can be purchased at local stores.

Leaf and yard debris is also accepted year round at WSWMD for a small fee. (Leaves only are free!)

How to Manage PAYT and Keep Costs Down!

- **Take Charge** of your waste stream – you CAN reduce your trash and number of PAYT bags you put out to the curb dramatically!

- **"THINK"** about every item you're about to toss!

  - First thought – Can it be re-used or donated?
  - Second thought – Can it go in recycling?
  - Third thought – Can it go in backyard or curbside compost?
  - LAST thought – Should it go in the trash?

- **Re-Use or Donate** items that are still usable!

  - Fold up and save your clean aluminum foil for reuse.
  - Reuse your sandwich bag – if it's clean.
  - Take old clothes, shoes, stuffed animals and purses to a second hand store or a textile donation box.
  - One man's trash is another man's treasure! – take it to the Swap Shop at WSWMD.
  - Consignment shops welcome your unwanted, but useable items – check local listings.

- **Recycle** all that you can!

  - There is SO MUCH that can be recycled!
  - Recyclable items are listed on pages 5 & 6 of this guide.
  - Not sure? For a complete listing, check the town website (www.brattleboro.org) or call WSWMD -- 254-4541

- **Curbside and Backyard Compost** reduce trash dramatically!

  - 30-50% of what families throw away can go into the curbside compost!
  - Many items can go in curbside compost – go to page 8 of this guide to see what is acceptable.
  - Participate in curbside compost and save on PAYT bags!

THINK! … Before You Throw…

(Revised April, 2015)