

Dear Brattleboro Resident:

Brattleboro residents now produce so little trash the town picks up trash every-other-week! Less waste means fewer resources thrown away with the trash. This is possible because Brattleboro has many options for recycling, reusing and composting

Our curbside organics pick-up leads the way. Brattleboro is the first town in Vermont to offer this unique service! Taking advantage of these services, residents reduce their trash volume and the number of Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) bags they need to purchase.

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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.

If you can't find the answers you need, check the town website (www.brattleboro.org) or call the town offices at 251-8103.

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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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.
- **“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 person’s trash is another person’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 -- 257-0272
- **Curbside and Backyard Compost** reduce trash dramatically!
 - 30-50% of a family’s waste stream 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 December, 2017)

Town of Brattleboro
Municipal Center
230 Main St.
Brattleboro, Vermont 05301
Ph. 802-254-4541
www.brattleboro.org

Brattleboro Solid Waste
Information Enclosed

Recycling, Composting & Trash Disposal

in Brattleboro, Vermont



Recycling



Compost



Trash
Pay-As-You-Throw
(PAYT)



Hazardous
Waste

Helpful Curbside Hints

1. Please **put your curbside materials** (trash, recycling and compost) in **appropriate containers**.
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 are collected via the curbside program twice in the spring and twice in the fall. Watch the local papers or call the town at 251-8103 for dates.



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

Leaves, brush and yard debris are also accepted year-round at WSWMD.

Leaves **ONLY** are free; a fee is charged for brush or leaves mixed with brush.

Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT)

If your trash, recycling and compost are picked up at your curb by the Town's contractor you must purchase special yellow or purple PAYT bags for your trash.

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

Fireside True Value Hardware (Putney Rd.)

Hannaford Supermarket (Putney Rd.)

Walgreens Drug Store (Canal St.)

Price Chopper Supermarket (Canal St.)

Brown and Roberts Hardware (downtown)

Brattleboro Food Coop (downtown)

Dottie's Discount Foods (downtown)

Cumberland Farms (West Brattleboro)

711 Convenience Store (West Brattleboro)

Leader Home Center (West Brattleboro)

Individual bags can be purchased at the Recreation Dept. (Gibson Aiken Center) and the Treasurer's Office (Municipal Center). Both 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 may 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. Trash bags exceeding these limits will be left at the curb with a violation sticker.

Does PAYT lead to illegal dumping? – There has been no noticeable increase due to the PAYT program. The Town makes every effort to identify those who dump illegally, for whatever reason, and fine them as town and state ordinances allow. Please report any illegal dumping (251-8101).

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 several 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 and Styrofoam 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 251-8103

Management District

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!
See WSWMD website for complete list of acceptable items.

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)

Check website for acceptable and non-acceptable items.

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

More Recycling Info

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** must be recycled, but only clean pans & foil. If gunked up with food, please put in the trash.

- **You can recycle any plastic item with a recycling #.**



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 (If labeled “Compostable” it can go in the compost)
- **Other Confusing Items – where should they go?**

Go to the town website (www.brattleboro.org), click on “Trash, Recycling and Compost”, then click on “Where Does It Go?” or call the Windham Solid Waste Management District -- 257- 0272

Information!

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 & really 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 apart 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 (reduced cost for residents) 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. Access sticker is required.

Windham Solid Waste

Brattleboro is a member of the
Windham Solid Waste Management District

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

Call or check website for operating hours

www.windhamsolidwaste.com / 802-257-0272

Household Hazardous Waste

Most homes have toxic products. They are often 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.)
- 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, taped shut and label "SHARPS!" or "NEEDLES!")
- Oil Based / Latex Paint, Stains and Polyurethane

**Other Hazardous Waste - Call WSWMD (257-0272)
for dates & locations of collection events**

Directions to WSWMD

Directions from Route I-91.....

- Take Exit 3 and go around roundabout.
- 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.

Curbside Pickup

Recycling is mandatory as required by State law and Brattleboro Ordinance.

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

- **Trash is picked up every-other week (A or B) at the curb**
Check town website to find out if you are A or B week.
- **Recycling & compost are picked up weekly at the curb** on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.
- **Which day of the week is your day?** Ask a neighbor, check the town website (www.brattleboro.org) or call the town at 251-8103
- **Place at the curb by 6:30am on collection day** – All containers must be removed from the curb by midnight of the collection day.
- **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 the holidays listed above.

Apartment Buildings with 5 or more units and Commercial Properties

Sorry, town provided curbside pick-up is NOT available,
But occupants in these properties are still required to recycle!

- **Check with your landlord** – He/she must facilitate recycling for their renters. The landlord's hauler is required by state law to offer pick up of recyclables.
- **Recycling and compost drop-offs** are located at WSWMD on Old Ferry Rd. **An access sticker is required to use this facility.**

Call 257-0272 or check website for operating hours



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 a 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



Over 2,000 Families in Brattleboro Participate in Curbside Compost! Do You?

Information & Tips

Go to the Town website to find information and helpful tips.

www.brattleboro.org

Still Have Questions?

call 251-8103

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 Oil/Fats
Shellfish • Bones • Nuts and Shells

Other Acceptable Compostables

Pet Waste (no plastic) • Hair & Fur • House Plants
“Compostable” Cups/Plates/Utensils/Deli Take-Out Containers

DO NOT COMPOST! (Not Acceptable)

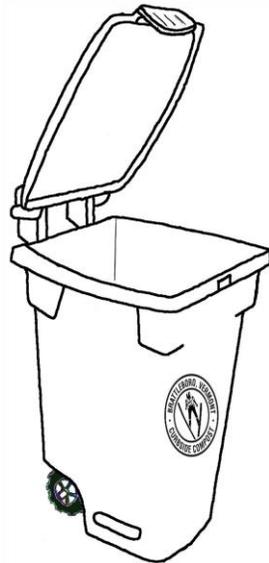
Plastic Bags • Plastic Wrappers • Liquids • Metal • Aluminum Foil • Textiles
Plastic Utensils • Corks • Aseptic Containers • Sanitary Products • Diapers
Cigarette Butts • Chewing Gum • Wood Ashes • Tableware • Styrofoam
Hazardous Materials • Rope/String • Packing Peanuts • Wood Scraps
Vacuum Cleaner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

More Compost

Curbside Compost Cart - \$20

Purchase at Municipal Center
230 Main St.
Finance Dept. (2nd Floor, Suite 208)

- 13-gallon (pictured at right)
- Suitable for 1-4-person households.
- It is OK to put out two or more if needed.



...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 & Backyard Containers

Purchase at WSWMD
Old Ferry Rd. - ph. 257-0272
(Call for prices)

- "Sure Close" -- kitchen container
(Use with or without compostable bags)
- "Earth Machine" -- backyard composter



...Or Provide Your Own!
Whatever tickles your "Compost Fancy!"

RECYCLING: WHAT'S OK & WHAT'S NOT!

YES! Recycle These Items!

✓ PAPER
printing & writing paper, phone books, magazines, catalogs, newspapers & paperback books

✓ BAGS & BOXES
corrugated cardboard, paper bags, boxboard

✓ PLASTIC FOOD & BEVERAGE CONTAINERS
bottles & jugs, dairy tubs & lids, egg cartons, deli & take-out containers

NO, Not These!

- ✗ NO WAXED CARDBOARD
- ✗ NO LARGE MOLDED PLASTIC ITEMS
- ✗ NO PLASTIC BAGS
- ✗ NO STYROFOAM
- ✗ NO NAPKINS
- ✗ NO PAPER PLATES
- ✗ NO PAPER CUPS

✓ ALUMINUM & TIN
empty aerosol bottles, aluminum foil & baking pans, food & beverage cans

✓ GLASS
bottles and jars with necks

Brattleboro has Single-Stream Recycling

- It is OK mix the different types of recyclables together. All recyclables can be placed at the curb mixed together in one container.
- DO NOT recycle plastic bags or put your recyclables into plastic bags. Put plastic bags in the TRASH or check with local retailers about plastic bag recycling or reuse.
- DO NOT recycle shredded paper -- please put in compost..