

BOSTON TRASH AND RECYCLING GUIDE

We offer recycling and trash collection for residential properties in the City of Boston.

CITY of **BOSTON**



TRASH DAY APP

BOS:311

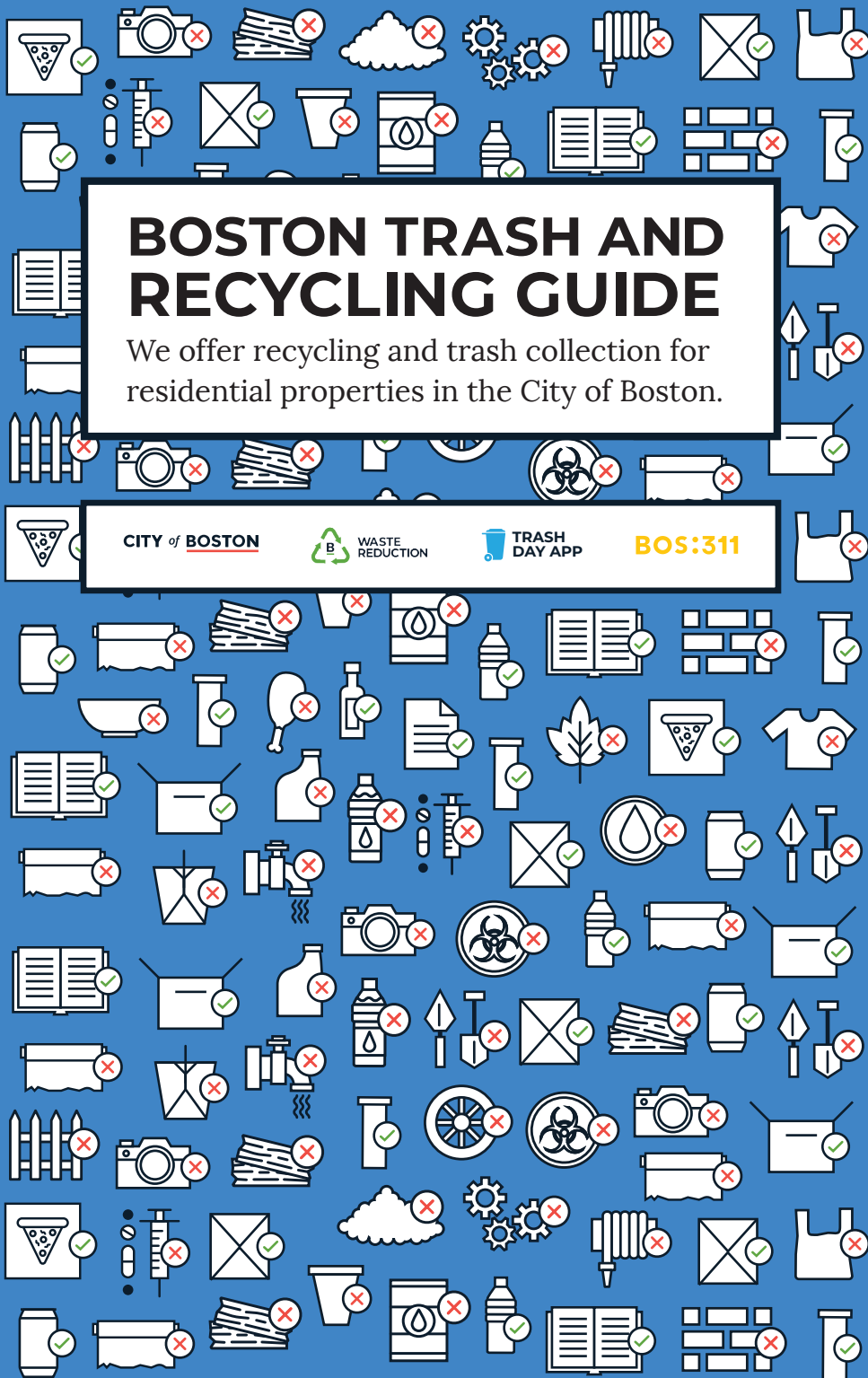


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ZERO WASTE

Zero waste means reducing, repairing, and reusing the materials in our lives. The Zero Waste Boston initiative strives to move Boston toward zero waste through planning, policy, and community engagement.

The Boston Zero Waste plan has developed guidelines to make Boston a zero-waste city. This means Boston will reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost at least 80 to 90 percent of its solid waste. We'll also cut disposal in landfills and incinerators.

Learn more at boston.gov/zero-waste

TRASH DAY APP

With our free Trash Day app, you can view a calendar for your home's collection dates, set reminders, and get notifications of schedule changes. Search a directory of hundreds of household items to find out the right way to dispose of them.

You can even use the app to find out if your trash and recycling collection is delayed due to a holiday, and to get the most up-to-date holiday collection schedule.

Learn more at boston.gov/trash-day

RECYCLING TIPS

RECYCLE ON TRASH DAY

Set recycling out by 6 a.m. on the same day you set out your trash. If your trash is collected twice per week, place recycling out on both days. Remember to separate recycling from trash before placing it on the curb, and please rinse and wash your items.

RECYCLING CONTAINER OPTIONS

All recyclable material must be in one of the following options:

1. Large wheeled carts

If your residence is six units or less, the City can provide you with a large wheeled cart.

These carts are large and must be wheeled to the recycling truck instead of carried. Please keep these tips in mind:

- For easy access, place your cart in front of your home on the curb, away from parked cars and not on private property.
- During the winter, place your cart next to or in front of snowbanks. Do not place carts behind snowbanks.

2. Converted trash cans

You can convert a trash can into a recycling container by placing a recycle sticker on the outside. Recycling cans should not be larger than 32 gallons. If they are larger, they must be able to attach to a lifting mechanism on a recycle truck.

You can request an official recycle sticker or recycling cart (subject to approval) through BOS:311 by dialing **3-1-1** or **617-635-4500**. Visit **boston.gov/311** for more information.

3. Clear plastic bags

Clear plastic bags are only allowed if you do not have enough space for a blue recycling bin in the following neighborhoods:

Back Bay/Bay Village, Beacon Hill, Charlestown, Chinatown, Downtown, East Boston, Fenway, Mission Hill, North End, Roxbury, South Boston, the South End, and the West End.

Please note: Bags need to be 32 gallons or less. **Do not** put recyclables in plastic grocery bags. Clear plastic recycling bags are available at local retailers.

Learn more at [boston.gov/recycling](https://www.boston.gov/recycling)

RECYCLING IN LARGE APARTMENT BUILDINGS AND CONDOS

Buildings with more than six residential units are considered large. Large buildings that receive City trash pickup services are required by City ordinance to have recycling programs.

Large building owners or condo associations must provide and maintain large wheeled carts that go in centralized locations for all building residents. To request recycling in a large building, contact BOS:311 by dialing **3-1-1** or **617-635-4500**.

ITEMS YOU CAN RECYCLE IN THE BLUE BIN

Remember to always **rinse and wash your items** before putting them in the recycling.

- **Pizza boxes:** remove food, pizza savers (pizza tables), and liners
- **Aluminum and tin cans:** including potato chips and coffee cans
- **Paper:** newspaper, magazines, catalogs, paperback books, white and colored paper
- **Boxboard:** paper bags, egg cartons, and cereal boxes
- **Glass:** jars and bottles
- **Plastic:** all containers (except plastic bags), including food, soda, water bottles, and jars

ITEMS YOU CAN'T RECYCLE IN THE BLUE BIN

- **Plastic shopping bags:** plastic grocery and garbage bags (return clean plastic bags to a participating retailer for recycling)
- **Disposable items:** styrofoam, cups, plates, napkins, paper towels, tissues, straws, and coffee pods
- **Plastic wraps:** bubble wrap, film, and tarps
- **Tanglers:** no coat hangers, hoses, extension cords and wires, or chains
- **Medical waste:** syringes and pills
- **Containers:** specifically containers used for chemicals and motor oil
- **Electronics:** rechargeable batteries and light bulbs
- **Clothes:** including shoes and stuffed animals
- **Drink and food boxes:** juice, milk, and frozen food boxes (plastic juice and milk containers are OK, if properly washed)
- **Ceramics:** pots, pans and glass
- **Food waste**

See page 10 and 11 for detachable recycling guides.

TRASH TIPS

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR TRASH

1. Trash should be neatly stored on your property in barrels or containers. Barrels or containers should:
 - be metal or made of a durable plastic
 - have a lid
 - not be larger than 32 gallons (unless it can attach to a lifting mechanism, then it can be up to 96 gallons), and
 - not weigh more than 50 pounds.
2. Trash must be placed at the curb **by 6 a.m., or after 5 p.m. the night before** your scheduled trash day.
3. All trash materials must fit inside the barrels and containers. If you use trash bags, they must be .9 mil or greater plastic material and can't be larger than 32 gallons.
4. Placing trash in kitchen bags, grocery bags, paper bags, cartons, or boxes is not acceptable, and might result in a code violation.



Certain items can't be put in the regular trash or recycling. Instead, they need to be scheduled for a special pickup. Call **3-1-1** or **617-635-4500** or visit **boston.gov/311** to schedule a pickup of these items:



COMPUTER MONITORS



AIR CONDITIONERS



DEHUMIDIFIERS



TELEVISIONS



WATER COOLERS



REFRIGERATORS

ITEMS YOU CAN'T PUT IN THE TRASH OR RECYCLING

If these items are reusable, donate them. Otherwise, you have to hire a private company to collect them.



BRICKS



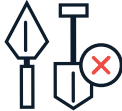
AUTOMOTIVE COMPONENTS



DIRT, ROCKS, AND STONES



FIRE DEBRIS



CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION MATERIAL



OIL DRUMS



PLUMBING FIXTURES



SYRINGES AND NEEDLES



LIQUID WASTE
if more than a gallon;
includes cooking oil



YARD WASTE



WATER HEATERS



HAZARDOUS MATERIAL



TIRES



FENCES

LEAF AND YARD WASTE

SEASONAL LEAF AND YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Leaf and yard waste is collected from April through December on designated yard waste collection weeks. Here are some tips:

- Place leaves and yard debris in large paper leaf bags or open barrels labeled “yard waste” (do not use plastic bags).
- You can get yard waste stickers for your barrels by contacting BOS:311. Dial **3-1-1** or **617-635-4500**, or visit **[boston.gov/311](https://www.boston.gov/311)**. We allow for five stickers per household. Paper leaf bags do not need labels.
- Tie branches with string. Branches can be a maximum of 3 feet in length and 1 inch max diameter.
- Place yard waste on the curb **by 6 a.m. on the first recycling day of the week, or after 5 p.m. the night before** your scheduled day.
- We also hold 20 drop-off events at our composting facility in Mattapan. Visit **[boston.gov/yard-waste](https://www.boston.gov/yard-waste)** for dates.

If you have two recycling days per week, leaf and yard waste collection is **only on your first** recycling day of the week. We don't collect leaf and yard waste curbside on non-scheduled yard waste weeks.

For collection dates, visit **[boston.gov/yard-waste](https://www.boston.gov/yard-waste)**

CHRISTMAS TREES

We collect Christmas trees during the first two full weeks in January after the Christmas holiday. If you have two recycling days, we pick up trees on your first recycling day. Set your tree out at the curb on your recycling day. Remember to remove decorations, wires, lights, and stands. **Do not put your tree in a plastic bag.**

FOOD WASTE COMPOSTING

COMMUNITY COMPOSTING

Composting is the controlled decomposition of organic material, such as yard waste and food scraps. Composting is a great way to reduce your waste and produce a natural soil fertilizer.

Project Oscar is the City of Boston’s community composting program. Large containers, resembling trash barrels, are made available for people to dispose of their household organic waste.

To learn more visit boston.gov/project-oscar

COMPOSTING AT HOME

Through Boston Building Resources, you can buy subsidized compost bins and kitchen and scrap buckets. Bins and buckets are available to purchase Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., at the Boston Building Resources location on 100 Terrace Street in Mission Hill. Contact BOS:311 by dialing **3-1-1** or **617-635-4500**, or visit boston.gov/compost for more information.

DONATING HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Please consider donating reusable clothes, furniture, and small appliances to charity. You can also visit boston.gov/recycling for updated information on City of Boston textile recycling programs.

Looking to donate doors, windows, or bathroom fixtures? Check out Boston Building Resources at bostonbuildingresources.com

HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF

We hold drop-off days for household hazardous waste during the year. Boston residents can safely dispose of hazardous waste and shred unwanted documents for free. Please note:

- We only take waste from **Boston residents**. You need to show us proof of your residency. We will not take any waste from businesses.
- **Latex and acrylic paint** are NOT hazardous. Just let the paint dry out in the can and put it out on your trash day.
- We offer **paper shredding** at all of our events. We will shred up to 10 copy paper size boxes or containers of your personal documents.
- We accept all **clothing and textiles**, including pants, coats, hats, and suits.
- You can also **recycle electronics** at this event. We don't take commercial material from businesses.

To learn more about what items we will and won't accept, visit [boston.gov/hazardous-waste](https://www.boston.gov/hazardous-waste)

MEDICINE AND SYRINGES

Did you find a syringe or needle on the street? To safely dispose of it, contact BOS:311 by dialing **3-1-1** or **617-635-4500** for help.

Have unused or expired medications? There are MedReturn Drug Collection Kiosks at 11 Boston Police Department Stations. The kiosks are open to all residents, 24 hours a day, seven days a week – no questions asked. To learn more visit [boston.gov/drug-kiosks](https://www.boston.gov/drug-kiosks)

ITEMS YOU CAN RECYCLE



PIZZA BOXES
Remove food, pizza savers (pizza tables), and liners



ALUMINUM AND TIN CANS
This includes potato chips and coffee cans



PAPER
White and colored paper



BOXBOARD
Paper bags, egg cartons, cereal boxes, etc.



GLASS
Jars and bottles



PLASTIC
All containers (except plastic bags), including food, soda, water bottles, jars, etc.



CARDBOARD
Flattened cardboard boxes (no larger than 3 feet by 3 feet; must be bundled and tied)



BOOKS
Paperback books



PUBLICATIONS
Newspapers, magazines, and catalogs

ITEMS YOU CAN'T RECYCLE



MEDICAL WASTE
Syringes, pills, etc.



DISPOSABLE ITEMS
Styrofoam, napkins, paper towels, tissues, straws, coffee pods, etc.



CONTAINERS
For chemicals and motor oil



ELECTRONICS
Including rechargeable batteries and light bulbs



PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS
Plastic grocery and garbage bags (you can return clean plastic bags to a participating retailer for recycling)



PLASTIC WRAPS
This includes bubble wrap, film, and tarps



CLOTHES
Including shoes and stuffed animals



DRINK AND FOOD BOXES
Juice, milk, and frozen food boxes (plastic juice and milk containers are acceptable if properly washed)



TANGLERS
No coat hangers, hoses, extension cords or wires, or chains



CERAMICS
Pots, pans, and glass



FOOD WASTE