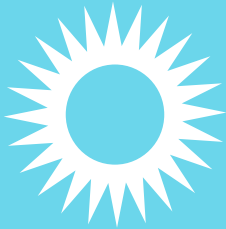


TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Zero Waste Guide

2024-2025





DEAR RESIDENT,

Thank you for your interest in recycling, food scrap diversion, and attention to proper handling of trash and household hazardous waste. In this guide you will find the Town's current rules and service offering.

Our curbside trash, recycling and yard waste hauler is Republic Services. Everything that gets picked up at the curb is taken directly out of town: trash goes to an incinerator in North Andover; recycling goes to GreenWorks in Peabody where it is sorted and sold to make new consumer goods; and yard waste is dropped off to be made into mulch and soil amendment.

As consumers of goods such as groceries, clothing, furniture and other household items and necessities, we are in constant need of information about what to do with stuff we no longer need or want. Before you reach the point of placing something in the trash we hope you will find useful suggestions throughout this guide for donation, borrowing/sharing, reuse, and recycling.





Table of contents

- 4 Curbside Recycling & Trash Program Rules**
- 6 Curbside Program: How it Works**
- 7 RecycleSmart**
- 8 2024-2025 Program Highlights**
- 9 Borrow instead of buy!**
- 10 Reuse & Recycling Center and Swap Shed**
- 12 Drop off, Donate, Borrow**
- 13 Consider Donation**
- 14 Collection Calendar**
- 16 Contact Us**



Curbside Recycling & Trash Program Rules

Place all materials on the curb no later than 7:00 AM on your collection day and not before 6:00 PM the day before. Any item left on the curb past 9:00 PM on the day after pickup is subject to fines. No container or bundle for collection may exceed 50 lbs. Specifics around acceptable equipment and limits are on page 6.

RECYCLING: Weekly participation is mandatory and enforced. Do not remove empty recycling bins before trash has been collected.

WEEKLY TRASH LIMIT: Each household has a 100-gallon limit, or the equivalent of three 32-gallon trash barrels. While you may use trash bags at the curb, Arlington recommends placing all trash in a covered barrel.

EXCESS TRASH: Trash over the weekly limit is the responsibility of the property owner to pay for its collection through private hauling companies. Dumpsters placed on the street require a permit from the Building Department, 781-316-3392.

WEEKLY UNLIMITED YARD WASTE COLLECTION: Paper leaf bags and clearly marked barrels (requires Town-provided “Yard Trimmings” sticker) are the only acceptable containers for yard waste. Plastic bags of yard waste cannot be collected as trash or as yard waste. See more rules on page 14.

BURNABLE BULK TRASH ITEMS: One burnable item is accepted with curbside collection per household, per week, free of charge and without need of an appointment. Examples include wood bed frames, upholstered, wood or plastic furniture, and area rugs 3’x5’ or smaller, and carpet (max six 3’ wide rolls, taped/tied). Tires are not accepted as trash but can be recycled at local tire service stations for a fee, call ahead. Bulky rigid plastic items are recyclable at the monthly Arlington Reuse & Recycling Center

MATTRESSES: Mattresses and box springs, sizes crib through king, require recycling per state waste ban laws. The Town-provided program costs \$45 per

unit. For curbside collection go to toughstuffrecycling.com. For drop off options make an appointment at the Reuse & Recycling Center: arlingtonma.gov/recycle

METAL ITEMS: Metal cannot be included as trash, per state waste ban laws. Scrap metal and propane tanks can be brought to the Reuse & Recycling Center by appointment. If you need curbside collection, contact Republic Services to pay the fee and make an appointment. Examples: metal bed frames, file cabinets, pipes, metal fence, exercise equipment, sports equipment, lawnmowers or snow blowers (fluids removed), grills.

MUNICIPAL TRASH: Some materials are not accepted as municipal trash per state laws, such as construction and demolition debris as well as household hazardous waste. Only allowable trash, known as “municipal solid waste,” is collected by our contractor. Allowable municipal solid waste excludes any materials covered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Waste Bans, such as inherently dangerous, toxic, or hazardous wastes regulated by State and Federal authorities. Waste ban items include televisions and CRTs, construction and demolition debris, metal, white goods (see

“Appliances” below), auto parts, stumps (regardless of size), dirt, rocks, concrete, biological waste, ammunition & explosives, clothing & textiles, and mattresses. More at mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans

APPLIANCES (WHITE GOODS): Appliances must be collected at the curb, by appointment only, for recycling (\$20 per unit). Contact Republic Services to pay and schedule a Friday pickup. Examples include clothes washers, dryers, dishwashers, stoves, microwaves, refrigerators, air conditioners, hot water heaters, oil-filled heaters, and dehumidifiers.

LARGE TVS: \$38 or \$50 depending on size, contact Republic Services to pay and schedule appointments if you need these collected at the curb. Drop off options are less expensive, see page 10.

EXCESS TRASH (OVER THE LIMIT) AND EXTRA BULKY TRASH ITEMS: Please make arrangements with a private hauler and compare pricing. Hardware stores sell single-use soft-sided dumpsters, and regular dumpsters can be rented from private hauling companies.



Curbside Program: How it Works

THREE TRUCKS: Three categories of materials are collected by three separate trucks: trash, recycling, and yard waste. Keep all containers grouped together at the curb. The Town does not currently provide equipment.

TRASH: While trash bags are accepted at the curb, residents are encouraged to use trash barrels with lids, per state public health regulations. Trash is limited to 100 gallons per week per household, and 32-35 gallon barrel size is advised.

RECYCLING: The Town does not distribute recycling bins. When choosing your own bin or barrel, blue containers are the best choice, but if you reuse an existing container it must be clearly marked with a DPW "Recycling" bumper sticker. Please choose a recycling container that is large enough to accommodate your recycling and prevent it from blowing away. Unlimited amounts of recycling are accepted at the curb. Recycling must accompany trash at curb. To ensure trash is collected, do not remove empty recycling bins before trash has been collected.

SINGLE STREAM

PREPARATION: All recyclables (cans, bottles, jars, jugs, tubs) must be rinsed free of all contaminants. Remove and discard all corks in trash. To recycle plastic bottle lids, remove some air from the container and then re-attach the lid. Do not place items in recycling that are smaller than a credit card because they cannot be sorted and recovered correctly. Other common plastics that have to go in the trash are black plastics and all plant pots.

YARD WASTE: Must be in paper yard waste bags or in a reusable barrel with the DPW "Yard Trimmings" bumper sticker clearly visible. Tree branches must be 3 feet or shorter and under 1 inch thick. Branches may be bundled with compostable twine, and all items placed out must weigh less than 50 lbs. No stumps, rocks, soil, or root balls of any size will be collected.



Free bumper stickers are available at the DPW at 51 Grove Street, Shattuck Hardware Stores, Town Hall, and Libraries.

Recycle Smart

Learn more with the Recyclopeda search tool at arlingtonma.gov/recycle

Yes!



METAL: Food and beverage cans - empty and rinse

PLASTIC: Bottles, jars, jugs and tubs - empty and replace cap

GLASS: Bottles and jars - empty and rinse

PAPER & CARDBOARD: Mixed paper, newspaper, magazines, boxes - empty and flatten

No!



**DO NOT BAG RECYCLABLES/
NO GARBAGE**

**NO PLASTIC BAGS OR
PLASTIC WRAP:** return to retail

NO FOOD OR LIQUID: empty all containers

NO CLOTHING OR LINERS: use donation programs

NO TANGLERS: no hosts, wires, chains or electronics



2024-2025 Program Highlights

MATTRESS RECYCLING

Mattresses are now required to be recycled by state law. In Arlington, we offer two options; drop off at the Reuse & Recycling Center by appointment, or set up a curbside collection appointment through toughstuffrecycling.com. Both options cost residents \$45 per unit

FIXIT CLINICS

Bring your broken stuff to a Fixit Clinic and learn how to open it up and problem solve together with knowledgeable and handy Fixit coaches. Or are you handy yourself? Join our coaching team! Upcoming events at Robbins Library Community Room from 2:30-4:30 PM on these dates:

- Sept. 7 and Nov. 2, 2024
- March 8 and May 3, 2025

More info at arlingtonma.gov/recycle

DID YOU KNOW: ARLINGTON SCHOOLS ARE COMPOSTING!

The Arlington Public Schools divert tons of food waste per year through lunchroom food scrap diversion composting. Arlington students are taking the lead to

raise awareness and inspire action around recycling, composting, and climate change through Green Teams, environmental clubs, and town-supported projects and internships. Food share tables and donation of unopened, pre-packaged food are extending these waste reduction efforts. For more information about school sustainability activities, contact Rachel Oliveri, APS School Sustainability Coordinator at roliveri@arlington.k12.ma.us

LATEX PAINT DISPOSAL

Many of us have excess paint at home. Before it gets old, consider donating it to Boston Building Resources, recycling it with Recolor Paints, or if it's not good enough to reuse or recycle, dry it out completely, place up to six open cans in a box at the curb, and it will be collected as a single bulky trash item.

GREEN TEAMS AND TEXTILE RECYCLING

School Green Team environmental clubs help raise community awareness about the importance of recycling our textiles, which

Borrow instead of buy!

includes clothing, shoes, luggage, sheets, towels, curtains and more. Now a state law, textile recycling has been around for a long time, but residents may still not know about the environmental benefits - 95% of textiles can be reused or made into rags or insulation!

If you live near one of our schools, you'll find a white textile collection bin in the driveway behind the school, available 24/7 for dropping off your textiles. Thanks for supporting our Green Teams!

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Hazardous and toxic materials come into our homes for a use, but tend to hang around a long time because we're not sure what to do with them. These materials are collected 8 times a year at no additional cost to Arlington residents. Examples include oil-based paints, stains, thinners, motor & blower fluids, cleaning & pool chemicals, lawn fertilizers, herbicides & pesticides, and adhesives & sealants. Registration is required, go to arlingtonma.gov/hhw

Appliances, instruments, games, puzzles, electronics and more at Robbins Library!





Reuse & Recycling Center and Swap Shed

DROP OFF HARDER-TO-RECYCLE MATERIALS AT 33 RYDER STREET, ARLINGTON RESIDENTS ONLY

Appointment Required: arlingtonma.gov/recycle or 781-316-3108

Cash and checks only.

WEEKDAY AND MONTHLY WEEKEND DATES

- Electronic Waste, fees for TVs and monitors (\$20) and laptops (\$5), everything else is free. Bring your phones, cables/wires, printers, stereo equip., computer parts, and small cooking appliances.
- Batteries: rechargeable, lithium, ni-cad, lead acid, button cell (alkaline go in trash)
- Scrap Metal, such as hangers, pots/pans, shelving, file cabinets, pipe/fencing, grills, mowers
- Books, but encyclopedias, old text books and moldy books go in the trash
- Media, professionally recorded CDs, DVDs and games (personal discs go in trash)
- Clothes, Shoes, & Textiles, such as sheets and towels, must be dry, please place in a plastic bag before placing in collection bins
- Fire Extinguishers, \$5 if full, free if discharged and the top is removed
- Propane Tanks, up to 20 lbs.
- Ink and Toner Cartridges, can also drop off at office supply stores
- Mattresses, \$45 per unit, all sizes crib to king. Futons and sofa bed mattresses are not required to be recycled and can go in the trash
- Packing Foam, only clean, white, rigid packing foam that snaps when you bend it, like a cooler, labels and tape removed
- Bulky Rigid Plastic, larger than a 5 gallon bucket, trash barrels, storage bins, and outdoor furniture, no small plastics
- Plastic Bags and Bubble Wrap, clean and dry. Drop off at local grocery stores for recycling

SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE REUSE & RECYCLING CENTER

No Appointment Required
Arlington residents only

Secure Document Shredding 9 AM to 12 PM

- Free, 2 box max for residents
- Small businesses pay \$5/box, 5 box max
- Cash donations collected for FoodLink and Arlington Eats
 - Sept. 7 and Nov. 16, 2024
 - March 8 and May 10, 2025

Medical Sharps Disposal 9 AM to 12 PM

- Sept. 8 and Dec. 7, 2024
- March 9 and June 14, 2025

Bicycle Donation Bonanza with the Bike Connector

- Open to residents beyond Arlington
- With our partner The Bike Connector, spring and fall collection events, check online calendar or call for dates

THESE MATERIALS ARE **NOT** ACCEPTED AT THE REUSE & RECYCLING CENTER



Hoses are trash



Latex paint must be dried completely then placed in trash



Return CFLs to Shattuck hardware stores for safe disposal, others go in the trash



PVC pipe and vinyl siding, in small amounts, are trash



Soft foam is trash



Drop off, Donate, Borrow

There is no transfer station in Arlington. All material that is collected at the curb is taken directly out of town. We offer drop off options for harder to recycle materials, host events for common categories of materials, and partner with local hardware stores. Also see Reuse & Recycling Center on page 10.

TV/COMPUTER MONITORS/ CRTS:

Required to recycle, fee applies, see Reuse & Recycling Center, page 10.

ELECTRONIC WASTE (E-WASTE):

Optional to recycle. Make an appointment for the Reuse & Recycling Center to drop off these items for free. Examples include audio and computer equipment, toasters and random cords. Please trash fans, humidifiers, and vacuum cleaners.

MERCURY: Keep these items out of the trash: Batteries (lithium, rechargeable, lead acid, ni-cad, button-cell), thermometers, and thermostats. Make an appointment at the Reuse & Recycling Center for proper handling. Alkaline batteries go in the trash.

FLUORESCENT LIGHT

BULBS: Never accepted as trash. Bring to Shattuck or Shattuck Heights hardware stores for proper disposal.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW):

Banned by state law from entering the municipal waste stream, HHW is collected eight times per year in Lexington. Registration is required and the dates are in this guide on page 14. Free for Arlington residents. Details at arlingtonma.gov/hhw

PAINT: Oil-based paints can only be disposed of at Household Hazardous Waste collections. Latex paint should be completely dried, open cans placed in an open box, then place that box next to your regular trash. Do not place these out on rainy days.



SHARPS, MEDICATIONS, PILL BOTTLES: Medical sharps are collected at drop off events, see page 11 for dates. Unwanted medications can be dropped off 24 hours a day, 7 days per week in the medication disposal drop box at the Community Safety Building at 112 Mystic Street. Never flush medication down a drain. Empty prescription and over-the-counter medication bottles belong in the trash.

MEDICAL SHARPS: Not accepted as trash. Collected (in red Sharps containers) at specific Reuse & Recycling Center events., see dates on page 11 and on the Health Department web page. Call Board of Health with your questions: 781-316-3170.

Consider Donation

SECOND CHANCES reuses and recycles clothing, shoes, and accessories so that homeless and lower-income people feel confident and valued as they take their first steps toward brighter futures and, as a community, we can minimize the amount of apparel going into local landfills.

BOSTON BUILDING RESOURCES helps people repair and improve their homes while also sparing the environment from needless waste.

HOUSEHOLD GOODS, INC. provides a full range of donated furniture and household items, free of charge, to help people in need make a home.

Please check what types of materials and in what condition these partners are looking for before donating.



Collection Calendar



WEEKLY UNLIMITED YARD WASTE COLLECTION

Ends the week of Dec. 9-13, 2024 on your collection day, with one drop off day at 33 Ryder St. on Sat. Dec. 21, 9 AM -12 PM. Curbside collection resumes week of April 14, 2025. Yard waste must be in paper bags or a barrel labeled with a town Yard Trimmings sticker, no plastic bags. Small branches must be 3 feet or shorter and under 1 inch thick. Branches may be bundled and tied with compostable twine and must weigh less than 30 lbs. No stumps, root balls, rock, soil, or fruit allowable.



CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

The weeks of January 6-10 and 13-17, 2025, with one drop off day at 33 Ryder St. on Saturday, January 18, 9 AM -12 PM. No plastic bags, no yard waste.



NO COLLECTION (HOLIDAY)

Trash delayed on day the rest of the week. Friday collections are on Saturday.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Appointment required, register at arlingtonma.gov/recycle or call the office for assistance: 781-316-3108.



ARLINGTON REUSE & RECYCLING CENTER

Collecting harder-to-recycle materials. Appointment required, register at arlingtonma.gov/recycle or call the office for assistance: 781-316-3108.

Receive holiday and recycling event reminders: arlingtonma.gov/subscribe

2024

JULY

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AUGUST

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2025

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JUNE

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ARLINGTON DPW OFFICES

51 Grove Street
Hours M-F 8 AM to 4 PM

REUSE & RECYCLING CENTER

33 Ryder Street
Hours vary, appointment needed in most cases
Check the calendar for special event times

24/7 information, calendar, and news:
arlingtonma.gov/recycle

Charlotte Milan, Recycling Coordinator
cmilan@town.arlington.ma.us
781-316-3108

REPUBLIC SERVICES

*Arlington's contracted hauler for trash, recycling
and yard waste collection*

Customer Service: 781-289-0500

Please call this number to report occasional
missed pickups and to pay for bulky
appliances and trash items

TOUGH STUFF RECYCLING

Arlington's mattress recycling partner
Pay and make an appointment for curbside
collection at toughstuffrecycling.com

HELPSY

Arlington's textile recycling partner
Free, make an appointment for Wednesday
curbside collection at helpsy.co (not .com)