

Rethink Recycling: Curbside Bins Are Only the Beginning

New markets are created every day to re-use or recycle things that used to go in the trash. Here is a list of items that can't go in your recycling bin for curbside collection, but don't need to go in the trash. The more that people are willing to put a little effort into dropping these items off, the more locations will spring up to collect them.

Arlington has collection sites around town for many common items – you just need to know where to look. Community Collection Days (November and May) provide extra options for certain items where it's more efficient to collect in bulk. Check the list before each Collection Day to see what we accepting - it can change from year to year.

Below is a list of the most common items people ask about. There is often more detailed information on the Town website's recycling page: arlingtonma.gov/recycle

Plastic shopping bags - Please do not place in your recycling bin as they severely gum up the works at the recycling sorting and separation facility. Instead you can recycle them at Stop & Shop and Whole Foods Market.

Dry cleaning bags / hangers - Please do not place in your recycling bin as the bags and hangers severely gum up the works at the recycling sorting/separation facility. Many dry cleaners in town will accept them for recycling/reuse – ask your cleaner if they have a program. Wire hangers can be dropped off at the metal collection on Community Collection Days. The bags can be included in the plastic bag recycling bin at Whole Foods Market.

Textiles - Yes, textiles can be recycled - But not in your recycling bin - For what can be recycled (much more than you might originally think) -and- the location of drop off/collection bins please visit www.arlingtonma.gov/recycle

Books - Drop off locations (collection bins, libraries) can be found at www.arlingtonma.gov/recycle

E-waste - Electronic waste items (essentially anything with a plug) can be dropped off at the DPW (Grove Street) during normal business hours and recycled free of charge. Computer monitors, TVs and CRTs monitors are also accepted for recycling at the DPW offices in exchange for a small fee. Lastly local elementary schools hold regular e-waste collection fund raising events - And some retailers (Best Buy) accept and recycle many e-waste items free of charge.

Fluorescent and Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs - These items contain Mercury - Do not place in the regular trash or in your recycling bin. They can be recycled at Wannamaker Hardware (Mass Ave) -or- Shattuck Hardware (Mill Street)

Thermometers and thermostats - These items contain Mercury - Do not place in the regular trash or in your recycling bin. They can be recycled at Wannamaker Hardware (Mass Ave) -or- Arlington DPW during normal business hours.

Rechargeable batteries, camera button batteries - Please do not place in the regular trash or in your recycling bin - Instead please bring them to the DPW (Grove Street) for proper handling.

Note: Alkaline batteries can be disposed of in the regular trash.

Note: Lead car batteries need to be taken to a service garage for proper disposal.

Toner and Ink Jet Cartridges - Can be recycled at the DPW (Grove Street) for free - Staples rewards members can recycle cartridges at their store locations and earn rewards points (\$).

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) - Collected 8 times a year at the regional HHW collection facility in Lexington. See www.arlingtonma.gov/hhw for details/schedule, plus details on how to dispose of latex paints.

White goods - Large appliances and additional items are collected for recycling [\$20/item] - Call JRM [1-800-323-4285] to arrange - Items that need to be disposed of using this method include: air conditioning units, dehumidifier units, dishwashers, ranges, washing machines, dryers, oil burners, hot water heaters, stoves, refrigerators and freezers.

Compostable items - Yard waste should not include kitchen waste. Even better than having yard waste collected, you can keep more leaves on your property (on beds as mulch, mown into lawns, for backyard composting). Your own compost can include some of your kitchen waste and dirty paper towels or napkins. For more information on how to compost and reduce your yard waste volume, see tips and links at arlingtonma.gov/recycle.

Propane tanks (up to 20lbs) - Collected during business hrs at the DPW or during spring/fall community collection days.

Metal (non-appliance) -and- Clean foam (#4, #5, #6) - Collected semi-annually at the spring/fall community collection days. Please review the details on foams that are accepted and how to prepare them for efficient processing.

Old Medications - Collected 24/7/365 at the Community Safety Building (Mystic Street).

Sharps (red sharp containers only) - Collected at the spring/fall community collection days.

Additional information available at www.arlingtonma.gov/recycle