



# Town of Reading

## A GUIDE TO RECYCLING AND TRASH COLLECTION



Our goal is to reduce cost by decreasing the tonnage of rubbish that is incinerated and by increasing recycling. We ask all residents to participate in working towards this goal.

We hope you find this guide helpful. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or suggestions regarding Rubbish disposal and Recycling in the Town of Reading.

### RUBBISH DISPOSAL LIMITS

- No more than 4 bags/small barrels or 3 large barrels (a maximum total of 120 gallons) of rubbish per household per week. A maximum weight of 80 lbs each.
- Contractor will not pick up any trash containing recyclable material.



### DUAL STREAM RECYCLING

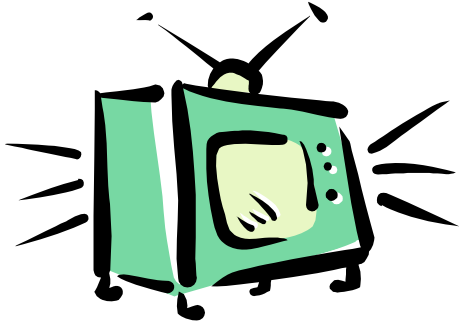
- Weekly **mandatory** unlimited recycling
- Prepare as you always have; separate paper and commingled containers. Place bundled paper on top of or beside bin.

*Or*

- **Put Paper/Cardboard in one container and Plastic/Glass/Cans in the other.**
- Use the red recycling bins distributed by the Town of Reading, AND/OR
- Use your own containers clearly marked with a recycling sticker.
- Recycling bins and stickers are available at no cost at the DPW Garage, 75 New Crossing Road, 1-781-942-9092, Monday – Friday 7:00 am – 3:00 pm, AND
- At the Reading Town Hall, DPW Office, 16 Lowell St 1-781-942-9077 Mon–Wed–Thurs 7:30 am – 5:30 pm  
Tues 7:30 am – 7:00 pm Closed Fridays



## TV/CRT DISPOSAL



- TV's and CRT's (computer monitors) are not allowed with regular trash or recycling.
- Picked up weekly by calling JRM directly at 1-800-323-HAUL and arranging payment and scheduling the pickup.
- TV/CRT pickup fee is \$10 each.

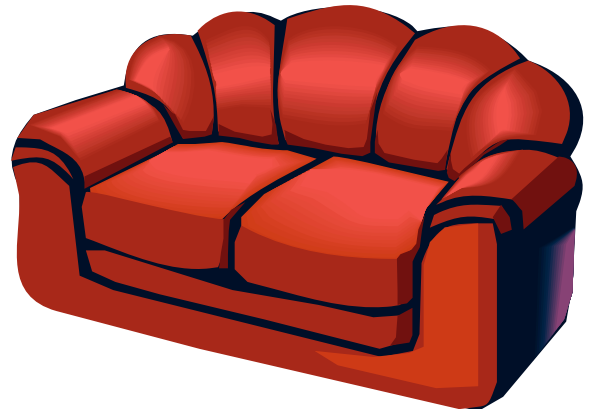
## LEAF COLLECTION

- The Town will schedule (5) weeks of curbside leaf collection per year
- The contractor will pick up leaves in large paper bags on your regular trash day.
- There is no charge for curbside leaf collection.
- Please click [HERE](#) for the most current schedule



## BULK ITEMS

- One Bulk Item per week may be placed at curbside with your regular recycling and rubbish.
- There is no charge and no stickers are required.
- Bulk items include: sofa, loveseat, chairs, recliners, arm-chair, mattress, box-spring, table, desk, bookcase, and carpeting. (see end of brochure for further definition)
- Unusually large or awkward items can be picked up for a fee by calling JRM directly at 1-800-323-HAUL



## USED APPLIANCES



- Household appliances are not allowed with regular trash or recycling.
- They include but are not limited to: refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers, dishwashers, heaters, air-conditioners, de-humidifiers, hot water heaters, etc.
- Appliances are picked up weekly by calling JRM directly at 1-800-323-HAUL and arranging payment and scheduling the pickup.
- Appliance pickup fee is \$20 each.

## RIGID PLASTICS EVENT

- The Town schedules at least one Rigid Plastics Event annually.
- Bring your rigid plastics (toys, plastic chairs, containers, etc).
- There is no charge for residents.
- For the most current schedule and list of acceptable rigid plastics, please click [HERE](#).



## SCRAP METAL PICKUP

- The Town of Reading schedules one scrap metal pickup annually.
- The contractor will pickup scrap metal curbside from residents.
- There is no charge for this service.
- For the most current schedule and list of acceptable scrap metal, please click [HERE](#).

## PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

- The Town schedules at least one Paper Shredding Event to be held annually.
- Residents may bring paper documents that they want to shred. Please only shred confidential documents. Anything else can go out in your weekly recycling.
- Shredding takes place in front of residents.
- There is no charge for shredding.
- For the most current schedule please click [HERE](#).



## What paper can I recycle?

### Accepted Paper & Cardboard:

Newspapers/inserts  
Magazines  
Catalogs  
Junk Mail  
Envelopes  
Paper Bags  
Phone Books  
Office Paper  
Computer Paper  
File Folders  
Fax paper  
Stationery  
All Books  
Boxboard  
Shredded paper  
Cereal, cake and gift boxes  
Notebooks (no metal rings/clips)  
Milk - Juice Carton/Drink Boxes



All Cardboard is acceptable. Please breakdown, flatten and fold boxes, cartons & other cardboard into no larger than 4' x 4'

**Unacceptable Paper:**

- No napkins, tissues, toilet paper, or soiled paper wrappers.....
- No waxed cardboard.

**What else can I recycle?**

**Accepted Commingled Materials:**

**PLASTIC**

- Butter/margarine tubs
- Dessert/yogurt cups
- Plastic condiment containers
- Six and twelve pack rings
- Water bottles
- Non-returnable beverage bottles



Plastic Containers accepted  
(excluding #6 Styrofoam)

**Unacceptable Plastics:**

- No plastic bags, Styrofoam (see end for more information), or packaging peanuts
- No plastic wrap, newspaper sleeves, or plastic film

**GLASS**

- Glass bottles, jars, food containers and beverage containers

**Unacceptable Glass:**

- No window glass or mirrors
- No light-bulbs
- No ceramics



**METAL CANS and FOIL**



- Clean aluminum cans and foil
- Tin and steel cans
- Lids from jars
- Empty and non-hazardous aerosol cans

# Holiday Recycling Guide



The Holiday season is upon us and with the Town's new trash limits, we would like to offer some helpful hints of what to recycle this holiday season.

**Cardboard:** Please recycle all of your cardboard boxes. Flatten and either fold or cut to a size not larger than 4 feet by 4 feet. You may bundle cardboard, put it in a paper bag, place it under your recycling bin, or place it standing in or between recycling bins.



**Gift Boxes and Wrapping Paper:** Please recycle all wrapping paper, tissue paper, and gift boxes. No need to flatten or fold, but must be contained. Treat like any other paper, put in paper bags or place in your paper bin. Tape is OK, but no ribbons please.

**Holiday Cards and Calendars:** Holiday cards (including envelopes and gift tags) and calendars can be recycled with your paper.



**Other Non-trash items:** Magazines & catalogs, old files, paperboard, shredded paper, newspapers, copy paper, paperback books, spiral binders, tape, and staples are all OK for the paper bin! You should also recycle separately all glass, plastic and metal - bottles and cans.



## The Three R's of the Holidays

### REDUCE

- ❖ Wrap with holiday fabric, gift bags, fancy boxes, maps, comics or just a bow.
- ❖ Give gift cards or event tickets
- ❖ LED lights use less electricity. Put a timer on all lights
- ❖ Shop locally. Plan your trips to avoid wasting gas.
- ❖ Email cards or pare down your mailing list.

### REUSE

- ❖ Save gift bags, wrapping paper, boxes, and bows for next year.
- ❖ Use cloth bags when shopping for groceries and gifts.
- ❖ Buy rechargeable batteries.
- ❖ Donate old usable items when you receive new ones.
- ❖ Buy an artificial tree.
- ❖ Use cloth napkins, not paper.

### RECYCLE

- ❖ Recycle wrapping paper.
- ❖ Recycle holiday cards and tags.
- ❖ Recycle empty food containers and other party waste.
- ❖ Buy items made with recycled content.
- ❖ Recycle your Christmas tree.
- ❖ Recycle ads and catalogs.
- ❖ Recycle cardboard boxes.



**\*\*\*New Recycling Opportunity\*\*\***



## **Styrofoam Collection**

### **Permanent Drop-off Location**

#### **DPW Facility**

**75 Newcrossing Rd**

**Monday – Friday**

**7:30 – 2:30**



**The Town of Reading is pleased to announce our permanent Styrofoam Collection drop-off location. The Town has partnered with ReFoamIt of Framingham to offer this drop-off location. This is part of the Town’s continuing effort to expand its recycling program and reduce the amount of trash we send to the incinerator.**



Meat and produce trays

Must have #6 recycling symbol on it and rinsed



Takeout Containers  
No Food Particles!

White Insulation Board



Coolers

**\*Please remove all tape, labels & food particles from your Styrofoam\***

**For more information, please call the Department of Public Works at (781) 942-9077 or go to the ReFoamIt website at [refoamit.com](http://refoamit.com) for a full list of what will and will not be collected.**



**\*\*\*Please note – We can’t accept Styrofoam Peanuts at this location\*\*\***

**(please recycle at your local mailing center)**

## What is a Bulk Item?

Bulk waste items are defined as any item that is not considered as household rubbish, are not hazardous waste, and are not recyclable. Bulk waste items are of such size or weight (over 80 pounds) that one person cannot readily handle it and/or that fall into the following categories.

- Auto parts such as generators, starters, air cleaners, auto seats, wheel rims, small pieces of body metal, etc.
- Furniture items, swing sets (dismantled with concrete footings removed), bicycles and other similar items.
- Unsure if it's a bulk item?  
Call JRM at 1-800-323-HAUL
- **Consider donating items to local charities.**

For more information or suggestions, contact the Department of Public Works at 1-781-942-9077 or Email [publicworks@ci.reading.ma.us](mailto:publicworks@ci.reading.ma.us)

For continuing updates on recycling and rubbish collection and disposal, go to [www.readingma.gov](http://www.readingma.gov)

The Town's Recycling and Rubbish Collection contractor is:

