

Businesses and School Requirements

Managing Items Banned from the Trash

To reduce waste and greenhouse gas emissions, protect public health, and conserve resources and landfill space, Vermont law bans certain items from the trash. **Your local waste management experts can provide no-cost advice and training.** They can also help you figure out ways to reduce waste, which can save you money. Find your local experts at 802recycles.com.

State law requires everyone in Vermont to recycle clean and dry:



- Uncoated paper, boxboard, and cardboard
- Containers: from food and drinks, empty and rinsed
 - Metal cans
 - Glass bottles and jars
 - Plastic bottles and containers labeled #1 and #2
(ask your recycler what else is accepted locally)



Tips for recyclables:

- 1) Learn more about what to recycle at VTrecycles.com. If you don't have recycling, ask your trash hauler for recycling service, and set up containers to collect recyclables where they're produced.
- 2) Label your recycling bins with [signs](#) that describe what can be recycled.
- 3) Teach your staff to recycle properly. Make sure they follow through, and coach them frequently.

State law requires everyone in Vermont to manage their food scraps separately from the trash.



Tips for leftover food and food scraps:

- 1) Donate quality food to staff or a local food shelf.
- 2) Find food scrap haulers or learn about drop-offs and on-site composting at VTrecycles.com.
- 3) Track excess food and food that goes bad so you can modify purchasing, preparation, and storage to save money by having less excess and less waste.

How food scrap management works:

- Haulers often provide collection bins and tell you what can go in them.
- Collect food scraps in easily washable containers, like 5-gallon buckets, and empty them into the larger bins. Clean the buckets regularly.
- Teach staff to separate food scraps properly. Keep trash, like produce stickers and silverware, out of the food scraps.



Hazardous and hard-to-manage items must be collected separately.



Find a special recycling drop-off near you at VTrecycles.com for these items:

- Batteries and Cell phones
- Electronics
- Paint
- Fluorescent Lightbulbs
- Mercury Thermostats (older, with dials), Thermometers, and Switches

These items are banned from the trash or dangerous: Ask your local waste experts or transfer station where to bring them (find local info at 802recycles.com).



- Large Appliances and Scrap Metal
- Tires, Used Oil, Filters, Auto Fluids
- Clean Wood: not pressure treated/painted
- Explosives, Fireworks, Gasoline, Pesticides, Pool Chemicals, Propane Tanks/Cylinders
- Hazardous Wastes (cleaners, degreasers, etc.)

Learn more at VTrecycles.com or by calling VT DEC at 802-828-1138.