



Massachusetts
Department
of
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Summary

Waste Ban Regulations 310 CMR 19.017

Materials restricted from disposal:

Glass, metal and plastic containers; paper, including cardboard; leaf and yard waste; lead-acid batteries; mattresses (effective Nov. 1, 2022); textiles (effective Nov. 1, 2022); whole tires; white goods (large appliances); cathode ray tubes (TVs and computer monitors); asphalt pavement, brick, concrete, metal; wood; clean gypsum wallboard; and commercial organic material.

Why waste bans?

- Capture more recyclables
- Conserve disposal capacity
- Keep hazards out of the environment

Guidance Brief

Municipalities & Compliance with the Mattress Waste Ban

The Massachusetts waste bans (found at 310 CMR 19.017) are prohibitions on the disposal or transfer for disposal of certain recyclable and/or toxic materials. They are intended to spur the reuse and/or recycling of banned waste materials, conserve disposal capacity across the state, and minimize adverse environmental impacts. Mattresses are banned from waste disposal effective November 1, 2022.

Mattresses are defined as “any resilient material or combination of materials that is enclosed by ticking, used alone or in combination with other products, and that is intended for sleeping upon, except for mattresses that are contaminated with mold, bodily fluids, insects, oil, or hazardous substances. Mattress includes any foundation or box spring. “Mattress” does not include any mattress pad, mattress topper, sleeping bag, pillow, car bed, carriage, basket, dressing table, stroller, playpen, infant carrier, lounge pad, crib bumper, liquid or gaseous filled ticking, including any waterbed and any air mattress that does not contain upholstery material between the ticking and the mattress core, and mattresses in futons and sofa beds.”

There are many options available to municipalities to help them comply with the mattress waste ban. Considerations include the type of trash/recycling service currently offered by the municipality, population size, geographic area, and funding mechanisms.

Curbside Collection Options:

Separate Collection of Mattresses Only

- Regular schedule or by appointment
- Set up with existing solid waste hauler or a new hauler (e.g., mattress recycler, junk hauler, other waste hauler)
- Hauler transports mattresses directly to a mattress recycler.

Collection by Municipal Staff

- Municipal staff collects mattresses curbside
- Transports to central collection site within the municipality for future pick-up from a mattress vendor OR
- Transports directly to the mattress recycling facility

Co-collection with Bulky Waste / Appliances / White Goods

- Dry collection of these items separately from MSW (either on certain days or by appointment)
- Delivered to a receiving facility, where mattresses are separated and sent for recycling under agreement with that facility

Agreement with a Preferred Hauler or Vendor

- Agreement between a municipality and a specific mattress vendor or hauler
- Residents may receive service at a pre-negotiated price, resident pays service provider directly

No Collection / Use Private Service Providers

- No requirement for municipalities to provide mattress collection or recycling to its residents
- Municipality prohibits mattresses to be collected with regular trash
- Refers residents to private service providers

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Executive Office of
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This information is available in
alternate format by calling our ADA

Coordinator at
(617) 574-6872.



Drop-off Facility Options:

Collection at a Municipal Drop-off Center

- Municipality procures a mattress collection container (see below for container options); some vendors also offer the option for a container rental
- Residents transport their mattresses to the drop-off center
- Municipality contracts with a mattress vendor to service the container when full

Regional Collection Center for Multiple Municipalities

- Central collection location that can be used by multiple municipalities within a specific geographic region
- One municipality acts as the “host” city/town and residents of other designated cities and towns may utilize it

Regional “Milk Run” Collection Schedule

- Municipalities each have their own collection container/storage area
- Contract with a mattress recycler to coordinate pick-ups at each location on a single route (referred to as a “milk run”)

One Day Collection Event

- Municipality contracts with a mattress recycler to drop a container at a temporary location
- Mattresses are collected from residents during a special one-day event, or a few specific days throughout the year

Mattress Storage & Collection Containers:

Closed-top Roll Off

- Ideal for municipalities that will be hauling their full container to a central collection site for aggregation or hauling directly to the mattress recycling facility

Sea Container or Intermodal Container

- For municipalities that will be keeping the collection container at their site where a mattress vendor will unload the units into a trailer or box truck
- Also used in situations where the vendor is picking up a full container and swapping it out with an empty one

Transfer Trailer

- These trailers are a way to move a large amount of mattresses to a distant mattress recycling facility
- May also be used by mattress recycling vendors when picking up from a site where they expect to transport a large amount of mattresses

Other Storage Options

- For municipalities that do not have the space or because the number of mattresses collected is so few an alternative collection container such as a storage shed may be considered
- Required to keep the mattresses clean and dry and be easily accessible – both for residents dropping off their mattresses and for the vendors collecting them

For Additional Information Visit:

- MassDEP’s Mattress Recycling Website for general information:
www.mass.gov/service-details/mattress-recycling
- Grant Programs for funding municipal mattress recycling initiatives:
www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-a-sustainable-materials-recovery-program-smrp-municipal-grant
- State Contracts FAC86, FAC90, and FAC113 for options related to mattress transportation services, recycling, and collection containers: www.commbuys.com/bsol