

# Single-Stream vs. Local Recycling Programs

Single stream recycling (or “mixed” recycling) where recyclable materials such as cardboard, paper, and plastic, metal, and glass containers are collected together and brought to a material recovery facility (MRF) for processing. Most MRFs in Massachusetts have converted to be able to accept and process this mixed recycling.

The downside to a Single-Stream recycling program is that they are very limited to what they will accept. Single stream MRFs are designed to sort and process only certain materials, and not all materials displaying a resin code (recycling symbol with a number in the center) can be placed in single stream recycling. See the image below from Recycle Smart MA:



The image is a poster from Recycle Smart MA detailing accepted and non-accepted items for recycling. At the top is the Recycle Smart logo. Below it are four columns of accepted items: Metal (Food and Beverage Cans), Plastic (Bottles, Jars, Jugs and Tubs), Glass (Bottles and Jars), and Paper & Cardboard (Mixed Paper, Newspaper, Magazines, Boxes). A horizontal line separates this from a 'NO!' section. This section features five icons with red diagonal lines through them, indicating non-accepted items: Do Not Bag Recyclables No Garbage, No Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap, No Food or Liquid, No Clothing or Linens, and No Tangles. At the bottom left is the MassDEP logo, and at the bottom right is the RecycleSmartMA.org website and social media handles.

**Recycle Smart**

**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 Linens**  
(use donation programs)

**No Tangles**  
(no hoses, wires, chains or electronics)

**RecycleSmartMA.org**

**MassDEP** AN INITIATIVE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**@RecycleSmartMA** **RecycleSmartMA** **Recycle-Smart-MA**

As you can see, it is a very short list!

In Carlisle, we have a Local Recycling Program that is very robust, and the list of items that can be recycled is long:

- Batteries
- Books
- Clean Cardboard
- Waxed Cardboard
- Clothing/Textiles
- Electronics
- Construction Debris
- Electronic Media
- Fluorescent Bulbs
- Glass
- Mercury
- Metal – Cans and Large Items
- Oil
- Mixed Paper & Newspaper
- Plastic (with some exceptions)
- Tires

In addition, they even have a Hazardous Waste Day to dispose of items such as paint, glues, resins, automotive fluids, pesticides/herbicides, pool chemicals, aerosol cans, etc.

New this past year in Carlisle is a composting program, which covers many other items that cannot be recycled normally. Composting is even better for the environment because it guarantees re-use of items that would normally be thrown away in the trash.

Carlisle's composting program will take:

- Paper and cardboard, even if food-soiled
- Wax paper
- Coffee grounds, filters, and tea bags

- Food waste, including:
  - Raw or cooked meat, including seafood
  - Dairy
  - Pasta, grains, & bread
  - Cookies, cake, & candy
  - Eggs & eggshells
  - Fruits & vegetables (stickers removed)
  - Nut & coconut shells
  - Cooking oil & grease
- Anything organic, including:
  - House plants & flowers
  - Wood toothpicks, popsicle sticks, & chopsticks
  - Sawdust
  - Cotton swabs & balls
  - Wine corks
  - Stove, grill, & fireplace ash
  - Pet food (unused)
  - Pet waste from rabbits, chickens, birds, hamsters bedding & waste
  - Hair & fur

At Carlisle Trash Collection, being environmentally friendly and properly recycling ALL recyclable materials is very important to us. We choose not to use Single-Stream Recycling because we want to ensure that all materials that can be recycled, are being recycled. If that is important to you also, you've come to the right place for your trash collection needs.