

# Don't Trash That!



Some things should not go in your trash because they are a **safety hazard** to workers and others at the transfer station.

**Please do not put these in the trash:**

## CHEMICALS, PESTICIDES, USED OIL, PAINT, AND OTHER HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES (HHW)

### Why Not?

- These materials can create a safety hazard for workers at the transfer station
- Leaks and spills can contaminate soil and water

### Instead:

- Store carefully at home and bring to a HHW event:
- Many transfer stations collect used oil separately – ask the attendant



## AMMUNITION, FLARES, FIREWORKS

### Why Not?

- These materials can create a safety hazard for workers at the transfer station

### Instead:

- Contact your local police or fire department and follow their instructions



## METAL OBJECTS

All type/sizes – including propane tanks

### Why Not?

- Propane tanks of all sizes, even when empty present a safety hazard
- The transfer station generates income from selling scrap metal in bulk for recycling

### Instead:

- Ask the transfer station attendant where to put propane tanks
- Put metal objects in the designated scrap metal collection area
- Put metal food & drink cans in their regular recycling bins



## LIQUIDS

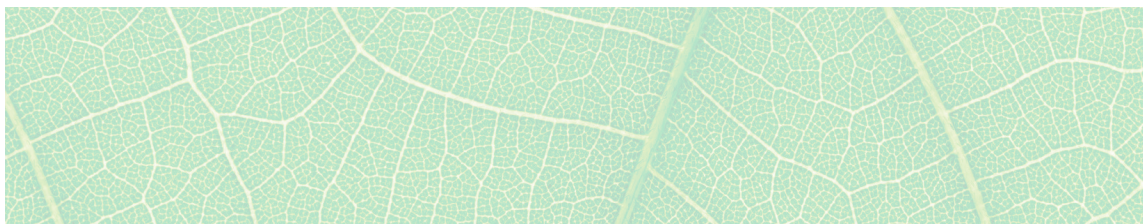
All types

### Why Not?

- Liquids make a mess at the transfer station; attract bees, rats, and other pests; and cause odors

### Instead:

- If the liquid is from food/beverage, simply empty containers before disposal
- If the liquid is from chemicals, pesticides, used oil, paint, or other HHW – don't empty! Follow the HHW instructions above



Some things should not go in the trash because there are better things to do with them. **Please do not put these in the trash:**

## RECYCLABLES

Including: paper, some plastics, and containers made of aluminum, steel, and glass

### Why Not?

- Towns pay for disposal by weight – any needless disposal costs your town money
- Some towns have ordinances that require recycling (see below)

### Instead:

- Bring to the recycling center



## FOOD WASTE

### Why Not?

- Food waste is nutrient rich and can be composted to make a natural fertilizer for farms and gardens
- Food waste is heavy so it is expensive to dispose of

### Instead:

- Consider backyard composting at home
- Investigate if there is a farm or other organization that collects food waste in your area
- Some transfer stations collect food waste - ask the attendant



Before discarding something – consider whether someone else you know can use it. For example, your local school may be able to use your leftover paint to make sets for their next play.

## DISPOSAL BANS AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Every state bans materials from solid waste disposal and many have mandatory recycling requirements. Many municipalities have adopted recycling ordinances. Bans and requirements that apply here include:

*This handout is focused on **Don't Trash That**, or what not to put in your trash. It is one in a series developed for rural transfer stations to improve safety and promote waste reduction. For additional documents visit: [www.newmoa.org/solidwaste/projects/transferstations/publications.cfm](http://www.newmoa.org/solidwaste/projects/transferstations/publications.cfm).*