

Don't Trash That!

In the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont



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; visit: <http://nekwmd.org/calendar.html>
- Many transfer stations collect used oil - ask the attendant
- Several locations in the Northeast Kingdom collect paint and related waste for free; find locations at: www.paintcare.org/paintcare-states/vermont/#/everyone



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
- Disposing of liquids in the trash is illegal in Vermont

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



All Vermont communities have unit-based pricing for trash (also known as pay-as-you-throw or PAYT) so the more you throw out, the more you pay. Disposing of items that should not be included in the trash ends up costing you money.

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?

- Disposal of mandated recyclables is illegal in Vermont
- Any needless disposal costs you money

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
- Any needless disposal costs you money

Instead:

- Consider backyard composting at home
- Bring to the organics collection container at your transfer station



IT'S THE LAW - NO RECYCLABLES IN THE TRASH!

There are six materials that **MUST** be recycled by all households in Vermont, including:

- Aluminum cans, pie plates, and foil
- Steel cans
- Glass bottles and jars from food and beverages
- Corrugated cardboard
- Paper – including white and colored paper, newspaper, magazine, catalogues, paper mail and envelopes, boxboard, and paper bags
- Hard plastics – specifically PET (#1) and HDPE (#2) plastic bottles and jugs

Many towns recycle more items than these. Visit www.nekwmd.org/towns.html for information about the recyclables collected at your local facility.

*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.*

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OTHER ITEMS BANNED FROM DISPOSAL

Vermont also bans the following materials from disposal. These items should be managed separately. Most are collected at most transfer stations. Visit www.nekwmd.org/towns.html for information about the special wastes collected at your local facility.

- Lead acid batteries
- Waste oil and filters
- White goods (e.g., refrigerators, washing machines, and other major appliances)
- Tires
- Paint, stain, varnish, and thinner
- Nickel-cadmium batteries
- Mercury-added products (e.g. thermostats, thermometers, and CFLs)
- Electronic devices
- Mandated recyclable materials (see list)
- Leaf and yard waste
- Food waste (effective July 1, 2020)



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