



YOUR GUIDE TO TRASH, RECYCLE, COMPOST, AND MORE!

Thanks for keeping trash out of the landfill.



**CITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

THE CAMBRIDGE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC

ZERO 
WASTE
CAMBRIDGE



The City of Cambridge has reduced annual trash by 2,000 tons since 2016.

**Together, we can go further!
Over half of the trash we throw away can be recycled, composted or otherwise kept out of the landfill.**

Photo: Kyle Klein

WEEKLY COLLECTION SERVICES

Cambridge's Department of Public Works (DPW) provides weekly pick-up of recycling, compost, yard waste, and trash.

- Place waste carts at the curb after 6pm the night before or by 7am on collection day.
- After collection, remove carts from sidewalk by 6pm.
- Pick-ups may be delayed due to holidays. Visit our website to look up your collection schedule.

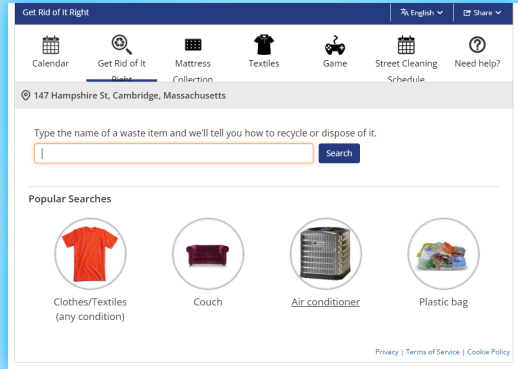
Report missed pickups at: CambridgeMA.Gov/311 after 4pm on collection day or before 9am on day after pick-up.



Need carts, supplies, or more info?
CambridgeMA.Gov/Recycle

USE OUR “GET RID OF IT RIGHT” TOOL

- Search how to dispose of thousands of items!
- View collection schedule and set up reminders.
- Look up directions for special collections (mattresses, appliances, textiles, and more).
- Look up street cleaning schedule.



Use the tool or download the Zero Waste Cambridge app at:
CambridgeMA.Gov/Recycle

TRASH



- ✓ Place trash in City-issued carts.
- ✓ Excess trash must be placed in heavy-duty bags (at least 3 mils thick). Place next to trash cart on morning of collection only.
 - Should not contain food items.
 - Bags must weigh less than 50 lbs.

RECYCLE

Recycling is mandatory in Massachusetts.

METAL CANS AND FOIL



GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS



PLASTIC CONTAINERS



PAPER AND CARDBOARD (Flatten boxes)



Item not on the list?

Check if it's recyclable at:
CambridgeMA.Gov/Recycle



NO plastic bags/film, wrappers.



NO food or liquids. Lightly rinse containers.



NO hoses, cables, hangers, electronics.

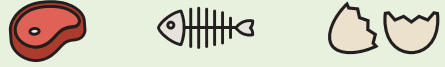
COMPOST

Composting helps reduce trash in landfills and protects the climate.

ALL FOOD SCRAPS...



...EVEN MEAT, BONES, AND SHELLS!



CUT FLOWERS



NAPKINS AND PAPER TOWELS



COFFEE GROUNDS AND FILTERS, TEA BAGS



Placing food into **locking compost carts** is better than trash carts for controlling rodents.



STEP 1

Line your kitchen bin with compost bag and collect food scraps.



STEP 2

Place bag in curbside compost cart and lock it.

Don't have compost pick-up at your building?

You can order a FREE kitchen bin and take food waste to one of our drop-off locations.



Order a kitchen bin and get more info at: CambridgeMA.Gov/Compost

CLOTHING / TEXTILES



State law bans throwing textiles in the trash.

Donate, repurpose, or recycle all textiles:

- Clothes
- Sheets
- Towels
- Shoes
- Accessories

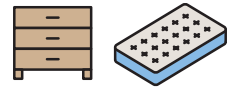
Items may be torn or stained, but must be clean and dry.



Schedule a FREE home pick-up (or find a drop-off bin) at:

[CambridgeMA.Gov/Recycle](https://www.cambridgema.gov/recycle)

LARGE ITEM PICK-UP



Some items such as couches and dressers don't require a permit. Other items such as mattresses, TVs, and appliances require a permit. Schedule your permit at:

[CambridgeMA.Gov/Recycle](https://www.cambridgema.gov/recycle)



Consider donating items or posting online: NextDoor, Craigslist, or Facebook groups (“Buy Nothing Cambridge”, “Curb Alert Cambridge”).

YARD WASTE



- ✓ Collected April 1 through December 31.
- ✓ Use paper leaf bags or barrels with City-issued stickers.
- ✓ Limbs and twigs must be shorter than 3 feet.
- ⊘ No Plastic Bags or Soil.



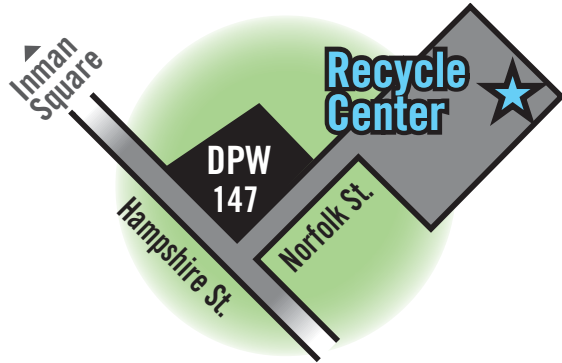
Christmas trees are collected the first two weeks in January.

RECYCLE CENTER



Some items cannot be placed out for curbside recycling, and should be brought to the Recycle Center, including:

- Batteries (non-alkaline)
- Books
- Plastic Bags
- Scrap Metal
- Small Electronics (under 20lbs.)
- Fluorescent Bulbs



Open Tues. and Thurs., 4pm–7:30pm; and Sat., 9am–4pm.
147 Hampshire St. (Back right corner of DPW Yard).

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE



Most items labeled **HAZARDOUS, POISON, DANGER, WARNING or CAUTION** must be disposed of at a hazardous waste event. For dates, visit: [CambridgeMA.Gov/Recycle](https://www.cambridge.gov/recycle)

✓ Accepted items include:

- Oil-based or Latex Paints
- Chemicals
- Medications
- Propane Tanks
- Fire Extinguishers
- Car Batteries
- Tires (up to 4)

- ⊘ Never pour hazardous products down drains or catch basins, or put in the trash.
- ⊘ Never mix chemicals.



City of Cambridge
Department of Public Works
147 Hampshire St
Cambridge MA 02139
617.349.4800

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