

Milford launches curbside textile recycling program

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The **Milford Board of Health** recently voted to launch a new curbside recycling program that will allow residents to dispose of unwanted textiles by simply leaving them in a bag on the sidewalk.

Under a new three-year contract, the town will partner with Simple Recycling and Waste Zero to operate this service, which comes at no additional cost to residents or the community.

The present state of the recycling markets are facing serious challenges. The strict limits on contaminants in loads of recyclables are leading to turmoil in global recycling markets. Some communities, especially those with single-stream recycling, are now paying more for recycling than trash.

Because of these challenges the Milford Board of Health decided it was time to study other options that would improve the town's recycling program. Milford is one of a very few communities that still funds the curbside rubbish/recycling program through the tax-bas. Presently there are no user-fees or bag-fees for this service.

The Milford Board of Health members feel this is a win-win for the town. This new program creates a curbside program that would be beneficial for our residents, as well as help reduce the solid waste stream.

In Massachusetts, about 5.6 percent of all residential waste is made up of reusable textiles, such as clothes, drapes or bedspreads, according to material the company provided to the town. The vast majority of that material winds up in the trash, even though residents have opportunities to recycle it by placing it in drop boxes at churches, schools and charities. Only about 15 percent is currently recovered.

Simple Recycling has sent mailers to all households that are eligible to participate in Milford's curbside rubbish/recycling program with information of this new textile recycling program, which is scheduled to begin **October 29, 2018**. Eligible households will also receive a pair of bright, pink plastic bags about a week and a half before it launches. ***Eligible households entitled for this service are those households presently participating in the current curbside collection. These household are dwellings including apartments of no more than five (5) dwelling units.***

Residents can discard unwanted clothes, drapes, bedspreads and other textiles by placing them in the bags and leaving them on the curb beside their recycling bins. Employees of Simple Recycling will travel the town's recycling routes in private vans and collect the items. For each bag placed at curbside, Simple Recycling will leave a new bag, and additional bags can always be requested if needed.

An estimated 9,000 households in Milford currently participate in curbside trash and recycling collection. It's estimated the new textile recycling program could take 45 tons of material out of the waste stream per year.

The town stands to see a modest financial gain, according to the company, which estimates Milford will save \$3,000 in rubbish disposal fees by taking waste out of the trash. Simple Recycling will also

reimburse the town \$20 per ton of textiles collected, generating an estimated yearly payout of about \$880 — a combined \$3,880 financial gain.

The company will accept more than just clothes; other items that can be discarded in the pink bags include jewelry, purses, hats, toys, pictures, mirrors, blankets, tools, silverware, glasses and backpacks.

Simple Recycling, which currently serves some 800,000 households across the country, makes a profit by reselling the goods it picks up. A small fraction of the items wind up back on the rack at thrift stores. The bulk of the material is either recycled and sent to the rag and insulation manufacturing markets, or repaired and sold into markets that use repaired textiles. The Milford Board of Health and Simply Recycling encourages those who prefer to donate their items to benefit charities to continue to do so.

(PART 2 of Article- How the Program Works)

Pink Bag - Simple Recycling Curbside Collections

On October 29, 2018 the **Milford Board of Health** will launched a new curbside recycling program for clothing and a variety of household goods. This program is in addition to Milford's current recycling program and textile drop-off bins. The free program is run by [Simple Recycling](#) in cooperation with Milford Board of Health and does not require enrollment.

How the Program Works

Step 1

Residents receive free pink collection bags from Simple Recycling. Additional bags can be requested at www.SimpleRecycling.com or by calling 866.835.5068. Note, the Milford Board of Health is not responsible for distributing additional pink collection bags.

Step 2

Residents fill pink collection bags with used clothing and a variety of home goods (see below for a detailed list of acceptable items).

Step 3

Residents place the pink bags at the curb on their recycling day, at least 3 feet from their recycling tote. The pink bags should not be placed in or on top of recycling totes.

Step 4

Simple Recycling will collect the bags for recycling using a separate truck. They will not be collected by the regular recycling trucks and will be collected at a different time than recycling totes. If your bags are not picked up on your scheduled recycling day, contact Simple Recycling via www.SimpleRecycling.com, 866.835.5068 or info@simplerecycling.com. The Milford Board of Health is not responsible for collecting the pink Simple Recycling bags.



What you can put in your PINK bag?

All items placed in the bags must be dry and odor-free, however materials do not need to be in “new” or “resale” condition. Materials will be sorted based on quality and condition. High quality materials may be resold and “unusable” items will be processed for raw materials.

The list of acceptable items below includes an overview of the types of items you can place in your pink Simple Recycling collection bags.

Clothing & Accessories

- All clothing including coats
- Shoes
- Accessories (jewelry, hats, belts, purses, backpacks)

Kitchenware & Appliances

- Silverware, dishes, glasses, pots and pans
- Microwaves*, toaster ovens*, coffee makers*, blenders*
- Irons* and hair dryers*
- Radios*

Home Goods

- Lamps*, mirrors*, small furniture*
- Drapes/curtains
- Blankets, pillows and sleeping bags
- Other small home goods that can fit in the bag

Miscellaneous

- Tools*, toys*, books, pictures

**Please consider using a PINK bag as an alternative to a bulk pickup*

Need more bags? Have Questions?

Visit www.SimpleRecycling.com call 866.835.5068

Email info@simplerecycling.com

Textile Collection Boxes

In addition to Simple Recycling's curbside collection program, the board of health also offers residents with the opportunity to recycle textiles at a drop-off location at the Milford Recycling Facility on Cedar Street. Any clothing items, shoes, or linens may be placed in these collection boxes as long as they are not wet, moldy or contaminated with oil or hazardous substances. Home goods cannot be placed in these textile collection boxes.