

About Waste Bans

In 1990, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) introduced its first bans on landfilling and combustion of easy-to-recycle and toxic materials. Additional “waste bans” have been phased in over time. The following materials and items are prohibited from disposal and/or transfer for disposal in Massachusetts:

- Asphalt Pavement, Brick & Concrete
- Cathode Ray Tubes
- Clean Gypsum Wallboard
- Commercial Organic Material (Effective October 1, 2014)
- Ferrous & Non-Ferrous Metals
- Glass & Metal Containers
- Lead Acid Batteries
- Leaves & Yard Waste
- Recyclable Paper, Cardboard & Paperboard
- Single Resin Narrow-Necked Plastics
- Treated & Untreated wood & wood waste
- White Goods (large appliances)
- Whole Tires (shredded tires acceptable)

Since the first waste bans were introduced, Massachusetts municipalities and businesses- often supported by MassDEP grants and technical assistance-have developed new infrastructure to collect banned items and other discarded materials, and to divert them from disposal to reuse and recycling.