Dracut Resident's Guide for Automated Trash Collection & Single Stream Recycling Program

Dear Dracut Resident,

Beginning on July 1, 2013, the Town of Dracut will be implementing new automated trash collection and single stream recycling programs for residents who receive these municipal curbside services. This change will save significant tax dollars in avoided trash disposal costs while expanding the recycling service and providing a cleaner, more efficient collection program.

A major part of the new programs involves each participating household receiving a new 64 gallon wheeled cart for household trash. Our trash and recycling vendor, Russell Disposal, will be facilitating the delivery of these sturdy and durable carts to each household beginning the week of June 17th and continuing through the end of the month.

Each cart includes a unique serial number along with an imbedded RFID tag to identify property owners and location. The carts are the property of the Town, the responsibility of the resident and need to remain at the delivered location. The carts should provide years of maintenance-free use and are warranted for ten years so homeowners will not pay to have a damaged cart repaired. If a cart is lost, stolen or missing, contact the Dracut Police Dept. as a Police Report will need to be completed.

The Town is also pleased to introduce Single Stream Recycling beginning July 1st as a means to make recycling as easy as possible for residents. Thank you for helping to save tax dollars while enhancing the environment by recycling everything possible.

Sincerely,

Dennis E. Piendak, Town Manager

This Trash & Recycling Guide has Information on:

- Schedule
- Trash
- Bulky Items
- Recycling
- White Goods/ CRT's
- Leaves and Yard Waste / Christmas Trees
- Re-use/Donate
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Additional resources

1. Schedule

Cart delivery

The new wheeled carts will be delivered to participating households the weeks of June 17th and June 24th. Please do not place the carts curbside for collection until the automated collection begins in July. After July 1st, you will no longer be able to use your old trash barrels for placing trash at the curb. Information is provided below about reuse or recycling opportunities for your old barrels.

The wheeled carts are the property of the Town of Dracut and need to remain at the delivered destination. Multi family households in particular can mark their carts specific to their address.

Please note that wheeled carts will not be provided to residents of condominium complexes that participate in the Town's program using dumpsters for trash collection.

Collections

The primary curbside trash and recycling collection programs will remain on a weekly schedule on your normal day. There will be a change in collection day for many residents for bulky items (household trash that won't fit in the wheeled cart) although there will be no fee involved for this service (additional details provided below).

2. Trash

Place all regular household trash in the 64-gallon wheeled cart with lid closed for collection. Bagging your trash is recommended as it will help keep your cart more clean and sanitary. After July 1, 2013, you will no longer be able to use your own bags or old trash barrels for placing trash at the curb.

The following materials cannot be placed in the wheeled cart:

- Recyclables
- Yard Waste
- Dirt, sod, concrete or rock
- Construction/demolition debris
- Household hazardous waste
- Hot ashes or flammable materials (e.g. oil, gas or oil based paint)

Proper Wheeled Cart placement at curb

Bringing your trash to the curb:

- Tilt the cart using the handle to wheel and place your cart straight and at the curb (with the handle and wheels facing your house) before 7:00AM on your collection day. It is easier to push the cart downhill and to pull it uphill.
- Place cart at least 3 feet away from other objects (e.g. telephone poles, vehicles, fences, recyclables, Overflow Bags, bulky items) since the collection vehicle's mechanical lifting arm needs clearance.
- All trash must fit in the cart so that the lid is closed. No material may be sticking out of the cart.
- Remove your cart as soon as possible after collection to maintain the appearance of your neighborhood.

Extra trash:

Experience in a range of communities has shown that the 64- gallon cart is more than adequate in a weekly trash program especially when a single stream recycling program is also in place. If you find you have more trash than the cart will hold, official Town of Dracut 33 gallon Overflow Bags can be purchased (a sleeve of 5 bags for $20).

Recycling Chart	What to Recycle	Do Not Include ANY items contaminated by food are not acceptable for recycling
Mixed paper	Examples include: • Mail and envelopes (windows are OK) • Magazines and catalogs • Writing or ledger paper • Paperback books • Paper bags • Greeting cards • Wrapping paper • Shredded paper (Place in paper bag) • Fax paper • Computer paper	Mixed paper items **not acceptable** include: • Paper towels, facial tissues, napkins • Cigarette packs • Candy wrappers • Waxed or plastic-coated paper • Wrapping tissue paper • Foil wrapping paper
Paperboard **Newspapers** (including all ads and inserts)	Examples include: • Shoe boxes • Cereal boxes • Pasta boxes • Toilet paper rolls • Frozen food boxes • Gift boxes • Cake mix boxes • Toothpaste boxes • Tissue boxes • Paper egg cartons • Soda or beer packaging • Soap or laundry detergent boxes	Thin cardboard items **not acceptable** include: • Boxes with silver or foil coatings • Anything dirty, greasy or plastic-coated
Corrugated cardboard	• Boxes and other corrugated cardboard should be flattened to 3ft x 3ft or less and folded so they fit in the truck. • Pizza boxes (clean with greasy liner removed)	Corrugated cardboard items **not acceptable** include: • Dirty or greasy cardboard
Tin/alumimum/steel	Examples include: • Aluminum and tin cans • Foil and pie plates • Empty steel aerosol cans	Tin/aluminum, scrap metal items **not acceptable** include: • Scrap metal • Wire clothes hangers • Paint cans • Hypodermic needles (Please contact the Health Department for proper disposal information)
Glass bottles and jars	Examples include: • Mayonnaise jars • Wine bottles • Beer bottles • Applesauce jars • Spaghetti sauce jars • Salsa jars • Vinegar bottles • Baby food jars	Glass bottles and jars **not acceptable** include: • Broken glass • Cups, dishes, glass windows, plates, Pyrex®, ceramics, mirrors, light bulbs, crystal
Plastic bottles, jugs and containers	This includes all rigid plastic containers with symbols 1 through 7 on the bottom; examples include: • Soda and juice bottles • Salad dressing bottles • Milk jugs • Detergent bottles • Juice bottles • Shampoo bottles • Window cleaner • Saline solution bottles • Fabric softener or bleach bottles	Plastic bottles, jugs **not acceptable** include: • Plastic shopping bags • Plastic food wrap, potato chip and sandwich bags • Styrofoam® • Automotive fluid bottles (oil, antifreeze, brake fluid)
Milk cartons, drink boxes	Examples include: • Milk and juice cartons • Juice boxes • Flavored milk boxes • Cream and creamer containers	• Plastic Straws

- Remove all plastic bags.
- Remove any non-acceptable items.
- Corrugated cardboard should be flattened to 3ft x 3ft or less so they fit in the truck

Container Preparation

- All containers (jars, bottles, cartons, etc.) must be rinsed and free of all contaminants
- Remove and discard all corks, tops, rings, metal bottleneck wraps, and unacceptable items.
- Flatten containers whenever possible for extra storage space.

The Town appreciates the support of the following vendors where official Overflow Bags can be purchased:

- Dracut Hardware, Inc. (1982 Lakeview Ave)
- Hannaford Supermarket & Pharmacy (301 Pleasant St.)
- Kenwood True Value Hardware (34 Broadway Road)

Residents can also purchase the use of an additional wheeled cart. The first year cost for using an additional cart is $175, with an annual fee of $110 in subsequent years. Contact Russell Disposal tel. 888 870-8882 for further info.

Old trash barrel re-use or recycling:
One suggested way you can use your old trash barrel is to re-use it as a recycling container to place your recyclables at the curb. Please make sure to mark it as a "Recycle" container for easy identification by collection personnel. Recycling stickers are available at no cost at the Clerk's Office in Town Hall or you can clearly mark your own container for Recycling.

If you are interested in recycling your old trash barrel (and/ or old recycling bin), the Town will be having a drop-off collection on each Saturday during the month of July 2013 at the Dillon Center (833 Hildreth St.) from 8AM – 12 Noon.

3. Bulky Items

Bulky items, households trash items that won't fit loosely in the wheeled cart (e.g. mattress, sofa, rolled up carpet), will still be collected on a one item per week basis at no charge. However, bulky items will be collected town wide on only one day each week (Fridays) as a separate truck will be needed. Residents **must pre-schedule** for their bulky item collection with Russell Disposal by calling tel. 888 870-8882 or e-mail: rdisposal@yahoo.com.

4. Recycling

With the Single Stream Recycling program, sorting is no longer necessary as all of your recyclables can be placed in one container at the curb! Residents are encouraged to use their own container(s) (e.g. old trash barrel) marked for recycling and place materials at least 3 feet from your wheeled cart.

A detailed recycling chart is included to help you properly prepare your recyclables and recycle everything possible. Please note that while many residents will find it easier with Single Stream Recycling, it is also fine for you to continue using the two sort method if that is your preference.

5. White Goods/ CRT's ("Cathode Ray Tubes")

The Town's current system remains the same. White Goods (WG) (appliances such as a refrigerator, air conditioner, washer) and CRT's will still be collected every other week on a scheduled basis for a fee.

6. Leaves & Yard Waste/ Christmas Trees

The Department of Public Works (DPW) will continue to operate a drop-off location of leaves, grass clippings and yard waste for composting at the Dillon Center at 833 Hildreth Street. Residents can also pick up finished compost that can be a boost for gardens, lawns, etc. The DPW runs a Christmas Tree collection program with several drop-off sites around Town. Contact the DPW tel. 978 957-0411 or visit www.dracut-ma.us to find out when the Center is open for composting or for Christmas Tree collection locations.

7. Re-use / Donate

Instead of discarding as trash things like clothing and household items, please consider donating them for re-use or recycling. There are many resources for these items (additional info on the town web site); the following are some of the organizations and non-profits available for your consideration:

- Salvation Army - Lowell
  www.salvationarmyusa.org tel. 800 728-7825
- Savers - Nashua
  www.savers.com tel. 603 741-0409
- Goodwill Industries
  www.goodwillmass.org tel. 800 741-0186

8. Frequently Asked Questions

What do I do if there is a problem with my wheeled cart?
The carts are made of durable plastic and should provide years of maintenance-free use. If there is a problem and your cart gets damaged, please fill out a brief damaged cart report listed on the Town website or at our Board of Health office or call Russell Disposal tel. 888 870-8882 to schedule a repair.

Can I continue to use my own trash barrel?
No, not for trash. Only the Town provided wheeled cart will work with the automated system that lifts the carts.

What do we do with Latex Paint?
Latex paint is water based and is not hazardous. Once it is dried, it can be discarded with your trash. Only put completely dried Latex Paint cans with their lids removed (**no** oil based paint) with your trash.

What do I do with Construction & Demolition (C&D) debris?
C&D like material is banned from being put out as trash by the State and is not part of the municipal service. There are private companies in the area that manage C&D materials.

Can plastic bags be recycled in the curbside program?
No, not as part of the Town's program. However, many retail stores have collection programs for plastic bags.

What do we do with Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)?
The Town hosts an annual HHW event in the Spring and partners with the City of Methuen to allow residents to attend their event in the Fall. Contact the Board of Health tel. 978 453-8162 for more information.

How do I safely dispose of Mercury bearing items like thermometers, thermostats, and fluorescent bulbs? Contact the Board of Health tel. 978 453-8162 for information about how to dispose of these items through their no cost Mercury Recovery Program.

How can I safely get rid of sharps & other medical waste? Contact the Board of Health tel. 978 453-8162 for information about the no cost collection program run in conjunction with the Police Department.

How should the wheeled carts be maintained?
Keeping the lid closed during use will help. You can clean your cart periodically by rinsing it with water and letting it dry in the sun with the lid open.

What else can I do to reduce what gets tossed in the wheeled cart as trash?
Along with recycling everything and re-using/donating items whenever possible, composting food scraps is a primary way to reduce what gets tossed out as household trash.

9. Additional Resources

Please refer to the Town's Website at www.dracut-ma.us for additional recycling and trash related information as well as for updates on the programs.

To schedule a collection for a Bulky Item, White Good or CRT, contact Russell Disposal by calling tel. 888 870-8882.

For assistance with a missed trash or recycling collection related issue, contact the Board of Selectmen's office at tel. 978 452-1908.

Information about Massachusetts related policies and regulation that impact the Town's programs (including the waste bans) can be found at the Department of Environmental Protection website www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/recycle/

Additional questions about the Town's programs can be sent to: automatedtrash@dracut-ma.us

There are many online resources regarding waste reduction, composting and recycling including:

http://earth911.com
www.epa.gov/epawaste/
www.freecycle.org

IMPORTANT

PLEASE READ AND SAVE

June 17:
Delivery of Wheeled Carts begin

July 1:
New Automated Trash Collection and Single Stream Recycling begin!

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