



Town of Acton

Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) Drop-off Program

Year 1 – Annual Report

Community Population: 22,111
Households Served: 3,764
Services Provided: Drop-off trash and recycling

Program Overview

- Acton operates a municipal solid waste transfer station; residents pay a \$100 annual fee to dispose of solid waste, recyclables, and a range of other materials.
- This program requires all trash be placed in Acton PAYT bags in order to be accepted for disposal at the Acton Transfer Station. Three bag sizes were approved by the Board of Selectmen, a 30-gallon which is sold for \$1.50, 15-gallon bag which is sold for \$0.80, and an 8-gallon which is sold for \$0.50.
- Town employees haul trash to Wheelbrator North Andover Inc. in North Andover, MA.
- Dual stream recycling materials collected at the transfer station are compacted and hauled to the E.L. Harvey Facility in Framingham MA.

History

- Upon the recommendation of the 2020 Community Comprehensive Plan, the Town evaluated the PAYT / SMART program and how it could be implemented into our existing operations at the Transfer Station.
- The Acton Board of Selectmen opted for a non-binding town resolution from Town Meeting prior to their final decision.
- The 2016 Annual Town Meeting voted to support the creation of a plan and timeline to evaluate and implement fiscally responsible solutions for increased recycling and waste reduction, including strategies such as "save money and reduce trash (SMART)" or "pay as you throw (PAYT)," or take any other action relative thereto.
- Board of Selectmen approved the new PAYT Program on June 8, 2015.
- The PAYT program commenced on September 1, 2015.

Implementation

- The bag vendor manufactures bags, warehouses inventory, and delivers official trash bags to stores.
- They also handle the billing and send revenues to the town on a monthly basis.
- Bags are distributed through 12 local retailers.
- Acton utilizes a hybrid finance mechanism for the PAYT pricing program (vehicle sticker & PAYT Bags).
- Residents need to purchase a vehicle sticker to enter the Transfer Station and Recycling facility. A full-access sticker for recycling and disposing solid waste is \$100 or a Recycling-Only sticker is \$15.
- The full access sticker for non-seniors was reduced from \$210/year to \$100/year (still true in FY17) with the PAYT program.
- For FY16, Acton collected about \$254,057 from the vehicle sticker program.
- Our Transfer Station and Recycling facility is entirely self-funded through its fee structure.

Calculating Bag Fees

- The cost for disposal of waste at Wheelbrator North Andover Inc. is \$54/ton in FY17. The tipping fee will be adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index for the following two years.

- The bags net the Town of Acton about \$220,804 after deducting production, inventory and management fees charged by the bag vendor.

Administration & Enforcement

- During the first few months of the PAYT Program, the Department of Public Works worked closely with residents to educate them about the new PAYT program.
- Personnel were assigned to monitor compliance at the transfer station and speak with residents.
- Signage was placed at the transfer station and information was posted on the Town web site. In addition, we handed out flyers that were developed by a local green committee.
- Compliance with the new PAYT Program was noticeable within about 2 weeks and we were almost at full-compliance within 4-6 weeks.
- Residents that arrived with non-Acton designated bags were educated about the new program, paid the equivalent bag fees and were asked to purchase Acton designated PAYT bags before their next visit to the Transfer Station.
- Illegal dumping at our facility did not increase after the implementation of the PAYT program.

Additional Waste/Recycling Services

- The transfer station accepts a wide range of other separated materials for recycling or reuse, as listed on our web site (<http://www.acton-ma.gov/511/What-to-Recycle>).
- Fees collected for bulky items can be found on the following web page (<http://www.acton-ma.gov/508/Fees>).
- Acton established a Swap Shop facility within our Recycling area to allow residents to put or take reusable items (<http://www.acton-ma.gov/507/Swap-Shop>).
- Acton also enacted a food waste diversion program (<http://www.acton-ma.gov/516/Food-Waste-Collection>). Residents have the option to divert food waste items into the collection totes at our facility or purchase at-home bins to compost the material on their own.

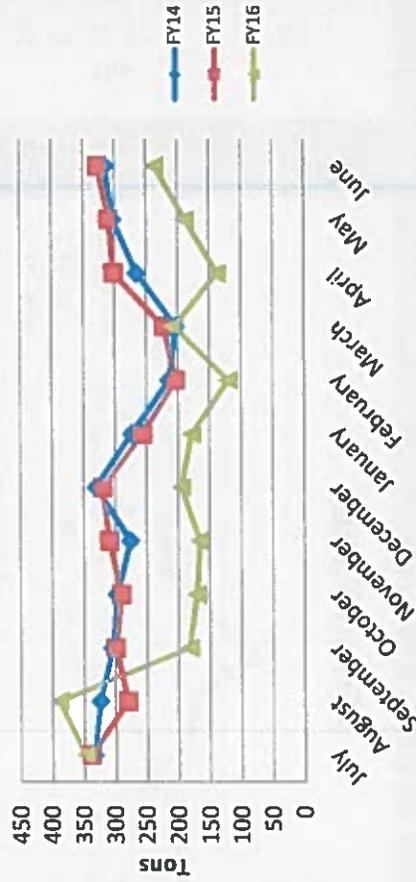
For More Information

- Recycling Contact: Corey York, DPW Director/Town Engineer or Richard Waite, Highway Superintendent
- Phone: 978-929-7740
- Email: Highway@acton-ma.gov
- Web site: <http://www.acton-ma.gov/149/Transfer-Station-Recycling-Center>

Transfer Station & Recycling Facility PAYT/SMART Program

Solid Waste (tons)

Transfer Station
(Monthly Solid Waste Tonnage)

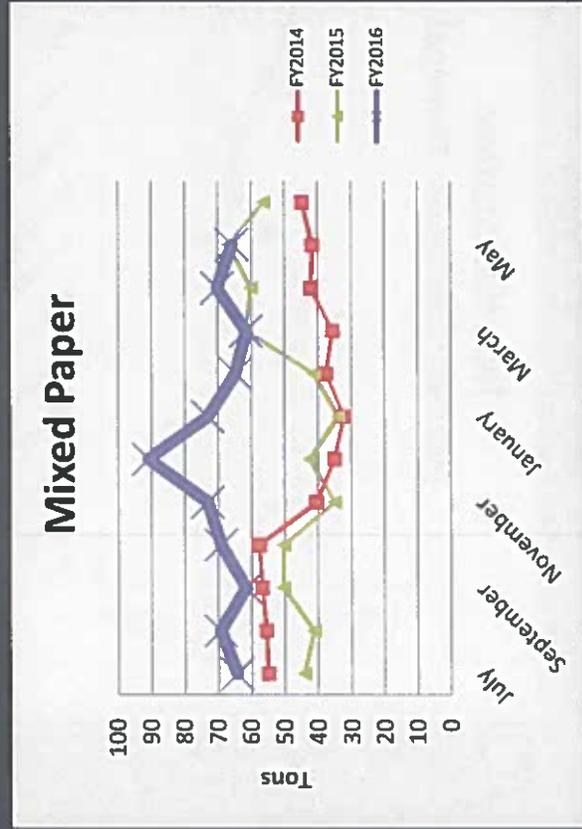


36% Trash Reduction

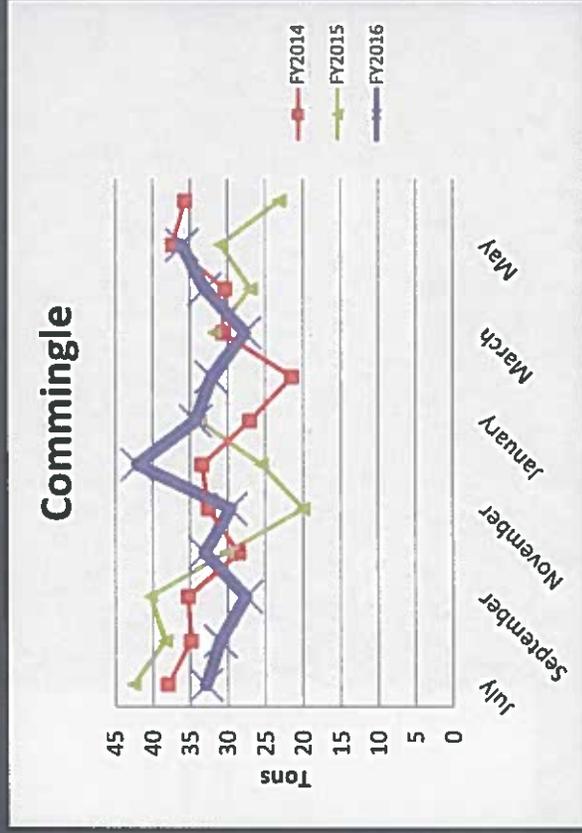
Fiscal Year	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	Total
FY13	312.95	315.95	208.71	309.43	311.38	314.43	278.74	209.1	242.92	320.36	286.44	331.08	3441.49
FY14	333.11	323.29	303.93	297.1	275.75	329.9	273.13	213.76	202.76	264.69	302.77	314.94	3435.13
FY15	338.21	279.7	299.39	289.99	308.41	319.32	255.57	203.02	221.94	301.16	308.26	325.94	3450.91
FY16	347.89	389.05	182.3	170.55	165.51	194.49	178.28	119.95	205.65	137.84	188.16	236.12	2515.79
Average (Pre-PAYT)	333.04	327.00	270.68	298.84	298.51	321.22	269.15	208.63	222.54	295.40	299.16	323.99	
Tonnage Difference (Pre vs Post PAYT)		88.38	128.29	126.73	133.00	16.89	157.56	88.68	16.89	157.56	111.00	87.87	
% Change		33%	43%	39%	45%	8%	53%	37%	8%	53%	37%	27%	36.1%

Transfer Station & Recycling Facility PAYT/SMART Program

Recyclable Material (tons)



26.4% Increase



5.6% Reduction

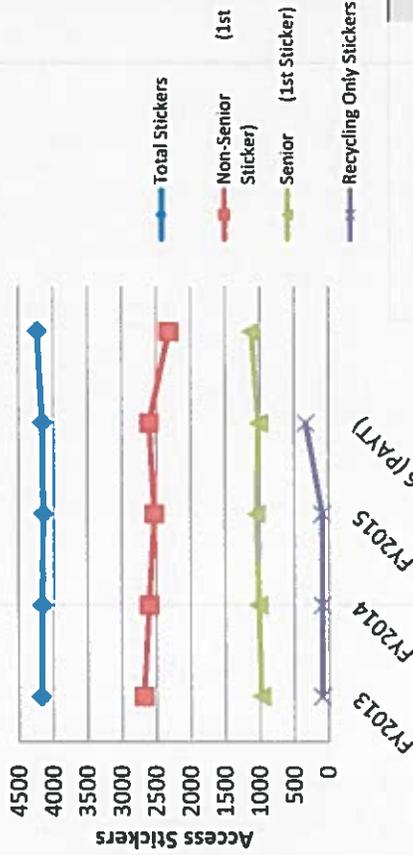


Transfer Station & Recycling Facility PAYT/SMART Program

Sticker Sales

Transfer Station & Recycling Facility SMART/PAYT Comparison

(September - June)



Full-Access

-5.0%
(reduced by 181 stickers)

Recycling only

262.4%
(Increased by 240 stickers)

Fiscal Year	Non-Senior & Senior (Full Access)		PAYT (Implemented on September 1st)		Total Sticker Sales
	Sept-Jun		Non-Senior & Senior (Recycling Only)	2nd Stickers & Replacements	
FY2013	3656		91	428	4175
FY2014	3613		90	460	4163
FY2015	3574		93	483	4150
Average	3614		91	457	4163
FY2016 (PAYT)	3433		331	469	4238
Difference	-5.0%		262.4%	2.6%	1.7%

FREE Recycling at the Transfer Station (TS)

See www.Acton-MA.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/350 for guidance on recycling at the Transfer Station. Below is a general guide to what can be recycled:

IN COMMINGLED (glass, cans, plastic containers) BIN:

- plastic containers labeled #1 through #7 — but no Styrofoam™ containers; (Styrofoam™ packing material must be recycled in a separate bin)
- glass bottles (do NOT include window glass, drinking glasses, light bulbs, or Pyrex)
- steel, tin, and aluminum cans
- clean aluminum foil, pie plates, trays
- milk cartons, juice cartons, other cartons with the same gable-top shape
- aseptic containers with a rectangular shape, such as soy milk containers
- clean plastic plant pots

NOTE: DO NOT recycle plastic bags; they tangle and jam equipment; they often can be recycled at the stores from which they came; **DO NOT flatten metal or plastic containers**

IN PAPER/CARDBOARD BIN:

- newspapers and inserts
- corrugated cardboard (please flatten boxes; ask staff for help if needed)
- paperboard (cereal boxes, paper towel rolls, etc.)
- junk mail, phone books, magazines, catalogues
- pizza boxes are OK **BUT** no cheese or food scraps
- hard- and soft-cover books
- office paper, wrapping paper
- clean paper plates, paper bags (no food or grease)
- cardboard egg cartons
- paper goods with staples, spiral bindings, or plastic envelope windows are OK
- shredded paper (either loose or in paper bag)

AT DESIGNATED AREAS:

- yard waste
- scrap metal
- rigid plastics (plastic sleds, rigid wading pools, etc.)
- Styrofoam™ packing material; Styrofoam™ peanuts are accepted only if bagged
- fluorescent light bulbs
- e-waste (computers, printers, scanners)
- clothing and textile donations
- clean wood (no metal, no paint or stain, no plywood, no pressure-treated wood)
- concrete, bricks, cement
- used motor oil
- used antifreeze

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RETHINK: REDUCE / REUSE / REPURPOSE / RECYCLE



Acton Transfer Station

SMART PAYT Program STARTS Sept. 1, 2015

WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

Using the Transfer Station is much the same as it has been.

Here's what happens, beginning Sept. 1:

- the annual Transfer Station sticker must be purchased at the Gatehouse between Sept. 1 and Oct. 1 (see next page for new pricing)
- official blue Acton trash bags must be used for all trash disposal starting Sept. 1 (see next page for sizes and pricing)
- Acton trash bags are available at many retail sites in Acton, and Littleton (see next page for details)
- recycling remains the same; no bags are required and for all standard items, it's FREE
- the "bulky items" system for large and/or irregular items remains the same, with coupons available via Gatehouse staff (more information on next pages)

MORE INFO ON PAYT AND RECYCLING

- Acton's SMART PAYT info line: 1.866.329.3226
- www.WasteZero.com/Acton
- www.Acton-MA.gov/index.aspx?nid=149

RETHINK: REDUCE / REUSE / REPURPOSE / RECYCLE

Acton Transfer Station Access Sticker Pricing

- Regular sticker = \$100
- Second sticker = \$15
- Replacement sticker = \$10
- Senior sticker = \$10
- Recycling-only sticker = \$15
- Senior recycling-only sticker = \$5

Acton Trash Bag Options and Pricing

Bags are available in three sizes:

- large (30-gallon) bags, sold in rolls of 5 for \$7.50 (\$1.50 each)
- small (15-gallon) bags, sold in rolls of 8 for \$6.40 (\$.80 each)
- mini (8-gallon) bags, sold in rolls of 10 for \$5.00 (\$.50 each)

* Please note that no sales tax is charged on bag purchases, and retailers receive no compensation for carrying them.

Local Retailers Selling Acton Trash Bags

- Acton ACE Hardware, 210 Main Street
- Acton Pharmacy, 563 Massachusetts Avenue
- CVS, 344 Great Road*
- CVS, 400 Massachusetts Avenue*
- Donelan's, Gould's Plaza, 248 Great Road
- Rite Aid, 100 Powder Mill Road*
- Roche Bros., 387 Massachusetts Avenue
- Stop & Shop, 100 Powder Mill Road
- Aubuchon Hardware, 225 Great Road, Littleton*
- Market Basket, 301 Constitution Avenue, Littleton

* Though most retailers will stock the bags by Aug. 17, these few sites will have inventory a bit later than that; see www.WasteZero/Acton for updates.

Please note that during the initial phase of PAYT adoption, Acton trash bags will be available (for purchase) at the Gatehouse for those caught unawares.

The "Bulky Items" Coupon System

The existing "bulky items" coupon system will continue to be used for large or irregular items, such as furniture, appliances, fixtures, etc. Coupon costs remain unchanged. In addition, a new **\$1.50 coupon will be available** for an item whose volume is approximately that of the large (30-gallon) Acton trash bag, but which is not easily put in the bag. See staff at the Transfer Station Gatehouse for such items.

Trash Tips: Optimizing Use of the Transfer Station

Here are some ways to reduce household trash:

- Consider ways to reduce waste:** buy items with the least packaging possible, and/or ensure that packaging is recyclable, avoid single-use plastics/items; buy in bulk; bring reusable bags for shopping
- Recycle all that you can** at the Acton Transfer Station; see last page for more information on recycling options
- Consider home composting:** organic kitchen and yard waste comprises nearly 20% of materials in the "waste" stream; such "waste" is actually a resource that, when composted, becomes "black gold" to be used in yards and gardens
- Reuse and repurpose items when possible:** sometimes a little TLC, repair, and/or creativity can make something useful again! When items are ready to leave your home, donate them to someone or to an organization, such as Household Goods Recycling here in Acton. Or, bring them to . . .

The SWAP SHOP at the Acton Transfer Station!



Bring your clean, serviceable items for others to take, and/or take what appeals to you. **All FREE.**

Guidelines here:

www.acton-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/3149.

WasteZero®



CONTACT INFORMATION

Transfer Station & Recycling Center
195 Massachusetts Ave
Acton, MA 01720
(978) 939-7742
www.acton-ma.gov (<http://www.acton-ma.gov>)

TOWN OF ACTON

WHERE TO BUY?

Effective Tuesday, September 1, 2015, the Town of Acton will be converting its residential waste collection program to the new SMART (Save Money and Reduce Trash) pay-as-you-throw (PAYT) program. With this program, residential trash is only accepted at the Transfer Station when residents place it in Acton's official light blue bags which will be available to buy at local area merchants.

You can cut your trash costs by recycling more, since recycling is free. The new SMART PAYT program lets you take control of your waste disposal costs!

The new Acton trash bags will be conveniently available at retail outlets throughout Acton (and other nearby stores). They will be available in three sizes: large (30 gallon), small (15 gallon), and mini (8 gallon).

WHAT TO THROW?

WHAT TO RECYCLE?

FAQ

MORE INFO

What are the benefits of this program?

Residents can save money. With the new, more equitable SMART PAYT program, residents pay only for the garbage they throw away—not for their neighbors' trash too!

PAYT provides for long-term cost-effective management of Acton's Transfer Station and enables the Town to reduce Transfer Station expense.

Increased recycling keeps local dollars in Massachusetts, boosting our state economy by creating local jobs and increasing our energy independence.

PAYT helps conserve our natural resources. When we throw away less and recycle more, landfills last longer, greenhouse gas emissions are reduced, millions of BTUs of energy are saved, and natural resources last longer.

WHERE DO I BUY THE BAGS?

The Acton SMART PAYT trash bags are available in a number of area stores. Acton's trash bags are available in three sizes:

Large, 30-gallon PAYT bags are sold in rolls of 5 for \$7.50.

Small, 15-gallon PAYT bags are sold in rolls of 8 for \$6.40.

Mini, 8-gallon PAYT bags are sold in rolls of 10 for \$5.00.

Store names, addresses and phone number will be provided as stores finalize their participation in the program. Please check back in the coming days for an updated list.

STORE NAME	STREET ADDRESS	CITY	PHONE NUMBER
Acton Ace Hardware	210 Main Street	Acton	978-263-7754
Acton Pharmacy	563 Mass Avenue	Acton	978-263-3901
Aubuchon Hardware	222 Great Road	Littleton	978-486-4400
CVS Pharmacy	344 Great Road	Acton	978-264-9130
CVS Pharmacy	400 Mass Avenue	Acton	978-263-3385
Donelan's Supermarket	248 Great Road	Acton	978-635-9893
Donelan's Supermarket	236 Great Road	Littleton	978-486-8985
Idylwilde Farm	366 Central Street	Acton	978-263-5943
Market Basket	301 Constitution Avenue	Littleton	978-486-0828
Rite Aid	100 Powder Mill Road	Acton	978-897-1600
Roche Brothers	387 Mass Avenue Route 111	Acton	978-263-0404
Stop & Shop	100 Powder Mill Road	Acton	978-897-6449

TRASH COLLECTION RULES AND GUIDELINES

Beginning September 1, 2015, all regular household trash should be bagged only in the official light blue Acton trash bags for disposal. Items not in designated bags will NOT be accepted. No exceptions will be made.

The following items may not be placed in the trash:

- Recyclable plastic, glass, paper, cardboard or metal
- Yard waste
- Dirt, sod, concrete, or rock
- Construction/demolition debris
- Household hazardous waste
- Hot ashes or flammable materials such as oil, gas, or paint

WHAT CAN I RECYCLE?

YOU DO NOT NEED TO USE BAGS FOR RECYCLING!

Recycling at Acton's Transfer Station will remain exactly the same – recycling is free and no bags are needed. Remember, the more you recycle, the more you can save on the cost of trash disposal. A complete guide to recycling at the Acton Recycling Center can be found [here \(http://www.acton-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/350\)](http://www.acton-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/350).

Check out the new Swap Shop at the Transfer Station to give away or adopt gently used items! Swap Shop guidelines can be found [here \(http://www.acton-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/3149\)](http://www.acton-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/3149).

Listed below are common items that are accepted for recycling at the Transfer Station.

In the mixed bin of “commingled” material including glass, metal and plastic, the following are accepted:

All plastic containers labeled #1 through #7

do not flatten plastic containers

no Styrofoam (Styrofoam packing material can be recycled in a separate Styrofoam container at the Transfer Station)

clean plant pots OK to include

OK to leave plastic caps on

Glass bottles

remove metal caps because they sort to metal

do NOT include window glass, drinking glasses, light bulbs, Pyrex – send to trash

Steel, tin, and aluminum cans –

do not flatten

no scrap metal – this goes to scrap metal pile

no wiry material because it tangles and jams the sorting equipment

no aerosol cans because of fire hazard

Clean aluminum foil and pie plates, trays – foil is captured best if balled at 3-4” minimum size

Milk cartons, juice cartons and other cartons with the same gable-top shape – do not flatten

Aseptic containers with a rectangular shape such as soy milk containers – do not flatten

Absolutely NO plastic bags because they tangle and jam the sorting equipment – plastic bags may be recycled at the market where you received them

In the paper and cardboard bin, the following are accepted:

Newspapers and inserts

Corrugated cardboard (please flatten boxes)

Paperboard (cereal boxes, paper towel rolls, etc.)

Junk mail

Phonebooks, magazines, catalogs

Pizza boxes OK, but no food waste or paper inside

Hard & soft cover books

Office paper

Wrapping paper

Clean paper plates and paper bags (no grease or food)

Cardboard egg cartons

NO shredded paper (cannot be recovered – send to trash)

Paper goods with staples, spiral bindings or plastic envelopes are OK

The following materials are also accepted for free recycling at the designated areas at the Transfer Station:

Yard waste

Scrap Metal

Rigid plastics (such as plastic sleds and rigid wading pool)

Styrofoam packing material

no food containers because of contamination

please bag Styrofoam peanuts so they don't blow away

Fluorescent light bulbs

E-waste (computers, printers, scanners)

Clothing and textile donations

Clean wood can be added to yard waste for chipping into mulch (clean wood only – no metal, no paint or stain, no plywood, no pressure-treated wood, 4-foot length maximum)

Concrete, bricks, cement

Used motor oil

Used antifreeze

Finally, a number of materials will continue to be handled at the Transfer Station for a modest “bulky items” coupon fee program is also unchanged. This includes computer monitors, televisions, refrigerators, small propane tanks and a variety of other items – information on the “bulky items” coupon fee can be found [here \(http://www.acton.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/349\)](http://www.acton.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/Home/View/349).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I contact the Acton Transfer Station and Recycling Center?

Is there a limit to the amount of materials I can recycle?

What is SMART PAYT?

How does this program work?

What are the benefits of this program?

What if I have a quality issue with a bag?

MORE INFORMATION

The Acton Transfer Station and Recycling Center is open Tuesday through Thursday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm; Friday 7:00 am to 3:00 pm; and Saturday 7:00 am to 4:30 pm.

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Food Waste Collection

TOSS IT IN!

Meat, Bones, Dairy Products, Seafood, Fruit, Vegetables, Shells, Coffee Grounds, Filters, Tea Bags, Soiled Paper Napkins, Wet or Waxed Cardboard, Floral Clippings and Approved Compostable Products. For a list of approved compostable products visit

<http://blackearthcompost.com/compostables.php>



NOT THIS BIN

Plastic, Metal, Liquid, Styrofoam, Lids, Wrappers (candy, butter, etc.), Plastic Gloves, Plastic Coated Containers (frozen food boxes, cups, cartons), Plastic Straws, Plastic Strapping, Broken Plates, Branches



NO TRASH PLEASE - This compost is used by local farms to grow food.

Food Waste Collection

Acceptable Items

- Raw or cooked meat and seafood, including bones and shells
- Dairy products, eggs and eggshells
- Pasta, bread, grains and cereals
- Fruit and vegetables, including pits and shells
- Cake, cookies, candies including gum
- Coffee grounds with filters and tea bags
- Soup, stews, yogurt
- Cooking oil, grease
- House plants, flowers, floral trimmings
- Hair (human and animal), fur
- Soiled paper (paper towels, napkins, pizza disks) NO CHEMICALS
- Waxed cardboard, wax paper (but no cardboard milk & juice cartons)
- Animal bedding (from bird /hamster cages) including waste
- Sawdust, wood chopsticks
- Wine corks (not plastic!)
- Tissues, paper towels, paper napkins (no blood or feces)
- Paper cotton swabs and cotton balls
- Bunny, chicken & hamster waste
- Coconut shells
- Nut shells
- Wooden popsicle sticks
- Peanut Shells

Non-Acceptable Items

- Branches, sticks, dirt, pebbles
- Plastic bags
- Plastic
- Cartons-milk, juice, etc.
- Cigarettes
- Dead animals
- Dental floss
- Diapers
- Dog and cat waste
- Cat litter
- Dryer sheets
- Sanitary products
- Textiles
- Wipes with chemicals (baby or disinfectant)
- Wood
- Any non-compostable take-out containers
- Dryer lint
- Paper with Chemicals



Town of Acton At-Home Composting Program



Earth Machine Compost Bin - \$50.00



New Age Compost Bin - \$60.00



Kitchen Scrap Bucket - \$8.00



Compostable Bags \$4 per 30 bags
(2.5 gallon bag size)

- Compost bins and kitchen scrap buckets are available for purchase by Acton residents at the Acton Highway Department at 14 Forest Road during their normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 7:30am-3:30pm). Residents may also call to make other arrangements. Only cash or checks are accepted.
- If you have any other questions please call or email the Highway Department.
 - telephone (978) 929-7740
 - email Highway@acton-ma.gov

Item	Price
Small Items	\$5.00
Medium Items	\$10.00
Large Items	\$15.00
Freon Items	\$25.00
Furnaces/Industrial AC Units	\$40.00
Piano/Organ	\$75.00
Carpets/Rugs	\$20.00/room
Television and Computer Monitors	\$25.00
Hard Drives	\$10.00

[Print](#) this Transfer Station and Recycling Center fee schedule.

Small Items Include:

- Small Lawn Mowers
- Snow Blowers
- Tires (without rims)
- Small sinks
- Toilets
- Vanities
- Bicycles
- Bed Frames
- Headboards
- Humidifiers
- Trampolines
- 55 Gallon Drums (must be cut in half with ends removed)
- Storm Doors
- Metal Doors
- Screen Doors
- Wood Doors (cut in half)
- Barbeque Grills
- Garage Door Openers
- Lawn Edgers
- Fireplace Screens
- Wheelbarrows
- Swing Sets
- Small Propane Tanks
- Cast Iron Sinks
- Microwave Ovens
- Small Chairs

Large Items Include:

- Stoves
- Dishwashers
- Dryers
- Water Heaters
- Box Springs
- Mattresses
- Sofas
- Dressers
- Day Beds
- Recliners
- Desks
- Washers
- Bath Tubs
- File Cabinets
- Riding Lawn Mowers

Exercise
Machines

Freon Items Include

- Refrigerators
- Air Conditioners
- De-humidifiers
- Water Coolers
- Freezers

Contact Us

Transfer Station and Recycling Center

Physical Address

193 Massachusetts Avenue
Acton, MA 01720

Mailing Address

14 Forest Road
Acton, MA 01720

Phone: (978) 929-7742

[Directory](#)

