



Recycling

Potential Environmental Impacts

Throwing recyclables in the trash has negative impacts on air and water quality and wastes energy and natural resources. Diverting reusable materials from the waste stream through recycling results in extraction and processing of fewer raw materials and reduces the amount of waste that must be landfilled or incinerated.



Illegally disposed corrugated cardboard and mixed waste

Legal Requirements

- ◆ Businesses are required to recycle certain materials [CGS Section 22a-241b(c)]. See table below for the mandated items that must be recycled by your facility.

What Are The Mandated Items That Must Be Recycled In Connecticut?

Your facility probably does not generate large volumes of some of the mandated items listed in the table below. However, there are easy ways to deal with even small quantities. Removing these items from your regular waste can reduce the amount you pay for trash disposal. There are no facilities or trash haulers permitted in Connecticut to “pick through” mixed trash to retrieve designated recyclable materials. It is your responsibility to separate your recyclables.

MANDATED ITEM	HOW TO RECYCLE
Corrugated Cardboard (has three layers -- a wavy layer between two flat paper layers)	Keep corrugated cardboard separate from other wastes. Remove any contaminants from corrugated boxes (e.g., plastic, foam, wood), open and flatten the boxes and place them in a dumpster or compactor used only for corrugated cardboard.
Office Paper and Newspaper	Take it to your municipal recycling center/transfer station or join with other small businesses to develop a cooperative office paper collection program or have employees take small amounts of newspapers home for collection with their residential program.
Scrap Metal	Recycle items consisting predominantly of ferrous metals (steels), brass aluminum, copper, lead, chromium, tin, nickel or alloys.
Glass and Metal Food/Beverage Containers	The small number of containers generated by the employees who work at your facility can be taken home for recycling or taken to your town's recycling drop-off center or transfer station.
Nickel-cadmium Batteries	Call (800) 8BATTERY to find the nearest participating retail outlet that collects these batteries for recycling.
Leaves and Grass	Rake leaves to a wooded area on the site, or compost leaves on site

MANDATED ITEM	HOW TO RECYCLE
Clippings	in a small contained pile. In some towns you may be able to place leaves at the curb for municipal collection or take them to a municipal leaf composting pile. It is recommended that grass clippings be left on the lawn areas since they act as a natural organic fertilizer.

In addition to the items listed above, many municipalities have programs to recycle other items, such as plastics and cardboard for shirt boxes. To find out about those additional items, contact your municipal recycling contact or refer to your local solid waste and recycling ordinance. Specific questions about recycling options can be answered by your municipality, or call the CT DEP's Recycling Program at (860) 424-3365 for more information.

Best Management Practices

- ★ Educate employees about separating recyclables from the trash.
- ★ Considering cooperating with other nearby businesses to simplify recycling and reducing costs. Your municipal recycling coordinator may be able to help you set up a program.
- ★ Purchase products made with recycled content to close the recycling loop (i.e., create a market for the products you recycle). The quality of these products is just as good as those made with virgin materials and prices are competitive.
- ★ Dumpsters should be covered and have intact drain plugs or be positioned in a roofed area which does not allow dumpster leakage to enter any stormwater drainage system.
- ★ Accept hangers back from customers for reuse or recycling if not useable.

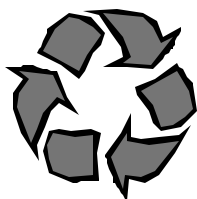
Pollution Prevention Checklist

✓ Do you have separate, labeled containers for recyclables at your facility?

YES

NO

N/A



Support your community

Some shops put a penny toward a local charity for each hanger returned by customers. It provides an incentive to recycle and helps the community too!

2004 Garment Care Fact Sheets

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127
 Office of Pollution Prevention (860) 424-3297 www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/p2/garcare/gcindex.htm
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