

Maine

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State Policy Snapshot

Maine's solid waste and recycling policy framework includes extensive product bans, particularly for products containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), Extended Producer Responsibility and other product stewardship programs, minimum post-consumer recycled content requirements, mandatory recycling for certain generators, and disposal and sales bans for certain mercury-added products.

Product Bans

Overview: Maine's product bans are primarily PFAS-focused, covering carpet, rugs, fabric treatments, and fluorinated containers under current law, with expanded bans effective in 2026 adding cleaning products, cookware, cosmetics, apparel, and juvenile products. Maine also bans the sale of many mercury-added products, fluorescent bulbs containing mercury (phased out January 2026), and mercury switches and relays.

Product / Material	Description of Ban	Statute / Program Link
<i>Fluorescent light bulbs containing mercury</i>	Sale of fluorescent light bulbs containing mercury will be phased out effective January 1, 2026.	https://www.maine.gov/dep/mercury/hgrequire.html

Product / Material	Description of Ban	Statute / Program Link
<i>Mercury switches and relays</i>	Effective July 1, 2006, sale, offer for sale, or distribution of mercury switches or mercury relays, individually or as a product component, is prohibited.	https://www.maine.gov/dep/mercury/hgrequire.html
<i>Mercury-added products (general)</i>	Maine has implemented bans on the sale of many mercury-added products and requires manufacturer notification and labeling regarding mercury content.	https://www.maine.gov/dep/mercury/hgrequire.html
<i>PFAS-containing products (current)</i>	Products containing intentionally added PFAS are banned, including carpet or rug, fabric treatments, and fabric treatments sold, offered for sale, or distributed for sale in fluorinated containers or containers containing intentionally added PFAS.	The PFAS in Products Program was initially enacted in Public Law 2021, c. 477, An Act To Stop Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Pollution (LD 1503, 130th Legislature). The program's governing statute was recently amended by Public Law 2023, c. 630, An Act to Support Manufacturers Whose Products Contain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (LD 1537, 131st Legislature, effective August 9, 2024). https://www.maine.gov/dep/spills/topics/pfas/PFAS-products/index.html
<i>PFAS-containing products (effective 2026)</i>	Expanded PFAS product bans will include cleaning products, cookware, cosmetic products, dental floss, juvenile products, menstruation products, textile articles (with exceptions), ski wax, upholstered furniture, and	https://www.maine.gov/dep/spills/topics/pfas/PFAS-products/index.html

**Product /
Material**

Statute / Program Link

products sold in fluorinated containers or
containers containing intentionally added PFAS.

Product Stewardship

Overview: Maine operates producer-funded EPR programs for many products, including packaging materials, electronics, and batteries. Beverage containers are managed through a deposit program and pesticide container collection is funded in part through manufacturer registration fees as part of Maine’s EPR for packaging law.

Material Category	Producer- Funded	Consumer/Eco Fee	Both	Other	None
<i>Beverage Containers</i>			✓		
<i>Boat Wrap</i>					✓
<i>Carpet</i>					✓
<i>Cell Phones</i>	✓				
<i>Electric Vehicle Batteries</i>					✓
<i>Electronics</i>	✓				
<i>Fluorescent Lighting</i>	✓				
<i>Gas Cylinders</i>					✓
<i>Household Hazardous Waste</i>					✓
<i>Mattresses</i>					✓
<i>Mercury Switches</i>	✓				
<i>Mercury Thermostats</i>	✓				
<i>Packaging</i>	✓				
<i>Paint</i>		✓			

Material Category	Producer-Funded	Consumer/Eco Fee	Both	Other	None
<i>Pesticide Containers</i>				✓	
<i>Pharma</i>	✓				
<i>Rechargeable Batteries (including alkaline)</i>	✓				
<i>Sharps</i>					✓
<i>Solar Panels</i>					✓
<i>Textiles</i>					✓
<i>Tires</i>			✓		

Producer-Funded: Program in which manufacturers or producers are responsible for financing and/or operating collection, recycling, or disposal of the product or material. Consumer / Eco Fee: Program funded in whole or in part through fees paid by consumers at the point of sale or disposal, such as advance recycling fees, eco-fees, or deposits. Both: Program that includes a combination of producer funding and consumer or eco-fees. Other: Any other active program or regulatory approach not captured in the categories above (e.g., take-back requirements, labeling, disclosure, recyclability standards). None: No statewide producer responsibility, consumer fee, or comparable program in place for the product or material.

Program Details:

Product / Material	Description	Program	Statute / Program Link
<i>Carpet</i>	Carpet products are subject to Maine's PFAS product bans.	None	https://www.maine.gov/dep/spills/topics/pfas/PFAS-products/index.html
<i>Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)</i>	Maine municipalities are encouraged to provide HHW collection. The state has two seasonal HHW collection sites, which some municipalities contract with for reduced rates, but any Maine resident can use to pay for proper HHW disposal.	None	https://www.maine.gov/dep/homeowner/householdhazwaste/index.html

Product / Material	Description	Program	Statute / Program Link
<i>Packaging</i>	Maine established a packaging stewardship program to reduce the volume and toxicity and increase the recyclability of packaging materials. Producers make payments based on the amount and recyclability of packaging used in or into Maine. Funds reimburse municipalities, invest in infrastructure, and support education.	Producer Funded	https://www.maine.gov/dep/waste/recycle/epr.html
<i>Textiles</i>	Textiles are subject to Maine's PFAS product bans.	None	https://www.maine.gov/dep/spills/topics/pfas/PFAS-products/index.html

Pesticide containers for products sold to Maine consumers will be part of Maine's EPR for Packaging program; containers sold to professional users will not be included in the program.

Minimum Post-Consumer Recycled Content

Overview: Maine requires plastic beverage containers to meet post-consumer recycled content standards under Public Law Chapter 742 (2022), in connection with its deposit program for beverage containers.

Product / Material	Requirement	Statute / Program Link
<i>Plastic beverage containers</i>	Public Law Chapter 742 (2022) establishes post-consumer recycled content requirements for initiators of deposits and spirits manufacturers in plastic beverage containers to promote a circular economy.	https://www1.maine.gov/dep/waste/recycle/pcr.html

Mandatory Recycling Requirements

Overview: Maine law requires state agencies and University of Maine System campuses to establish source-separation programs for at least high-grade paper and corrugated paper, designate recycling coordinators, conduct employee education, and implement waste reduction programs.

Requirement / Material	Description	Statute / Program Link
<i>Business and institutional recycling</i>	Each state agency shall establish and implement a source separation and collection program for recyclable materials produced as a result of agency operations, including, at a minimum, high grade paper and corrugated paper. This program must include, at a minimum, procedures for collecting and storing recyclable materials, bins or containers for storing materials, and contractual and other arrangements with buyers. Each agency shall appoint a recycling coordinator for every 50 employees at a minimum and shall conduct educational programs for its employees on the recycling program. Each state agency shall establish and implement a waste reduction program for materials used in the course of agency operations. Each campus of the University of Maine System shall establish and implement a source separation and collection program for recyclable materials, including at a minimum high grade paper, corrugated paper and glass, and shall appoint a recycling coordinator and	https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/38/title38sec2133.html

Requirement / Material	Description	Statute / Program Link
	conduct educational programs. Each campus of the University of Maine System shall establish and implement a waste reduction program and a leaf composting program.	

Disposal Bans

Overview: Maine prohibits disposal of mercury-added products, lead-acid batteries, cell phones, and cathode ray tubes in solid waste facilities, and bans single-use plastic carryout bags and polystyrene foam food service ware statewide.

Material	Disposal Restriction	Statute / Program Link
<i>Cathode Ray Tubes</i>	9 months after the department adopts rules pursuant to section 1610, subsection 5, paragraph D, subparagraph (1), a person may not dispose of a cathode ray tube in a solid waste disposal facility.	https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/38/title38sec1663.html https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/38/title38sec1306.html
<i>Cell Phones</i>	Effective January 1, 2008, a person may not dispose of a cellular telephone in solid waste for disposal in a solid waste disposal facility.	https://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/38/title38sec2143.html
<i>Lead-Acid Batteries</i>	Lead-acid battery disposal has been regulated since 1989. 38 M.R.S. § 1604 bans the disposal of lead-acid batteries by burial, incineration, deposit, or dumping. It also requires all sellers of lead-acid batteries to accept used lead-acid batteries from customers purchasing a new lead-acid battery. If the customer is	https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/38/title38sec1604.html

Material	Disposal Restriction	Statute / Program Link
	not returning a used lead-acid battery at the time of purchase, the retailer must collect a \$10 dollar deposit and refund that deposit if the customer returns with a used lead-acid battery within 30 days. Wholesalers of lead-acid batteries must then collect used lead-acid batteries from retailers.	
<i>Mercury-added products</i>	After July 15, 2002, mercury-added products may not be knowingly placed in solid waste for disposal at a solid waste disposal facility. This does not affect laws governing disposal prior to July 15, 2002.	https://www.maine.gov/dep/mercury/hgrequire.html
<i>Polystyrene foam food service ware ban</i>	Food establishments and organizations are prohibited from using polystyrene foam food service ware, including restaurants, schools, hospitals, correctional facilities, food pantries, fairs, mobile food vendors, and workplace cafeterias.	https://www.maine.gov/dep/waste/recycle/polystyrene-foam.html
<i>Single-use plastic carry-out bag ban</i>	Statewide ban on single-use plastic carry-out bags, effective July 1, 2021, applicable to retail stores and restaurants.	https://www.maine.gov/dep/waste/recycle/documents/bag-ban-guidance-faq-07162021.pdf
