

# Massachusetts

## Contact Information

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## State Policy Snapshot

Massachusetts' solid waste and recycling policy framework includes product bans for certain mercury-containing products, product stewardship programs for beverage containers and mercury-added thermostats, waste disposal bans that function similarly to mandatory recycling requirements, disposal bans for mercury-added products, food waste disposal bans and other materials.

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## Product Bans

**Overview:** Massachusetts bans certain mercury-containing products under the Mercury Management Act.

| <i><b>Product / Material</b></i>           | <b>Description of Ban</b>                                                                                               | <b>Statute / Program Link</b>                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Certain mercury-containing products</i> | Massachusetts bans certain mercury-containing products (such as Fluorescent Lighting) under the Mercury Management Act. | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-mercury-information#-mercury-management-act-">https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-mercury-information#-mercury-management-act-</a> |

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## Product Stewardship

**Overview:** Massachusetts operates a bottle bill deposit program for beverage containers and requires manufacturers to collect and recycle mercury-added thermostats; no other statewide EPR or product stewardship programs are currently in place.

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

| <b>Material Category</b> | <b>Producer-Funded</b> | <b>Consumer / Eco Fee</b> | <b>Both</b> | <b>Other</b> | <b>None</b> |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| <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:**

| <b>Product / Material</b>        | <b>Description</b>                                                            | <b>Program</b>  | <b>Statute / Program Link</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Beverage containers</i>       | Massachusetts operates a beverage container recycling program (Bottle Bill).  | Producer-Funded | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/regulations/301-CMR-400-provisions-for-recycling-of-beverage-containers-bottle-bill">https://www.mass.gov/regulations/301-CMR-400-provisions-for-recycling-of-beverage-containers-bottle-bill</a> |
| <i>Mercury-added thermostats</i> | Massachusetts requires collection and recycling of mercury-added thermostats. | Producer-Funded | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/regulations/310-CMR-7700-collection-recycling-of-mercury-added-thermostats">https://www.mass.gov/regulations/310-CMR-7700-collection-recycling-of-mercury-added-thermostats</a>                   |

#### **Minimum Post-Consumer Recycled Content**

**Overview:** Massachusetts indicated that it does not have existing laws that fall under the category of minimum post-consumer recycled content.

## Mandatory Recycling Requirements

**Overview:** Massachusetts indicated that there are no Mandatory Recycling laws related to sustainable materials management.

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## Disposal Bans

**Overview:** Massachusetts maintains a comprehensive set of regulations banning the disposal of asphalt pavement, brick and concrete, cathode ray tubes, clean gypsum wallboard, commercial food material (for generators above ½ ton per week), ferrous and non-ferrous metals, recyclable containers, lead-acid batteries, leaves and yard waste, mattresses, recyclable paper and cardboard, textiles, treated and untreated wood waste, white goods, whole tires, and mercury-added products.

| <b>Material</b>                             | <b>Disposal Restriction</b>                                                                                                                              | <b>Statute / Program Link</b>                                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Asphalt pavement, brick and concrete</i> | Disposal and transfer for disposal prohibited; must be diverted to reuse, recycling, or other appropriate handling.                                      | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-">https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-</a> (Massachusetts Government) |
| <i>Cathode ray tubes</i>                    | Disposal and transfer for disposal prohibited; must be managed through recycling/handling.                                                               | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-">https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-</a> (Massachusetts Government) |
| <i>Clean gypsum wallboard</i>               | Disposal and transfer for disposal prohibited; must be diverted to proper reuse/recycling streams.                                                       | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-">https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-</a> (Massachusetts Government) |
| <i>Commercial food material</i>             | Disposal and transfer for disposal prohibited for businesses/institutions generating above ½ ton per week threshold; must divert to composting or reuse. | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/guides/commercial-food-material-disposal-ban">https://www.mass.gov/guides/commercial-food-material-disposal-ban</a> (Massachusetts Government)                           |

| <b>Material</b>                                                                  | <b>Disposal Restriction</b>                                                                       | <b>Statute / Program Link</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Ferrous and non-ferrous metals</i>                                            | Disposal and transfer for disposal prohibited; must be recycled or repurposed.                    | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-(Massachusetts%20Government)">https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-(Massachusetts Government)</a> |
| <i>Glass, metal, and plastic containers (bottles, cans, jars, jugs and tubs)</i> | Disposal and transfer for disposal prohibited; must be diverted for recycling.                    | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-(Massachusetts%20Government)">https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-(Massachusetts Government)</a> |
| <i>Lead acid batteries</i>                                                       | Disposal and transfer for disposal prohibited; must be recycled in appropriate facilities.        | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-(Massachusetts%20Government)">https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-(Massachusetts Government)</a> |
| <i>Leaves and yard waste</i>                                                     | Disposal and transfer for disposal prohibited; must be composted or otherwise reused.             | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-(Massachusetts%20Government)">https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-(Massachusetts Government)</a> |
| <i>Mattresses</i>                                                                | Disposal and transfer for disposal prohibited; must be diverted to recycling or reuse.            | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-(Massachusetts%20Government)">https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-(Massachusetts Government)</a> |
| <i>Mercury-added products</i>                                                    | Disposal of mercury-added products is prohibited under Massachusetts regulations.                 | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/regulations/310-CMR-7600-mercury-added-product-disposal-ban">https://www.mass.gov/regulations/310-CMR-7600-mercury-added-product-disposal-ban</a>                                                   |
| <i>Recyclable paper, cardboard and paperboard</i>                                | Disposal and transfer for disposal prohibited; must be recycled.                                  | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-(Massachusetts%20Government)">https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-(Massachusetts Government)</a> |
| <i>Textiles</i>                                                                  | Disposal and transfer for disposal prohibited; must be recycled or reused.                        | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-(Massachusetts%20Government)">https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-(Massachusetts Government)</a> |
| <i>Treated and untreated wood and wood waste</i>                                 | Disposal prohibited at landfills; must be diverted to reuse/recycling or other approved handling. | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-(Massachusetts%20Government)">https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-(Massachusetts Government)</a> |

| <b>Material</b>                       | <b>Disposal Restriction</b>                                                                       | <b>Statute / Program Link</b>                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>White goods (large appliances)</i> | Disposal and transfer for disposal prohibited; must be recycled or disassembled appropriately.    | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-">https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-</a><br>(Massachusetts Government) |
| <i>Whole tires</i>                    | Disposal prohibited at landfills (shredded tires may be accepted); must be diverted to recycling. | <a href="https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-">https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans-</a><br>(Massachusetts Government) |

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