

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.

Product Bans

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

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

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>Material Category</i>	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>					✓
<i>Pesticide Containers</i>					✓
<i>Pharma</i>					✓
<i>Rechargeable Batteries (including alkaline)</i>					✓
<i>Sharps</i>					✓
<i>Solar Panels</i>					✓

Material Category	Producer-Funded	Consumer / Eco Fee	Both	Other	None
<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>Beverage containers</i>	Massachusetts operates a beverage container recycling program (Bottle Bill).	Producer-Funded	https://www.mass.gov/regulations/301-CMR-400-provisions-for-recycling-of-beverage-containers-bottle-bill
<i>Mercury-added thermostats</i>	Massachusetts requires collection and recycling of mercury-added thermostats.	Producer-Funded	https://www.mass.gov/regulations/310-CMR-7700-collection-recycling-of-mercury-added-thermostats

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.

Disposal Bans

Overview: Massachusetts maintains a comprehensive set of waste disposal bans covering 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.

Material	Disposal Restriction	Statute / Program Link
<i>Asphalt pavement, brick and concrete</i>	Disposal and transfer for disposal prohibited; must be diverted to reuse, recycling, or other appropriate handling.	https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans- (Massachusetts Government)
<i>Cathode ray tubes</i>	Disposal and transfer for disposal prohibited; must be managed through recycling/handling.	https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans- (Massachusetts Government)
<i>Clean gypsum wallboard</i>	Disposal and transfer for disposal prohibited; must be diverted to proper reuse/recycling streams.	https://www.mass.gov/guides/massdep-waste-disposal-bans#-about-the-waste-bans- (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.	https://www.mass.gov/guides/commercial-food-material-disposal-ban (Massachusetts Government)

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

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