

New Jersey

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State Policy Snapshot

New Jersey's solid waste and recycling policy framework includes statewide product bans on single-use plastics and polystyrene, minimum post-consumer recycled content requirements for multiple packaging types, county-based mandatory recycling requirements, disposal bans for a range of hazardous and regulated materials, and regulatory programs governing universal waste, medical waste, and electronic waste.

Product Bans

Overview: New Jersey bans single-use plastic carryout bags, single-use paper carryout bags at grocery stores, polystyrene foam food containers, and polystyrene loose-fill packaging statewide.

<i>Product / Material</i>	Description of Ban	Statute / Program Link
<i>Polystyrene foam food containers</i>	Prohibition on polystyrene foam food service products.	https://dep.nj.gov/get-past-plastic/
<i>Polystyrene loose-fill packaging</i>	Ban on polystyrene loose-fill packaging (packing peanuts).	https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/swpl/recycled-content/
<i>Single-use paper carryout bags (grocery stores)</i>	Ban on single-use paper carryout bags provided by grocery stores.	https://dep.nj.gov/get-past-plastic/
<i>Single-use plastic carryout bags</i>	Statewide ban on single-use plastic carryout bags.	https://dep.nj.gov/get-past-plastic/

Product Stewardship

Overview: Beyond batteries, electronics, and tires, New Jersey addresses product stewardship for many materials through alternative regulatory approaches rather than traditional producer- or consumer-funded programs. Beverage containers have minimum recycled content requirements. In addition, paint, fluorescent lights, mercury thermostats and switches, and gas cylinders are managed under universal waste and hazardous waste regulations, while pharmaceuticals and sharps fall under regulated medical waste requirements. Pesticide containers are addressed through guidance.

<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>				✓	

Material Category	Producer-Funded	Consumer / Eco Fee	Both	Other	None
<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>Beverage Containers</i>	Minimum recycled content law covering rigid plastic containers, plastic beverage containers, glass containers, paper carryout bags, plastic carryout bags, and plastic trash bags.	Other	https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/swpl/recycled-content/
<i>Fluorescent lights</i>	Regulated as household hazardous waste and/or universal waste.	Other	https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/rhwm/uw/
<i>Gas cylinders</i>	Regulated as household hazardous waste and/or universal waste.	Other	https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/rhwm/uw/

Product / Material	Description	Program	Statute / Program Link
<i>Household Hazardous Waste</i>	Household hazardous waste is regulated through disposal bans and universal waste requirements.	Other	https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/rhwm/uw/
<i>Mercury switches</i>	Regulated as household hazardous waste and/or universal waste.	Other	https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/rhwm/uw/
<i>Mercury thermostats</i>	Regulated as household hazardous waste and/or universal waste.	Other	https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/rhwm/uw/
<i>Paint</i>	Oil-based paint is managed as household hazardous waste; latex paint may be dried and disposed of in regular trash.	Other	https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/rhwm/uw/
<i>Pesticide containers</i>	Guidance provided for proper disposal of pesticide containers.	Other	https://www.nj.gov/agriculture/divisions/anr/nrc/processingsteps.shtml
<i>Pharmaceuticals</i>	Managed as regulated medical waste.	Other	https://dep.nj.gov/medwaste/
<i>Sharps</i>	Managed as regulated medical waste.	Other	https://dep.nj.gov/medwaste/

Minimum Post-Consumer Recycled Content

Overview: New Jersey has minimum recycled content requirements for six packaging types: rigid plastic containers, plastic beverage containers, glass containers, paper carryout bags, plastic carryout bags, and plastic trash bags.

Product / Material	Requirement	Statute / Program Link
<i>Glass containers</i>	Minimum recycled content requirements for glass food and beverage containers.	https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/swpl/recycled-content/

<i>Product / Material</i>	Requirement	Statute / Program Link
<i>Paper carryout bags</i>	Minimum recycled content requirements for paper carryout bags.	https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/swpl/recycled-content/
<i>Plastic beverage containers</i>	Minimum recycled content requirements for plastic beverage containers.	https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/swpl/recycled-content/
<i>Plastic carryout bags</i>	Minimum recycled content requirements for plastic carryout bags.	https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/swpl/recycled-content/
<i>Plastic trash bags</i>	Minimum recycled content requirements for plastic trash bags.	https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/swpl/recycled-content/
<i>Rigid plastic containers</i>	Minimum recycled content requirements apply to rigid plastic containers meeting defined size and capacity thresholds.	https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/swpl/recycled-content/

Mandatory Recycling Requirements

Overview: Recycling requirements imposed through county solid waste management plans.

<i>Requirement / Material</i>	Description	Statute / Program Link
<i>County recycling mandates</i>	Each county must designate at least three recyclable materials, in addition to leaves, in its county solid waste management plan.	N.J.A.C. 7:26A-12.2 — https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/resource/CURRENT/WEB%20PDFS/26A.pdf

Disposal Bans

Overview: New Jersey bans disposal of covered electronic devices, tires, hazardous materials including chemicals, oil-based paints and asbestos, medical waste, white goods, and batteries including lead-acid, rechargeable, and button-cell batteries. A ban on electric and hybrid vehicle batteries takes effect January 2027.

Material	Disposal Restriction	Statute / Program Link
<i>Batteries</i>	Disposal ban includes lead-acid batteries, rechargeable batteries, and button-cell batteries.	https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/dshw/batteries.pdf
<i>Covered electronic devices</i>	Disposal of covered electronic devices is prohibited.	https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/rhwm/e-waste/
<i>Electric and hybrid vehicle batteries</i>	Disposal ban effective beginning January 8, 2027.	https://dep.nj.gov/dshw/swpl/ev-battery-management/
<i>Hazardous materials</i>	Disposal ban includes chemicals, oil-based paints and stains, and asbestos.	https://dep.nj.gov/wastecompliance/hazardous-waste/
<i>Medical waste</i>	Medical waste is prohibited from disposal in solid waste facilities.	https://dep.nj.gov/medwaste/
<i>Tires</i>	Tires are banned from disposal.	https://dep.nj.gov/wastecompliance/recycling/recycling-exempt-operations/
<i>White goods</i>	White goods are banned from disposal.	No link provided.
