

Rhode Island

Contact Information

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State Policy Snapshot

Rhode Island's solid waste and recycling policy framework references statewide waste and recycling laws administered through the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC), including product stewardship and recycling requirements as described on the State Waste & Recycling Laws webpage.

Product Bans

Overview: The survey response did not list any specific materials and products that are prohibited from sale, distribution, or use under Rhode Island law.

Product Stewardship

Overview: Rhode Island has a consumer-fee paint collection program, a manufacturer-funded electronics recycling program, a consumer-fee mattress collection program, and programs for fluorescent lighting, mercury thermostats, and mercury switches administered under the Mercury Reduction and Education Act.

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>		✓			
<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>Electronics</i>	Establish a manufacturer financed system for the collection, recycling, and reuse program for covered electronic products in Rhode Island.	Producer-Funded	https://rirrc.org/about/state-waste-recycling-laws
<i>Fluorescent Lighting</i>	Mercury Reduction and Education Act.	Other	webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE23/23-24.9/INDEX.htm
<i>Mattresses</i>	Establish a system for the collection, recycling, and reuse for discarded mattresses in Rhode Island.	Consumer/ Eco Fee	webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE23/23-90/INDEX.htm
<i>Mercury Switches</i>	Mercury Reduction and Education Act.	Other	webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE23/23-24.9/INDEX.htm
<i>Mercury Thermostats</i>	Mercury Reduction and Education Act.	Other	webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE23/23-24.9/INDEX.htm
<i>Paint</i>	Establish a cost-effective, convenient, statewide system for the collection, recycling and reuse of post-consumer paint.	Consumer/ Eco Fee	webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE23/23-24.12/INDEX.htm

Additional Information: Rhode Island has enacted a new bill regarding textile recycling. The bill is not technically an EPR rule; it requires reporting by textile collectors rather than establishing a producer-funded take-back program.

Minimum Post-Consumer Recycled Content

Overview: The survey response did not indicate the existence of minimum post-consumer recycled content laws.

Mandatory Recycling Requirements

Overview: Recycling requirements as referenced through Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation.

Requirement / Material	Description	Statute / Program Link
<i>Commercial Recycling Requirement</i>	Commercial establishments employing 50 or more employees must contract recycling services as part of their solid waste collection agreement.	R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-18.8-2(13) https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE23/23-18.8/23-18.8-2.htm
<i>Glass Containers</i>	Glass containers are among the recyclable materials required to be separated under Rhode Island's commercial recycling program.	https://dem.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur861/files/topics/pdf/crfacts.pdf?
<i>Leaf & Yard Waste</i>	Rhode Island requires separate management of leaf and yard waste through composting and diversion programs rather than landfill disposal.	R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-19-3 https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLE23/23-19/23-19-3.htm
<i>Metal Cans</i>	Aluminum, steel, and tin containers are designated recyclable materials under commercial recycling requirements.	https://dem.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur861/files/topics/pdf/crfacts.pdf?

Requirement / Material	Description	Statute / Program Link
<i>Paper & Cardboard</i>	Commercial recycling regulations require designated recyclable materials, including paper and cardboard, to be separated from solid waste for recycling.	https://dem.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur861/files/topics/pdf/crfacts.pdf?
<i>Plastic Containers</i>	Plastic containers are designated recyclable materials that must be separated for recycling under Rhode Island's commercial recycling regulations.	https://dem.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur861/files/topics/pdf/crfacts.pdf?

Disposal Bans

Overview: The survey response did not list specific materials banned from disposal.
