

Vermont

Contact Information

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State Policy Snapshot

Vermont has an extensive solid waste and recycling policy framework that includes product bans, multiple Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and product stewardship programs, mandatory recycling requirements, and comprehensive disposal bans. The state emphasizes waste reduction, diversion of recyclable and organic materials, and producer responsibility for a wide range of products.

Product Bans

Overview: Vermont bans single-use plastic carryout bags, requires single-use plastic straws to be available only upon request, prohibits food service establishments from providing single-use plastic stirrers, and bans expanded polystyrene food service products with limited exemptions.

Product / Material	Description of Ban	Statute Link
<i>Certain fluorescent light bulbs</i>	Prohibited from sale.	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/164/07105
<i>Expanded polystyrene food service products</i>	Prohibited from sale and use, with limited exemptions.	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06696
<i>Single-use plastic carryout bags</i>	Prohibited at point of sale, with limited exemptions.	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06692
<i>Single-use plastic stirrers</i>	Prohibited for use by food service establishments.	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06695

Product / Material	Description of Ban	Statute Link
<i>Single-use plastic straws</i>	Available by request only.	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06694

Product Stewardship

Overview: Vermont operates one of the most comprehensive EPR frameworks in the region, with producer-funded programs for HHW, electronics, batteries of all types up to 25 lbs or 2,000 watt hours (including cell phones), fluorescent lighting, mercury thermostats, mercury switches, and gas cylinders; a combined producer-funded and consumer-fee program for paint; a consumer-fee bottle bill for beverages; and programs for pharmaceuticals and pesticide containers supported through manufacturer registration fees.

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>	✓				

Material Category	Producer-Funded	Consumer/Eco Fee	Both	Other	None
Packaging					✓
Paint			✓		
Pesticides				✓	
Pharma				✓	
Rechargeable Batteries (including alkaline)	✓				
Sharps					✓
Solar Panels					✓
Textiles					✓
Tires					✓

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 Link
Beverage containers	Deposit required on beer, wine coolers, malt beverages, pre-mixed spirits cocktails, carbonated non-alcoholic beverages (\$0.05), and liquor and spirits containers (\$0.15).	Consumer/ Eco Fee	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/053
Cell phones	Covered under the battery EPR law when batteries are easily removable.	Producer-Funded	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/168

Product / Material	Description	Program	Statute Link
<i>Electronics</i>	Manufacturer-funded collection and recycling program for covered electronic devices.	Producer-Funded	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/166
<i>Fluorescent lighting</i>	Collection and disposal requirements for fluorescent lamps.	Producer-Funded	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/164A
<i>Gas cylinders</i>	Managed as part of the Household Hazardous Waste program.	Producer-Funded	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/164B
<i>Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)</i>	Producer-funded EPR program for collection and disposal of covered HHW products.	Producer-Funded	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/164B
<i>Mercury switches</i>	Managed under Vermont's comprehensive mercury management program.	Producer-Funded	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/164
<i>Mercury thermostats</i>	Manufacturer take-back program; restrictions on sale.	Producer-Funded	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/164/07116
<i>Paint</i>	Manufacturer-operated stewardship program with customer fee collected at point of sale.	Producer-Funded and Consumer/ Eco Fee	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06673
<i>Pesticides</i>	Pesticide manufacturer registration fee funds a portion of pesticide collection costs.	Other	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/06/081/00918
<i>Pharma</i>	Manufacturer fee collected and administered by the Vermont Department of Health to support drug	Other	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/33/019/02004

Product / Material	Description	Program	Statute Link
<i>Rechargeable Batteries</i>	collection and outreach; does not cover all program costs.		
	EPR program for all batteries up to 2,000 watts or 25 pounds and covers products with easily removable batteries (including rechargeable and single use).	Producer-Funded	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/168

Minimum Post-Consumer Recycled Content

Overview: No minimum post-consumer recycled content requirements reported.

Mandatory Recycling Requirements

Overview: Vermont law requires statewide source separation and recycling of designated materials including steel and aluminum cans, glass, plastic containers #1 and #2, cardboard, and mixed paper; mandates paired recycling and trash bins in public spaces; requires haulers to offer recycling collection at no separate residential fee; and establishes recycling requirements for facilities and commercial construction projects generating 40 cubic yards or more and within 20 miles of a C&D recycling facility.

Requirement / Material	Description	Statute Link
<i>Architectural waste</i>	Commercial projects producing 40 cubic yards or more must deliver architectural waste to a C&D facility under specified conditions.	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06605m

Requirement / Material	Description	Statute Link
<i>Facility collection requirements</i>	Facilities that accept trash must also collect recyclables, food residuals, and leaf and yard debris.	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06605
<i>Hauler recycling service</i>	Trash haulers must offer recycling collection and may not charge a separate residential recycling fee.	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06607a
<i>Mandated recyclables</i>	Source separation and recycling required for aluminum and steel cans, glass bottles and jars, PET and HDPE bottles and jugs, cardboard, mixed paper, boxboard, and paper bags.	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06602
<i>Paired recycling and trash bins</i>	Public spaces must provide paired recycling and trash bins.	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06605l

Disposal Bans

Overview: Vermont prohibits landfill or incinerator disposal of waste oil, white goods, tires, electronic devices, mercury-added products, paint, mandated recyclables, leaf and yard debris, clean wood, food residuals, covered HHW products, and all batteries including lead-acid batteries.

Material	Disposal Restriction	Statute Link
<i>All batteries (including lead-acid)</i>	Disposal prohibited	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06621a
<i>Clean wood</i>	Disposal prohibited	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06621a
<i>Covered HHW products</i>	Disposal prohibited	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06621a
<i>Electronic devices</i>	Disposal prohibited	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06621a
<i>Food residuals</i>	Disposal prohibited	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06621a

Material	Disposal Restriction	Statute Link
<i>Leaf and yard debris</i>	Disposal prohibited	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06621a
<i>Mandated recyclables</i>	Disposal prohibited	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06621a
<i>Mercury-added products</i>	Disposal prohibited	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06621a
<i>Paint and related products</i>	Disposal prohibited	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06621a
<i>Tires</i>	Disposal prohibited	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06621a
<i>Waste oil</i>	Disposal prohibited	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06621a
<i>White goods (large appliances)</i>	Disposal prohibited	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06621a

Other Relevant Policies

Overview: Vermont requires retailers to accept used lead-acid batteries over 25 pounds, with manufacturers responsible for ensuring customer awareness of the take-back obligation.

Policy / Program	Description	Statute Link
<i>Lead-acid batteries</i>	Retail take-back requirement for lead-acid batteries over 25 pounds; manufacturers must ensure customer awareness but do not fund or manage the program.	https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06621c
