

# 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.

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## 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.

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

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

## 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.

<b>Material Category</b>	<b>Producer-Funded</b>	<b>Consumer/Eco Fee</b>	<b>Both</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>None</b>
Beverage Containers		✓			
Boat Wrap					✓
Carpet					✓
Cell Phones	✓				
Electric Vehicle Batteries					✓
Electronics	✓				
Fluorescent Lighting	✓				
Gas Cylinders	✓				
Household Hazardous Waste	✓				
Mattresses					✓
Mercury Switches	✓				

<b>Material Category</b>	<b>Producer-Funded</b>	<b>Consumer/Eco Fee</b>	<b>Both</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>None</b>
Mercury Thermostats	✓				
Packaging					✓
Paint			✓		
Pesticide Containers				✓	
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:**

<b>Product / Material</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Statute Link</b>
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	<a href="https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/053">https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/053</a>

<b>Product / Material</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Statute Link</b>
<i>Cell phones</i>	Covered under the battery EPR law as products with easily removable batteries.	Producer-Funded	<a href="https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/168">https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/168</a>
<i>Electronics</i>	Manufacturer-funded collection and recycling program for covered electronic devices.	Producer-Funded	<a href="https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/166">https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/166</a>
<i>Fluorescent lighting</i>	Collection and disposal requirements for fluorescent lamps.	Producer-Funded	<a href="https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/164A">https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/164A</a>
<i>Gas cylinders</i>	Managed as part of the Household Hazardous Waste program.	Producer-Funded	<a href="https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/164B">https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/164B</a>
<i>Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)</i>	Producer-funded EPR program for collection and disposal of covered HHW products.	Producer-Funded	<a href="https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/164B">https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/164B</a>
<i>Mercury switches</i>	Managed under Vermont's comprehensive mercury management program.	Producer-Funded	<a href="https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/164">https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/164</a>
<i>Mercury thermostats</i>	Manufacturer take-back program; restrictions on sale.	Producer-Funded	<a href="https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/164/07116">https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/164/07116</a>
<i>Paint</i>	Manufacturer-operated stewardship program with customer fee collected at point of sale.	Producer-Funded and Consumer/ Eco Fee	<a href="https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06673">https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06673</a>
<i>Pesticide containers</i>	Pesticide manufacturer registration fee funds a portion of pesticide container collection costs.	Other	<a href="https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/06/081/00918">https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/06/081/00918</a>
<i>Pharma</i>	Manufacturer fee collected and administered by the Vermont	Other	<a href="https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/33/019/02004">https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/33/019/02004</a>

<b>Product / Material</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Statute Link</b>
<i>Rechargeable Batteries</i>	Department of Health to support drug 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	<a href="https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/168">https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/chapter/10/168</a>

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

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

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### **Mandatory Recycling Requirements**

**Overview:** Vermont law requires statewide source separation and recycling of designated materials including cans, glass, plastics, 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.

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

<b>Requirement / Material</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Statute Link</b>
<i>Facility collection requirements</i>	Facilities that accept trash must also collect recyclables, food residuals, and leaf and yard debris.	<a href="https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06605">https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06605</a>
<i>Hauler recycling service</i>	Trash haulers must offer recycling collection and may not charge a separate residential recycling fee.	<a href="https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06607a">https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06607a</a>
<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.	<a href="https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06602">https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06602</a>
<i>Paired recycling and trash bins</i>	Public spaces must provide paired recycling and trash bins.	<a href="https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06605l">https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06605l</a>

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## 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.

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

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

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### 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.

<b>Policy / Program</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Statute Link</b>
<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.	<a href="https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06621c">https://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/10/159/06621c</a>

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