

# LET'S TALK TRASH

## Hamilton Recycling and Composting Information

This notice is to bring residents up to date about the ins and outs of the Town's trash program. Recently, you should have received a two-sided, over-sized post card that explains what can go "in" and must stay "out" of your compost and recycling bins. These were designed to be posted in a convenient reference spot.

### Solid Waste

Hamilton provides every household one 35 gallon black bin that can be used weekly to dispose of trash. The lid should be closed completely with no trash peeking out. Our haulers have been instructed to leave surplus trash behind with an orange "rejected" notice. Please put surplus trash in a blue bag, available for purchase at Crosby's, Aubuchon Hardware, Cumberland Farms, and the Hamilton Convenience store. Yard waste, electronics, bulky items and hazardous waste are not permitted in the bin or collected as part of the town's trash collection service.

### Recyclables

There is no limit to the number of recycle barrels you can put out on your trash day, but never put plastic bags of any kind in your recycling bin, and never put your recyclables in a plastic bag. This is because the plastic clogs the machinery at the recycling/sorting facility. Plastic bags go into your black trash bin or returned to a grocery store that still uses plastic bags Our hauler has been instructed to no longer pick up recyclables that contain or are wrapped in plastic bags. Please rinse containers of any food waste

### Composting

We are fortunate to have weekly curbside collection of organics which are then composted in Hamilton at Brick Ends Farm. You can compost in your back yard or collect your kitchen compost in a countertop collector and put it curbside weekly in a 13 gallon, green bin. If you don't have either the countertop collector or green bin, go to Town Hall's DPW Office (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) for free replacements.

Compost is heavy. We pay a lower price to dispose it at Brick Ends Farm than to dispose of it with solid waste. Food waste should go back into the earth, not creating global warming methane being burned in an incinerator with our trash. Your weeds and grass clippings can be taken directly to Brick Ends Farm any day of the week during work hours. No charge.

Quick composting tips: To reduce the "ick" factor and prevent bugs in your compost, you can:

- line your countertop collector with a bio-bag, available for purchase at supermarkets, hardware stores or online at amazon.com or thrive.com;
- sprinkle wood shavings on your compost in summer;
- freeze food waste (especially meat or fish) until trash day;
- place your container directly in the sun to “cook” it;
- in winter, use biobags or put newspaper/paperbags on the bottom of your green bin to prevent the organics from freezing to bottom of the bin.

### **Other**

For detailed information about the Town’s trash calendar, and how to dispose of many other articles, go to the town’s website <Hamiltonma.gov> and click on the “Trash Pickup” icon. There you will learn about disposing of:

- Bulky items (weekly curbside pickup for \$15 fee)
- Electronic waste (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month, 8 a.m. – noon) drop off for a fee behind Town Hall)
- Textiles, shoes, belts, small kitchen items (weekly free curbside pick-up in pink bag)
- Yard waste (Brick Ends Farm or town site on Chebacco Road.)
- Hazardous waste (annual drop-off day for a fee behind Town Hall)

## **HELP THE ENVIRONMENT- COMPOST, RECYCLE CORRECTLY AND MINIMIZE YOUR SOLID WASTE**

Thank you,

**Hamilton Waste Reduction Committee**

See: : <http://www.hamiltonma.gov/government/trash-organics-recycling-yard-waste-disposal-information>.

See also: <http://www.Facebook.com/groups/HamiltonWasteReductionCommittee>.