

Private Hauler Name & Address

Date

Dear Valued Adams Customer:

This letter is to inform you that the Town of Adams recently adopted regulations pertaining to private waste haulers. The text of the regulations can be obtained from the Adams Health Office (8 Park Street, Adams, 413-743-8300 x179) or on the Town's website (www.town.adams.ma.us/board-health, Regulations tab).

What is the purpose of the new regulations? The main goal is to encourage recycling and to reduce landfill disposal in the Commonwealth. Disposal costs are increasing & landfills are closing (the Adams landfill closed in the 1990's). Therefore, we need to find ways to recycle and reuse more of what we usually throw out. The upcoming ban on disposing of textiles is part of this effort: there are now several textile recycling bins throughout the town.

Mandatory recycling: The town by-laws mandate recycling by both residential and commercial customers (Chapter 101 Solid Waste §101-5 Mandatory Recycling). We are required to inform you of this mandate annually.

What is the “solid waste ban”? Several items are banned from household solid waste. Among these are recyclable items as well as materials that must be disposed of in other ways. These are listed below, designating how to dispose of each. For non-recyclable banned items, you may ask us whether we can dispose of them for you.

How do the new regulations affect you? In general, your waste pick-up will remain the same. The main change is that we are specifically requesting that you segregate recyclable materials from non-recyclable solid waste if you are not already doing so. That way, you will assist us in complying with town & state guidelines regarding mandatory recycling when we dispose of your household waste at the disposal site.

How do you recycle? The regulations require that haulers promote recycling by their customers. As such, we can provide you with a specially marked bin for recycling at cost. Alternatively, you may obtain your own container that's sufficiently large & clearly labeled as “Recyclable Materials,” or other similar designation.

How do you know what is recyclable? A flyer is enclosed depicting what is & is not recyclable (Recycle Smart infographic from the Department of Environmental Protection). You may also see what is recyclable by visiting the searchable RecycleSmartMA website (<https://recyclesmartma.org/>). Note that several items are banned from both solid waste & recyclable materials (see below).

What happens if you don't comply? We may refuse to pick up household waste that clearly doesn't comply with town and state regulations. If so, we will not pick up the waste & attach a notice for refusing to do so. We are also required to report cases of non-compliance to the Board of Health.

What do you do with banned materials that can't be recycled? [Hauler can offer their options here.] You may also contact the Adams Board of Health or the Northern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District (NBSWMD; Linda Cernik, Director; 413-743-8208; lcernik@nbswmd.com). Adams residents may use District disposal events for bulky and hazardous wastes (you may have to show ID). Disposal events are announced on the NBSWMD website (NBSWMD.com/) & are open to all town residents. You may also consult “Beyond the Bin” (<https://recyclesearch.com/profile/ma>) for a searchable directory on other options.

What if you have questions? You may contact the Adams Board of Health or the NBSWMD.

Thank you for your business. Hauler may wish to add their own personal touch here (e.g., express gratitude to assistance in state and local efforts to foster recycling).

Please let us know if we can be of further assistance. With kindest regards, Your Hauler

Waste Ban Materials (banned from household solid waste; see Massachusetts code 310 CMR 19.017)

Include with Recyclable Materials (refer to the enclosed Recycle Graphic):

- Aluminum containers
- Metal & glass containers
- Recyclable paper, cardboard, and paperboard
- Single polymer plastics
- Single-resin narrow-necked containers (e.g., soda bottles)

Other banned materials recycled in other ways:

- Leaves and other yard waste (ask your hauler)
- Metals (scrap, with or without iron; keep separate, waste hauler can sell; Transfer Station also accepts, no fee)
- Commercial food waste*

Questionable items – check with your disposal site:

- Caps
- Egg cartons (regardless of composition)

Not recyclable; special disposal necessary (ask your hauler):

- Asphalt, brick, and concrete
- Cathode ray tubes (CRTs)
- Clean gypsum wallboard
- Lead acid batteries
- Mattresses (check with hauler; also, see below)
- Styrofoam
- Textiles & footwear (check with hauler; also, see below)
- White goods (large appliances)

Banned from landfills only (check with your hauler):

- Treated/untreated wood & wood products
- Whole tires (disposal available at Adams Transfer Station)

Hazardous waste (discard in Universal Waste Shed, Adams Transfer Station):

- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Lithium batteries
- Mercury

May also be discarded at District special collection events

Self-Recycling Options:

- Textiles & footwear (unless contaminated, e.g., with mold, bodily fluids, oil, hazardous substances, etc.):
 - Donation bins available at Transfer Station, Old Stone Mill Center, Express Mart, Pizza House
 - Books & magazines (not accepted by libraries, etc.): Donation bins at Old Stone Mill Center
 - Mattresses (special collection options are being arranged for residents)

* Commercial food waste ban is currently not applicable in Adams.