



Town of Reading Trash and Recycling Update



We started our new rubbish and recycling program on October 4, 2010 and since then we have seen a remarkably decrease in trash tonnage and an increase in recycling. Thank you for an outstanding response in helping to meet our program goals. Of course, as in every new venture, questions arise. The following are a few frequently asked questions that we have received since the program start:

Question: It wasn't clear to me that my trash wouldn't be collected if I didn't adhere to the new trash and recycling program. Why is this being done?

Answer: The Town of Reading has had Mandatory Recycling for many years, but this is the first time we are enforcing it. The goal is to reduce cost by decreasing the rubbish tonnage and increasing recycling. We are requiring that all residents participate towards this goal.



Question: I received a warning that I had "recycling mixed with trash." But I'm sure that I put out my recycling as I should have. Why was I given a sticker on my trash?

Answer: Some residents were given a sticker because they took in their red bins *after* the recycling truck went by and *prior* to the trash getting picked up. **Solution: Make sure you leave your recycling bins curbside until your trash has been collected.**



Question: I have not recycled before; do I need to separate my recycling?

Answer: You only need to separate your paper from your other recyclable items. Place bundled paper on top of or beside your bin, or use one bin for loose paper/cardboard and another container for plastic, glass and cans.

Question: Should my pizza boxes go out with my recycling or my trash?

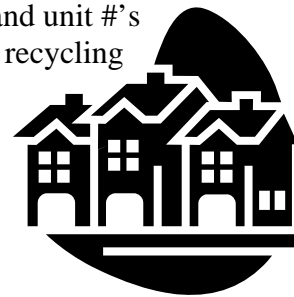
Answer: Please put your pizza boxes out with your recycling. Make sure there are no food waste in them and place them in your recycling bin. Oil on the bottom of the box is ok; food in the box is not.



PIZZA BOXES ARE RECYCLABLE!

Question: I live in a two-family home. How do the new trash limits apply?

Answer: Each legal housing unit will have its own trash limit. If you have a two-family home, the entire house would have double the limit of a single family home. To eliminate confusion, have each unit separate their trash and recyclables from the other unit. Better yet, if possible, put your address and unit #'s on your trash barrels and recycling containers.



*****REMINDER*****

LEAF COLLECTION

- The contractor will pick up leaves in large paper leaf bags on:
 - April 9 – 13, 2012
 - April 23 – 27, 2012
 - On your regular trash day.
 - There is no limit on the number of bags.



For more information, please contact us at (781) 942-9077 or visit our website: www.readingma.gov



Holiday Recycling Guide

The Holiday season is upon us and with the Town's new trash limits we would like to offer some helpful hints of what to recycle this holiday season.

Recycling

Cardboard: Please recycle all of your cardboard boxes. Flatten and either fold or cut to a size not larger than 4 feet by 4 feet. You may bundle cardboard, put it in a paper bag, place it under your recycling bin, or place it standing in or between recycling bins.

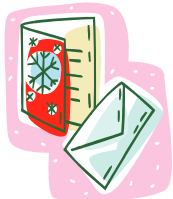


Gift Boxes and Wrapping Paper:

Please recycle all wrapping paper, tissue paper, and gift boxes. No need to flatten or fold, but must be contained.



Treat like any other paper, put in paper bags or place in your paper bin. Tape is OK, but no ribbons please.



Holiday Cards and Calendars: Holiday cards (including envelopes and gift tags) and calendars can be recycled with your paper.

Christmas Tree Recycling

This January the Town is providing two options for recycling of Christmas trees. On Saturday, January 14, 2012 residents may take their trees to the Compost Area on Strout Avenue from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (leaves and branches will also be accepted at this time). *Please note, to use the Compost Center, you will need a 2012 Community Access Sticker.* For further information regarding the Community Access Sticker contact the Police Station.



In addition the contractor will collect Christmas trees curbside on your regular rubbish collection day the week of January 9 – 13, 2012. All decorations, including tinsel, must be removed from the trees. Trees in plastic bags or not completely cleaned of this material will not be picked up or accepted at the Compost Area.



The Three R's of the Holidays

REDUCE

- ❖ Wrap with holiday fabric, gift bags, fancy boxes, maps, comics or just a bow.
- ❖ Give gift cards or event tickets
- ❖ LED lights use less electricity. Put a timer on all lights
- ❖ Shop locally. Plan your trips to avoid wasting gas.
- ❖ Email cards or pare down your mailing list.

REUSE

- ❖ Save gift bags, wrapping paper, boxes, and bows for next year.
- ❖ Use cloth bags when shopping for groceries and gifts.
- ❖ Buy rechargeable batteries.
- ❖ Donate old usable items when you receive new ones.
- ❖ Buy an artificial tree.
- ❖ Use cloth napkins, not paper.

RECYCLE

- ❖ Recycle wrapping paper.
- ❖ Recycle holiday cards and tags.
- ❖ Recycle empty food containers and other party waste.
- ❖ Buy items made with recycled content.
- ❖ Recycle your Christmas tree.
- ❖ Recycle ads and catalogs.
- ❖ Recycle cardboard boxes.