

**DPW News November 2021**  
**November 15<sup>th</sup> is National Recycle Day**  
**Recycle Smartly**

Waste Management, the solid waste contractor for the Town of Belmont, annually audits the contamination of the Town's recycling. This year an audit was performed in June/July showing an increase in the rate of contamination, from 5.9% to 9.3%. This rate is still below the target threshold of 10%, but it impacts the algorithm of how the Town is charged. The uptick in contamination means the Town will be charged more for recycling processing until the next audit is performed. Furthermore, cardboard and paper are in high demand for recycling, which is lowering the cost to recycle for the Town. So please recycle all cardboard and mixed paper!

**Why was there an increase in contamination?**

Some residents are not following the recycling guidelines. Please go to the Department of Public Works' website and click on trash and recycling information to find out what can go in your blue recycling cart. There is a widget labeled **Recycle Smart Recyclopedia** that can be used. Type in an item and it will tell you if it can go in the blue recycling cart.

**What were common items that DON'T belong in the blue recycling cart?**

**Plastic bags**, even to hold recycling or line your carts. Please, don't put any plastic film in your recycling cart. It can go in the trash or bring clean plastic bags and film to stores that collect it.

<https://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/recycling-bags-and-wraps/plastic-film-education-individuals/learn-whats-recyclable/>

**Metal**, The only metal allowed is cans that contained food or beverage. All other metal needs to be disposed privately. Metal weighs heavy. All that is needed is one or two carts in the audit with scrap metal in them to send the contamination rate soaring!

**Wood**, needs to be disposed privately. Like metal, it weighs heavy.

**Styrofoam**, Place in trash

**Textiles.** Carpeting needs to be placed in the trash or may be donated. Clothes can be dropped off or picked up. <https://www.belmont-ma.gov/dpw-highway-division/pages/how-to-recycle-textiles>

**Electronics.** <https://www.belmont-ma.gov/dpw-highway-division/pages/recycling-sticker-information>

Do not put cords, outside string lights of any kind in recycling cart. Please place in trash.

The audit also highlights which routes have low contamination rates and which have high contamination rates. Monday Blue and Green routes did a fantastic job with contamination rates under 2%. Thank you and keep up the good work. Tuesday Blue and Green routes and Thursday Blue need to do better. All had contamination rates above 10%.

### **Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off**

Please remember that you need to preregister online before you go to Minuteman Household Hazardous Waste. On the Belmont website go to the Trash and Recycling Information page. Then click Household Hazardous Waste. There is a link, Hazardous Waste Facility Schedule and Registration that will take you to the Lexington webpage to register.

When you register write down your timeslot. Arriving close to this time helps the line moving quicker.

### **Waste Oil**

**THE TOWN YARD IS NO LONGER ACCEPTING WASTE OIL, IT NOW MUST GO TO THE HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP OFF FACILITY OR MOST AUTO PARTS STORES ACCEPT USED MOTOR OIL IF PURCHASED THERE.**

### **Yard Waste**

**October 25<sup>th</sup> until December 9<sup>th</sup> -Weekly**