



Materials Acceptance Criteria

In order to ensure efficient operations and the proper receipt of materials at Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation's (Resource Recovery) facilities, the following applies to **all** accepted materials, **unless otherwise noted** under that material's specific acceptance criteria.

1. **Fees:** Refer to the current Fee Schedule at www.rirrc.org/about/accepted-materials-pricing for pricing.
2. **Customer Load Types:** The following customers can deliver accepted materials without an appointment during normal operating hours (www.rirrc.org/about/location-hours), unless otherwise noted:
 - a. **Individual Resident Loads:** Typically arriving in a car or pickup truck with small quantities of materials
 - b. **Small Contractor Loads:** Small contractors typically arriving in a pickup truck, small dump truck, box truck, etc., with small quantities of materials
 - c. **Municipal and Commercial Customer Loads:** Municipal and commercial customers typically arriving in large collection vehicles (e.g. rear load, front load, side load, etc.) or delivering a roll off
3. **Load Delivery:** All customers delivering loads must stop at the Scalehouse. The Weighmaster will direct the customer to the applicable area in our facility such as the Small Vehicle Area, Tip Facility, Central Landfill, Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), Compost Operation, or other areas.
4. **Material Segregation:** Materials must arrive segregated, or upon arrival be segregated by the customer, according to the acceptance criteria for each individual material type listed in this document. Materials of different types delivered in mixed waste loads and not segregated by the customer upon arrival may be subject to rejection or accepted and charged in accordance with the current Fee Schedule (e.g. if your load contains recyclables and solid waste, the entire load will be charged at the higher rate).
5. **Acceptable Items & Preparation:** Loads must only contain acceptable items and be prepared as defined under each specific material.
6. **Contaminants:** Loads containing more than 10% (unless otherwise specified under a specific material) by weight or volume of contaminants as defined under a specific material's acceptance criteria will be subject to a disposal fee and any equipment and/or rejection charges.
7. **Prohibited Items:** Loads containing any percentage of **prohibited** items as listed under a specific material's acceptance criteria are subject to any of the following: immediate rejection, a disposal fee, equipment and/or rejection charges. Out-of-state waste, regulated hazardous waste, and regulated medical waste are banned from any type of acceptance at Resource Recovery. Televisions, computers (including monitors, computer towers, laptops and tablets), and mercury-added products are banned from landfill disposal.
8. **Difficult to Manage Loads:** A Load Handling Surcharge will apply to loads of materials such as dust, string, yarn, stumps, poles/beams greater than 4' in length, foam for landfilling, etc., that require extra or special handling for proper landfill disposal such as excavating a hole for placement or watering to contain dust, etc. This does not apply to materials accepted for a separate fee such as fish waste, sludge, etc. Call the Scalehouse at 401-228-3102 to help determine if your load may be difficult to manage.
9. **Local pick-up/drop-off or disposal options outside of Resource Recovery:** Visit <http://atoz.rirrc.org>.

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Alternate Cover Soils

All customers must contact Resource Recovery directly by calling 401-228-3282 for detailed testing criteria and to obtain a Resource Recovery soil approval letter. Delivery of loads then must be scheduled by completing the Special Delivery Request form on our website (www.rirc.org/recycling-composting-disposal/special-materials) or calling the Scalehouse at 401-228-3102. A copy of the Resource Recovery soil approval letter is also required to be presented to the Scalehouse with every load delivery.

Antifreeze

Permitted Customers: Individual Residents

Acceptable Amounts & Items: Less than 10 gallons of new and used antifreeze from cars, motorcycles, boats, trucks, lawnmowers, etc.

Prohibited Customers: Small contractors, municipal and commercial customers

Appliances (“White Goods”)

Permitted Customers: All customers

Acceptable Items: Large appliances. Examples of items that fit the criteria, and are accepted, include:

Without CFC coolant (“Freon”):

- clothes dryers
- dishwashers
- stoves
- washing machines

With CFC coolant (“Freon”):

- air conditioners
- dehumidifiers
- freezers
- refrigerators
- water coolers

Batteries

Permitted Customers: All customers

Acceptable Items: Extra-large batteries from cars, motorcycles, boats, trucks, lawn mowers, etc.

Prohibited Items: Single-use alkaline batteries, small rechargeable batteries

Boats/Vessels and Campers

Permitted Customers & Delivery Requirements: All customers must contact the Scalehouse at 401-228-3102 twenty four (24) hours in advance to schedule a delivery time window. Loads not scheduled will be held until tipping area is available.

Acceptable Items & Preparation: Boats/vessels and campers free of all hazardous fluids and materials including gas, diesel, hydraulic oil, motor oils, batteries, and/or propane. All tanks should be removed or aerated to remove any fumes that would cause a fire or explosion upon processing. The customer will be required to sign a release form indicating that the boat/camper/vessel is free of hazardous fluids or unaerated tanks. Paddle boats, kayaks, and canoes are charged as solid waste.

Prohibited Items: Boats/campers/vessels that contain any hazardous materials or unaerated tanks; out-of-state boats/campers/vessels; drivable motor homes; significantly oversized items (call the Scalehouse at 401-228-3102 if you think your item might be significantly oversized).

Books and Media

Permitted Customers: Individual Residents

Acceptable Items: (1) Books that are dry and free of mold and/or mildew and (2) CDs and DVDs that are commercially recorded (i.e. store-bought CDs and DVDs, not those that were home-recorded).

Prohibited Customers: Small contractors, municipal and commercial customers

Bulky Rigid Plastics

Permitted Customers & Delivery Requirements:

1. **Individual Residents and Small Contractors**
2. **Municipal and Commercial Customers** must contact the MRF at 401-228-3187 twenty four (24) hours in advance to schedule a delivery time window. Loads not scheduled will be held until tipping area is available or will be subject to rejection and/or a disposal fee.

Acceptable Items: Rigid plastic items must (1) be 100% rigid plastic with non-plastic parts removed, (2) be empty and free of all materials and liquids, (3) have never held hazardous materials or waste, (4) be no larger than a 95-gallon recycling/trash cart in size, but no smaller than a hard hat (approximately one cubic foot) and (5) not be drums or tanks of any size (if you are unsure if a container classifies as a drum or tank, call the Scalehouse at 401-228-3102 or see [Drums and Tanks](#)). Bulky rigid plastics must arrive loose (i.e. not be in contained in bags/boxes, or stacked/bundled). Examples of items that fit the criteria, and are accepted, include:

- Buckets/pails (metal handles okay)
- Hard hats (interior lining removed)
- Laundry baskets
- Lawn furniture
- Milk/soda/beverage crates
- Plastic election campaign signs (wire mounting stands removed)
- Plastic shelving
- Storage containers/bins/trays/lids
- Trash barrels/recycling bins/compost bins
- Trash/recycling carts (axles, wheels and metal handles removed), no more than 20% by volume in any load

Contaminants: These items either (1) do not fit the general acceptance criteria or (2) fit it, but are not accepted by our buyer or cause problems in our baler. No more than 10% of these are allowed in any load:

- Items larger than 96-gallon cart: e.g. kiddie pools, sand boxes, playhouses, swing sets, plastic toys larger than a 96-gallon cart
- Items smaller than a hard hat: e.g. action figures, toothbrushes, bottles, jugs, jars, cups
- Items without non-plastic parts removed: e.g. kids wheeled toys, ride-on vehicle toys
- Items containing non-plastic parts that cannot be removed: e.g. swimming pool filter housings; appliances with cords or electric motors, like vacuums
- Brittle plastics that may shatter or splinter upon compaction (e.g. acrylic)
- Automotive bumper covers and parts
- Black flower pots
- Coolers
- Drainage pipes and gutters
- Electronics casing from computers, keyboards, etc.
- Expanded Polystyrene (“Styrofoam”)
- Fencing
- Hubcaps

- Landscape edging
- Pallets
- Pipes
- Power tool cases
- Siding
- Truck bed liners

Prohibited Items: These items (1) clearly do not fit the acceptance criteria and (2) cause major problems for our system, or workers, and/or our buyer(s). Loads containing any percentage of these items will be subject to immediate rejection:

- Aren't plastic: e.g. fiberglass, metal, wood, glass, concrete, brick, and any other non-plastic materials, including rigid plastic containers holding trash, liquids or other material
- Aren't rigid: e.g. garden hoses, plastic hoses or tubing, window blinds
- Are drums or tanks of any size: Prohibited by plastics buyers due to Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations; see [Drums and Tanks](#)
- Contained hazardous materials/waste: e.g. automotive fluids (e.g. gasoline, motor oil), petroleum products, paint, paint chemicals (e.g. stripper, thinner, varnish), pesticides/herbicides/insecticides, or any other chemicals

Prohibited Loads: Loads containing more than 20% by volume of trash/recycling carts, including dedicated loads of trash/recycling carts

Cardboard (Dedicated Loads)

Permitted Customers & Delivery Requirements:

1. **Individual Residents and Small Contractors**
2. **Municipal and Commercial Customers** must contact the MRF at 401-228-3187 twenty four (24) hours in advance to schedule a delivery time window. Loads not scheduled will be held until tipping area is available or will be subject to rejection and/or a disposal fee.

Acceptable Items & Preparation: Cardboard of any size that is empty and flattened; tape and labels are OK. Cardboard pieces larger than 3' x 5' are not accepted in loads of mixed recycling.

Catch Basin Waste

Permitted Customers: Municipal and commercial customers

Acceptable Items: Solid material such as leaves, gravel, sand, sediments, soils, twigs and other organic material that is removed from storm water collection systems during catch basin, manhole or inlet cleaning operations

Prohibited Items: Loads containing any percentage of free liquids will be subject to immediate rejection

Prohibited Customers: Individual residents and small contractors

Christmas Greenery

Permitted Customers: All customers

Acceptable Items & Preparation: Real Christmas trees, wreath branches, and garland pieces that are loose (i.e. not contained in bags or netting or tied together with wire) and free of all trimmings (e.g. ornaments, tinsel, lights, wire, ties, wire frames, etc.)

Concrete/Asphalt/Brick/Rock

Permitted Customers & Delivery Requirements: All customers. Concrete/asphalt/rock delivered in mixed waste loads will be charged as solid waste and may be subject to the Load Handling Surcharge for hard to manage loads.

Acceptable Items: Concrete, asphalt, brick, and rock, free of debris and litter

Construction & Demolition Debris (C&D)

Permitted Customers: All customers. C&D is landfilled and charged as solid waste, but is tracked separately.

Acceptable Items*: Non-hazardous solid waste resulting from the construction, remodeling, repair, and demolition of utilities and structures and uncontaminated solid waste resulting from land clearing that is not pre-processed in a way that renders individual waste components unrecognizable, such as pulverizing or shredding. Examples of items that fit the criteria, and are accepted, include:

- Wood including painted, treated and coated wood and wood products
- Land clearing debris
- Sheetrock/wallboard/drywall, plaster, and wall coverings
- Plumbing fixtures
- Non-asbestos insulation
- Roofing shingles and other roofing coverings
- Glass
- Plastics that are not sealed in a manner that conceals other wastes
- Buckets ten gallons or less in size and having no more than one inch of residue remaining on the bottom
- Electrical wiring and components containing no hazardous liquids, and pipe and metals that are incidental to any of the above

***Contaminants:** Loads containing more than 10% of the following items will be tracked as solid waste (not as C&D), even if resulting from the construction, remodeling, repair, and demolition of utilities, structures, and roads and land clearing: garbage, corrugated container board, carpeting, furniture, appliance, tires, and containers greater than ten gallons in size

Prohibited Items: Loads containing any percentage of these items will be subject to immediate rejection:

- Items regulated as hazardous waste including, but not limited to: electrical fixtures containing hazardous liquids such as fluorescent light ballasts or transformer fluorescent lights, asbestos waste
- 55-gallon drums (see [Drums and Tanks](#))
- Any containers having more than one inch of residue remaining on the bottom
- Fuel tanks

Cooking Oil

Permitted Customers: Individual Residents

Acceptable Amounts & Items: Less than 5 gallons of 100% plant-based cooking oils such as vegetable oil, olive oil, peanut oil and corn oil with no more than trace amounts of food particles.

Prohibited Customers: Small contractors, municipal and commercial customers

Drums and Tanks

Permitted Customers & Delivery Requirements: All customers must contact the Scalehouse at 401-228-3102 twenty four (24) hours in advance to schedule a delivery time window. Loads not scheduled will be held until tipping area is available.

Acceptable Items: Drums and tanks with 1" or less of residue; Customer will be required to sign a release form indicating that the drums/tanks are "RCRA EMPTY." (RCRA = Resource Conservation and Recovery Act)

Preparation: All drums/tanks must be "RCRA EMPTY." According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA 40 CFR 261.7(b):

1. A container or inner liner removed from a container that held a non-acute hazardous waste is considered empty when:
 - a. All wastes have been removed that can be removed using commonly employed practices from that type of container, e.g. pouring, pumping, aspirating; AND
 - b. No more than 2.5 centimeters (1 inch) of residue remains on the bottom of the container or liner; OR
 - c. No more than 3 percent by weight of the total capacity of the container remains if the container is less than or equal to 110 gallons in size; OR
 - d. No more than 0.3 percent by weight of the total capacity of the container remains if the container is greater than 110 gallons in size
2. A container that has held a hazardous waste that is a compressed gas is empty when the pressure in the container approaches atmospheric pressure
3. A container or inner liner removed from a container that held an acute hazardous waste as listed in 40 CFR 261.31, .32, .33I is empty when:
 - a. The container or inner liner has been triple rinsed using a solvent capable of removing the commercial chemical product or manufacturing chemical intermediate
 - b. The container or inner liner has been cleaned by another method that has been shown in the scientific literature, or by tests conducted by the generator, to achieve equivalent removal; OR
 - c. In the case of a container, the inner liner that prevented contact of the commercial chemical product or manufacturing chemical intermediate with the container has been removed

Additionally, Resource Recovery requires that:

1. The tops of the containers are removed or a hole is cut into the container or drum large enough to allow a representative of Resource Recovery to safely inspect the inside to ensure "RCRA EMPTY."
2. All hazardous waste placards be removed or defaced (e.g. spray painted over)

Prohibited Items: Resource Recovery will reject any load that contains any drums or containers not "RCRA EMPTY."

Electronic Waste (e-waste)

Permitted Customers & Delivery Requirements: Acceptable e-waste as defined below is banned from landfill disposal and will not be accepted in mixed waste loads. However, e-waste delivered in mixed loads and not segregated by the customer will be charged the per unit electronic waste fee in addition to the solid waste fee.

1. **Individual Residents**
2. **Small Contractors and Commercial Customers:** No more than fifteen (15) acceptable units per commercial customer, per day.
3. **School Loads:** Public and private K-12 schools wishing to deliver dedicated loads of more than fifteen (15) total acceptable units must receive prior approval by calling 401-228-3238 twenty four (24) hours in

advance. Loads arriving without prior approval will be subject to rejection and/or a disposal fee. Approval of loads is based on Resource Recovery's current capacity. Schools with more than fifteen (15) units are encouraged to seek alternate options.

4. **Municipal Customers:** Municipalities must only deliver acceptable residential e-waste that has been **abandoned** at their municipal transfer stations/public works yards, and must call ahead to arrange to pick-up two (2) empty "wrangler" (4'x4'x4') boxes and pallets. The municipality may fill the wranglers with ONLY acceptable e-waste, as defined below, and must contact Resource Recovery to schedule a date for drop-off by calling 401-228-3238. Drop-offs are limited to one wrangler/month. This is for abandoned items only. It is not meant to replace permanent municipal drop-off programs.

Acceptable Items & Preparation: Televisions (TVs) and computers including monitors, computer towers, laptops and tablets, free from any peripheral devices (e.g. no keyboards, printers, VCRs, etc.). Do not pack acceptable e-waste in cardboard boxes and foam. Unplug and discard all cables and peripherals if still attached.

Prohibited Customers: Commercial customers with more than 15 units

Fish Waste

Permitted Customers & Delivery Requirements: All customers. Loads of fish waste must be delivered in sealed containers and are accepted Monday-Saturday, 6 AM-10 AM. Customers should take precautions to avoid any spillage of fish waste. Customers that deliver containers that are visibly leaking will be barred from future disposal.

Acceptable Items: Untreated, unlined, raw fish and shellfish waste from seafood processing facilities

Foam

Permitted Customers: Individual Residents

Acceptable Items & Preparation: Clean and dry expanded polystyrene foam ("Styrofoam"), secured inside of clear or translucent plastic bags. Examples of items that fit the criteria, and are accepted, include:

- Food service foam such as coffee cups, meat trays and take-out containers.
- Rigid foam that protected items that were once packaged in cardboard boxes. Any oversized rigid packaging foam pieces that would fit one-to-two pieces per bag can remain loose.

Prohibited Items: These items either (1) do not fit the acceptance criteria or (2) fit it, but are prohibited by our buyer:

- Loose foam not secured inside of clear or translucent plastic bags (except for oversized pieces)
- Spongy foam (i.e. foam that you can squeeze like "#1" Fan fingers or pool noodles)
- Foam packaging peanuts
- Foam insulation board

Prohibited Customers: Small contractors, municipal and commercial customers

Leaf & Yard (L&Y) Debris

Permitted Customers & Delivery Requirements: All customers. L&Y debris delivered in mixed loads with stumps will be charged as stumps.

Acceptable Items & Preparation: Brush and branches less than 3” inches in diameter, leaves, twigs, and grass clippings are accepted as L&Y debris; must be delivered loose or in paper leaf and lawn bags.

Prohibited Items: These items (1) clearly do not fit the acceptance criteria and (2) cause major problems for our system, or workers, and/or our buyer(s). Loads containing any percentage of these items will be subject to immediate rejection and applicable fees:

- Stumps such as brush, branches, limbs, trunks and stumps from trees and bushes greater than 3” inches in diameter will be charged as stumps
- Plastic bags: L&Y debris arriving inside plastic bags that are not emptied out at the L&Y debris intake pile will be charged as solid waste
- Litter/trash (e.g. coffee cups, plastic bottles, paper, plastic) will be charged as solid waste
- Invasive species (e.g. Japanese Knotweed, Garlic Mustard) will be charged as solid waste. For a comprehensive list of invasive species and disposal instructions, visit the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management’s website: <https://dem.ri.gov/ri-stormwater-solutions/in-the-weeds/tips.php>

Mattresses/Box Springs

Permitted Customers & Delivery Requirements: Acceptable mattresses/box springs can arrive together, but acceptable mattresses/box springs delivered in mixed waste loads with other materials will be charged as unrecoverable mattresses/box springs.

1. **Municipal and Commercial Customers:** Not accepted for recycling. Municipal and commercial customers must bring all dedicated loads of mattresses/box springs for recycling directly to a Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) Recycling Facility (<http://byebyemattress.com/rhode-island>), and **not to Resource Recovery**.
 - Dedicated loads delivered to Resource Recovery will be landfilled and charged as mattress/box springs - dedicated load. Resource Recovery will only accept a total of two (2) dedicated loads of mattresses daily and they must be received no later than 1 PM Monday-Friday. Customers are encouraged to call the Scalehouse at 401-228-3102 prior to shipment of any dedicated load for disposal.
2. **Small Contractors** are encouraged to bring all dedicated loads of mattresses/box springs for recycling directly to an MRC Recycling Facility (<http://byebyemattress.com/rhode-island>), and **not to Resource Recovery**. However, Resource Recovery will accept small commercial loads of mattresses/box springs up to three (3) individual units provided the items are placed in the designated location, as directed. More than three (3) individual units will be charged as mattress/box springs - dedicated load.
3. **Individual Residents** must deliver mattresses/box springs for recycling to the Tip Facility. Customers are responsible for placing mattresses and box springs in the designated location, as directed, or they will be charged as unrecoverable mattress/box springs.

Acceptable Mattresses: Any sleep surface (including used or renovated), that is (1) whole and intact, (2) dry, (3) not broken, twisted, damaged (must lie flat in container), (4) not contaminated with bed bugs, and (5) not severely contaminated with bodily fluids or odors, that is also (6) covered with ticking or fabric and contains resilient material, such as steel innersprings, foam, fiber, or other filling or upholstery materials, used alone or in combination, regardless of size or shape.

Acceptable Box Springs: Any structure (including used or renovated) used to support a mattress or sleep surface that is (1) whole and intact, (2) dry, (3) not broken, twisted, damaged (must lie flat in container), (4) not contaminated with bed bugs, and (5) not severely contaminated with bodily fluids or odors, that is also (6) covered with ticking or fabric and comprised of a frame, foam, springs or other structure, or other materials, used alone or in combination, and includes both adjustable bases or foundations and stationary foundations.

Prohibited Items: These units either (1) clearly do not fit the acceptance criteria or (2) fit it, but are not accepted in the MRC program. The following will be charged as unrecoverable mattresses/box springs, or as solid waste:

Unrecoverable Mattresses/Box Springs are units that are:

- Disassembled, or from which materials, such as metal, have been removed
- Saturated or frozen
- Not covered in ticking or fabric
- Broken, twisted, or damaged that do not lie flat
- Contaminated with bed bugs (must be wrapped in plastic and marked with “BB” on both sides prior to landfill disposal)
- Severely contaminated with bodily fluids, strong odors, mold or mildew

Solid Waste:

- Air mattresses that contain no upholstery material (such as camping beds)
- Car beds
- Crib and bassinet mattresses
- Juvenile products (e.g. carriages, baskets, dressing tables, strollers, playpens, infant carriers, lounge pad, crib bumpers)
- Mattress pads
- Mattress toppers
- Pillows
- Sleeping bags
- Sofa beds
- Futons
- Collapsible roll-away beds
- Waterbeds that contain no upholstery material

Mixed Recycling

Permitted Customers & Delivery Requirements: All customers. All acceptable mixed recycling materials can arrive mixed together.

1. **Individual Residents and Small Contractors** must deliver to the Small Vehicle Area.
2. **Municipal and Commercial Customers** must deliver loads to the MRF.

Preparation: Resource Recovery expects customers to treat unprocessed comingled recyclables as a commodity during collection and delivery to the MRF to allow for proper sortation when processed through the MRF. Materials received in a condition inconsistent with the **moisture** and **compaction** standards below, or otherwise found objectionable by Resource Recovery staff, may be rejected as these issues contribute to cross-contamination, loss of quality recyclables, processing inefficiencies and higher residue rates. Rejected loads will be recoded as solid waste and the customer will be subject to the appropriate fee and other surcharges including equipment usage fees.

Excessive Moisture: Customers shall ensure that recyclables are delivered to the MRF free of excess moisture. Loads that are determined to be too wet or contain an excessive amount of snow, ice or frozen material to process shall be subject to rejection. Such determination shall be made by Resource Recovery and shall be binding.

Excessive Compaction: While balancing the utilization of the hauling vehicle’s maximum load capacity, the customer shall prevent the excessive compaction of material to be delivered to the MRF. Loads that have been subject to excessive compaction cannot be sorted properly causing excess residue and/or contamination. Resource Recovery recommends a 2.5:1 maximum compaction ratio to reduce MRF residue and preserve commodity values. Using data from the 2016 EPA Volume to Weight conversion table, single family commingled recyclables average 126 pounds per cubic yard (e.g. a vehicle with 30 yards capacity should not exceed 5 tons of residential single stream material). Loads that are found to be excessively compacted and unsuitable for processing may be subject to rejection. Such determination shall be made by Resource Recovery and shall be binding.

No Bagging/Bundling: All materials must arrive loose (i.e. not be in plastic bags, leaf and lawn bags, cardboard boxes or bundled together). Materials received in bags will be treated as solid waste and disposed of as residue regardless of the recyclability of the items within the bags.

Acceptable: Materials must be (1) commingled plastic, glass, metal, and paper/cardboard items that follow the acceptance criteria outlined below, by material type, (2) dedicated loads of acceptable material types, (dedicated loads of glass may be accepted with advance notice and permission from RIRRC), (3) no more than 50% glass by weight in any mixed load, (4) free from excessive moisture, (5) loose, and (6) free from excessive compaction.

Contaminants: These items either (1) do not fit the general acceptance criteria or (2) fit it, but are not accepted by our buyer(s). No more than 10% of these are allowed in any load:

	Acceptable	Contaminants
Plastic	<p>Plastic items must be empty containers that never held flammable liquid, 5 gallons in size or smaller. Examples of items that fit the criteria, and are accepted, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jars (e.g. peanut butter, mayo) • Jugs (e.g. milk, juice, detergent) • Tubs (e.g. ice cream, margarine) • Bottles (e.g. soda, shampoo) • Cups (e.g. iced coffee) • Clamshells (i.e. clear plastic take-out containers) • Cartons (i.e. plastic egg cartons) • Blister packaging (i.e. containers molded into the shape of the consumer product it holds) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any plastic item that is not a container (e.g. hangers, toys, VHS tapes, shelving) • Any plastic container that held hazardous liquid (<i>see prohibited items below.</i>) • Any plastic container larger than 5 gallons in size (e.g. large plastic storage totes) • Any plastic container ≤ 2” in diameter and height • Containers that aren’t empty • Hybrid items made up of near equal parts of different materials or 3+ different materials (e.g. foil-plastic juice pouches, snack bags, candy wrappers, yogurt tops) • Styrofoam containers (e.g. cups, take-out containers, coolers, etc.) • Compostable containers (labeled “compostable,” “biodegradable” or “PLA”) • Containers that crinkle or tear easily (e.g. plant plug trays) • Containers that shatter (e.g. CD cases) • Plastic film (plastic bags, bubble wrap, shrink wrap)

	Acceptable	Contaminants
Metal	<p>Metal items must be empty cans/lids or clean foil. Examples of items that fit the criteria, and are accepted, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aluminum beverage cans/bottles • Aluminum cat food cans • Steel/tin food cans • Aerosol cans (depressed nozzle results in no product/air/noise) • Aluminum foil • Aluminum pie plates and serving dishes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any metal items that aren't cans/lids or foil (e.g. wire hangers, pots, pans) • Cans that aren't empty • Foil that is not clean • Hybrid items made up of near equal parts of different materials or 3+ different materials (e.g. juice pouches, snack bags, candy wrappers, yogurt tops)
Glass	<p>Glass items must be empty bottles or jars. Examples of items that fit the criteria, and are accepted, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drink bottles (e.g. soda, juice, tea, beer, wine) • Food jars (e.g. sauce, jam/jelly, condiments, baby food) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any glass items that aren't bottles or jars (e.g. lightbulbs, windows, drinking glasses, bowls, ceramics) • Glass bottles and jars that aren't empty • Hybrid items made up of near equal parts of different materials or 3+ different materials (e.g. ½ glass ½ plastic pepper grinder) • <i>Though broken glass bottles and jars are accepted, Resource Recovery continues to advise those cities, towns, businesses, or institutions with manual collection to refrain from putting broken glass bottles or jars in their recycling for the protection of custodial staff and curbside haulers.</i>
Paper/ Cardboard/ Cartons	<p>Paper and cardboard must be (1) reasonably clean, dry, and flat (some grease on cardboard pizza boxes is OK); (2) in pieces no larger than 3' x 5';</p> <p>Cartons must be (1) empty and (2) not crushed completely flat. Examples of items that fit the criteria, and are accepted, include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Books (soft-covered or with hard cover removed) • Cartons – Gable top (e.g. milk, creamer, juice) • Cartons - Aseptic (e.g. soy milk, broth, juice boxes) • Corrugated cardboard (up to 3' x 5', flattened) • Egg cartons • Envelopes • 100% paper gift bags with handles removed • Magazines / catalogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper/Cardboard that isn't clean (some grease on cardboard pizza boxes OK) • Paper/Cardboard that isn't reasonably dry • Cardboard pieces larger than 3' x 5' should be cut down to size • Hybrid items made up of near equal part of different materials or 3+ different materials (e.g. photographs, cigarette packs, bubble wrap padded envelopes, nut canisters, three ring binders) • Sanitary paper (e.g. napkins, tissues, or paper towels) • Shredded paper • Wet-strength cardboard (e.g. soda boxes, six-pack carriers, frozen food boxes, paper coffee beverage/soup cups, soap or laundry detergent boxes) • Wax coated or wire reinforced cardboard (e.g. boxes used to transport fresh produce)

	Acceptable	Contaminants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspaper • Notebooks • Office paper • Paperboard boxes (e.g. food boxes, shoe boxes) • Paper towel inner tubes • Wrapping paper 	

Other Contaminants:

- Textiles: e.g. clothing, towels, blankets, sheets, linens, luggage, backpacks, tote bags and footwear

Prohibited Items: These items (1) clearly do not fit the acceptance criteria and (2) cause major problems for our system, workers, and/or our buyer(s). Loads containing any percentage of these items will be subject to immediate rejection:

- Aren't loose (i.e. any bagged materials, including bagged recycling and bagged municipal or commercial solid waste, any materials that are excessively compacted.)
- Aren't empty (i.e. any container still containing hazardous waste, pressurized contents, or unknown contents)
- Aren't reasonably dry (i.e. material that has been coated by liquids such as paint, petroleum or chemicals)
- Aren't: (1) plastic containers that never carried flammable liquid, (2) metal cans/lids or foil, (3) glass bottles or jars, (4) paper, cardboard, or cartons, for example:
 - Organics: e.g. food waste, cooking oil-soaked materials, pet waste, human waste, deceased animals, and yard waste such as leaves, branches, stones, mulch, dirt / potting soil, grass clippings, flowers, plants and weeds
 - Construction and demolition debris: e.g. windows, siding, tile, gutters, shingles, pipe, drywall concrete, brick, gravel, wood, sawdust, dirt, sand
 - Medical/biological waste: e.g. hypodermic needles, auto-injection pens and lancets, intravenous (IV) tubing and bags, oxygen respiration tubing and masks, soiled diapers/changing pads
 - Explosives/flammables/combustibles: e.g. firearms, ammunition, fireworks, cylinders/tanks including but not limited to propane/acetylene/oxygen/helium, and containers labeled as having one time contained flammable fluids such as automotive fluid containers; chemical containers; gasoline/petroleum product cans or containers; paint product cans or buckets; paint/stripper/thinner/varnish containers; pesticide/herbicide/insecticide containers).
 - Items that wrap / can be tied in a knot: e.g. string, twine, rope, cables, chain, wire, hose, tubing, electrical cords, Christmas tree lights, fishing line and nets
 - Bulky/special waste: e.g. electronic items like printers and laptops, appliances like A/C units and microwaves, furniture, exercise equipment
 - Dangerous ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal: e.g. sheet metal, pipe, auto parts-such as brake rotors/brake drums, wheels, structural steel such as rebar, angle iron, channel steel, tools, knives, razor blades, saw blades, drill bits, nails/screws
 - Lithium Batteries/Lithium-Ion Batteries: Loose or installed in a device.

Motor Oil and Filters

Permitted Customers: Individual Residents

Acceptable Amounts & Items: Less than 10 gallons of new and used oil, motor oil and filters from cars, motorcycles, boats, trucks, lawnmowers, etc.

Prohibited Customers: Small contractors, municipal and commercial customers

Plastic Bags and Film

Permitted Customers & Delivery Requirements: Plastic bags and film are not accepted in loads of mixed recycling.

- 1. Municipal and Commercial Customers:** Municipal and commercial customers must receive prior approval from the MRF by calling 401-228-3187 twenty four (24) hours in advance. Loads arriving without prior approval will be subject to rejection and/or a disposal fee.
- 2. Individual Residents and Small Contractors:** Small amounts must be delivered to the Small Vehicle Area. Small amounts can also be brought to the plastic bag and film collection containers located in large grocery, pharmacy, or big-box stores in RI. Individual residents with larger amounts should follow the municipal and commercial load instructions above.

Acceptable Items: Plastic bags and film must be (1) empty, (2) clean, (3) dry, and (4) capable of stretching over your thumb (even just a little). Examples of items that fit the criteria, and are accepted, include:

- Airpacks (from shipped packages)
- Bread/bagel bags
- Bubble wrap and bubble wrap envelopes
- Cereal box liners
- Dry cleaning bags
- Furniture, mattress and electronic overwrap
- Mattress bags
- Newspaper bags
- Overwrap from paper towels, toilet paper, cases of water/soda/beverages
- Pellet/firewood bags
- Produce bags
- Sandwich bags (remove hard zippers)
- Shopping bags

Contaminants: These items either (1) do not fit the acceptance criteria or (2) fit it, but are not accepted by our buyer(s). No more than 10% of these are allowed in any load:

- Don't stretch: e.g. cellophane wrapping, vinyl bags, microwave-ready bags
- Clingy food wrap
- Bags that held hazardous material e.g. lime pellets, fertilizers and pesticides
- Bags labeled "biodegradable" or "compostable"

Scrap Metal

Permitted Customers: All customers

Acceptable Items: Scrap metal items that are 100% metal. Scrap metal items that are less than 100% metal are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. **Preparation:** (1) Always remove as much non-metal from scrap items as possible (e.g. plastic, foam, textiles, etc.), (2) Sharp ends on scrap items such as knives must be covered with thick tape (e.g. masking, electrical, duct) or a piece of folded cardboard, and (3) Fluids must be drained from lawn/garden power equipment and any batteries must be removed. Examples of items that fit the criteria, and are accepted, include:

- Auto parts
- Car jacks
- Chain link fencing
- Filing cabinets
- Golf clubs
- Grills (tank removed) and grill grates
- Keys
- Lawn mowers (drained of fluids)
- Lawn mower blades
- License plates
- Nails, screws, nuts and bolts
- Pipes
- Pots, pans and baking sheets
- Tools
- Shower heads and shower rods
- Sinks
- Snow blowers (drained of fluids)

Seaweed

Permitted Customers & Delivery Requirements: Municipal customers only; must contact the Scalehouse at 401-228-3102 twenty four (24) hours in advance to schedule a delivery time window. Loads not scheduled will be held until tipping area is available or will be subject to rejection and/or a disposal fee.

Acceptable Items: Seaweed (i.e. marine plants and algae)

Contaminants: Because municipal customers are allowed to deliver seaweed under the Municipal L&Y Debris Cap, loads cannot contain more than 10% of debris/litter in any load.

Prohibited Customers: Individual residents, small contractors, commercial customers

Shredded Paper

Permitted Customers & Delivery Requirements: Shredded paper delivered in mixed waste loads or delivered un-bagged will be charged as solid waste.

1. **Municipal and Commercial Customers** must contact the MRF at 401-228-3187 twenty four (24) hours in advance to schedule a delivery time window. Loads not scheduled will be held until tipping area is available or will be subject to rejection and/or a disposal fee. Properly prepared shredded paper (contained in plastic bags) can also be included with dedicated cardboard loads (as outlined in “Cardboard [Dedicated Loads]”).
2. **Individual Resident and Small Contractors** must deliver shredded paper to the Small Vehicle Area.

Acceptable Items & Preparation: Pre-shredded sensitive documents; trace amounts of shredded staples, paper clips, tape, etc. Shredded paper must be secured in a bag prior to placement in the container. Shredded paper is not accepted in loads of mixed recycling. If you are looking to have sensitive documents shredded, look for events listed on www.rirrc.org/announcements/events.

Sludge Ash

Permitted Customers & Delivery Requirements: All customers must schedule delivery with the Scalehouse by completing the Special Delivery Request form on our website (www.rirrc.org/recycling-composting-disposal/special-materials) no earlier than one week prior to your requested delivery date. No dust nuisance should be caused upon tipping; Load Handling Surcharge fee applies to loads that create a dust nuisance.

Acceptable Items: Sludge ash, the by-product produced during the combustion of dewatered sewage sludge in an incinerator.

Sewage Treatment: Sludge and Grit/Rags

Permitted Customers & Delivery Requirements: All customers must schedule delivery with the Scalehouse by completing the Special Delivery Request form on our website (www.rirrc.org/recycling-composting-disposal/special-materials) no earlier than one week prior to your requested delivery date. Dedicated loads of sludge/grit/rags are accepted Monday- Friday, 9 AM-2 PM.

Loads must be delivered in sealed containers. Customers should take precautions to avoid any spillage of sludge waste. Customers that deliver containers that are visibly leaking will be barred from future disposal. Sewage sludge material produced from all sources is subject to pre-approval from Resource Recovery.

Acceptable Items: In-state:

- Residual, semi-solid material that is produced as a by-product during sewage treatment of municipal wastewater
- Grit and rags captured during the treatment of sludge

Solar Panels

Permitted Customers & Delivery Requirements: All customers. Dedicated loads of solar panels can be accepted either for recycling and charged as Solar Panels or landfilled and charged as solid waste.

Acceptable Items: Solar panels

Solid Waste

Permitted Customers: All customers

Acceptable Items: Solid waste generated in RI, free of all prohibited materials shown below.

Prohibited Items: Loads containing any percentage of these items will be subject to immediate rejection, and must be removed from the facility.

- Out-of-state waste (\$50,000 fine)
- Out-of-state rejected loads of mixed recycling
- Regulated Hazardous Waste
- Regulated Medical Waste
- Electronic waste: televisions, computers, monitors, laptops and tablets
- Mercury-added products

Solid Waste Soils

Permitted Customers & Delivery Requirements: All customers must contact Resource Recovery directly by calling 401-228-3282 for detailed testing criteria and to obtain a Resource Recovery soil approval letter. Delivery of loads then must be scheduled by completing the Special Delivery Request form on our website (www.rirrc.org/recycling-composting-disposal/special-materials) or calling the Scalehouse at 401-228-3102. A copy of the Resource Recovery soil approval letter is also required to be presented to the Scalehouse with every load delivery. No dust nuisance should be caused upon tipping; Load Handling Surcharge fee applies to loads that create a dust nuisance.

Acceptable Items: Soils not accepted as Alternate Cover (see [Alternate Cover Soils](#)).

Street Sweepings

Permitted Customers: Municipal and commercial customers

Acceptable Items: Screened street sweepings such as sand that was used on streets, roads, highways and parking areas, both public and private, and that is ultimately swept or cleaned; may be mixed with residual salt during winter storm operations.

Contaminants: Contaminated street sweepings will be charged as solid waste. The following items do not fit the acceptance criteria. No more than 10% of these are allowed in any load:

- Trash, debris or other items not typically found in streets, roads, highways and parking areas
- Storm water catch basin, manhole, or inlet cleanings

Stumps

Permitted Customers & Delivery Requirements: All customers. Loads of stumps containing L&Y debris will be charged as stumps. Stumps delivered in mixed loads will be charged as solid waste.

Acceptable Items & Preparation: Brush, branches, limbs, trunks and stumps from trees and bushes greater than 3" inches in diameter; must be segregated from all other L&Y debris.

Prohibited Items: These items (1) clearly do not fit the acceptance criteria and (2) cause major problems for our system, or workers, and/or our buyer(s). Loads containing any percentage of these items will be subject to immediate rejection and charged as solid waste:

- Plastic bags
- Litter/trash (e.g. coffee cups, plastic bottles, paper, plastic)
- Invasive species (e.g. Japanese Knotweed, Garlic Mustard). For a comprehensive list of invasive species and disposal instructions, visit the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's website: <https://dem.ri.gov/ri-stormwater-solutions/in-the-weeds/tips.php>

Textiles

Permitted Customers: Individual Residents

Acceptable Items & Preparation: Clean, dry, and odorless textiles, including non-apparel and worn/torn/stained items; must be secured in plastic bags prior to placement in the clothing/textile bin. Examples of items that fit the criteria, and are accepted, include:

- Accessories, e.g. belts, hats, purses, scarves, neck ties
- Bedding, e.g. sheets, comforters
- Clothing
- Costumes
- Fabric remnants
- Home items, e.g. curtains, tablecloths, cloth napkins, shower curtains, towels
- Pet beds and clothing
- Shoes/boots/slippers
- Swimsuits and undergarments
- Yarn

Contaminants: These items fit the acceptance criteria, but are not accepted by our recycler: Pillows, rugs/carpeting, rags used for hazardous waste residue (e.g. motor oil, paint)

Prohibited Customers: Municipal and commercial customers

Tires

Permitted Customers & Delivery Requirements: All customers. Tires delivered in mixed loads will be charged the applicable per unit tire fee in addition to the solid waste fee. Dedicated loads of tires that do not meet the acceptance criteria will be landfilled and charged as Tires-Non-Recoverable.

Acceptable Items: Whole tires, clean and delivered free from any dirt or debris, including those on rims, from cars, motorcycles, and bicycles; as well as tractor trailer tires and oversized tires.

Prohibited Items: These items (1) clearly do not fit the acceptance criteria and (2) cause major problems for our system, workers, and/or our buyer(s). Loads containing any percentage of these items will be subject to immediate rejection:

- Forklift tires
- Solid tires and foam filled tires
- Tires cut in half (or more)
- Tires contaminated with dirt or other debris

Wood Pallets

Permitted Customers: All customers

Acceptable Items: Clean wooden pallets free of any paint, banding, bolts, or metal

Prohibited Items: These items (1) clearly do not fit the acceptance criteria and (2) cause major problems for our system, workers, and/or our buyer(s). Loads containing any percentage of these items will be subject to immediate rejection:

- Pallets that aren't clean (e.g. pallets with paint, banding, bolts, metal, etc.)
- Wood items that aren't pallets (e.g. plywood, lumber, stumps, firewood, branches, spools, crates, etc.)