

# Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Inside Look



Where does your recycling go after you put it in your bin or drop it off at the Transfer Station?

Items are transported to the MRF to be sorted by material.

Let's take a look inside the MRF and learn what you can do to recycle better!

# Sorting Equipment

Sorts paper, plastic, metal, & glass





Sorted materials are bailed to be transported



# What contaminates recycling?

- Loose plastic bags & other tanglers
- Bagging your recyclables
- Dirty items
- Items that are not accepted



*The MRF can refuse truckloads of recycling if >10% is contaminated*

# Loose Plastic Bags Damage Sorting Equipment



The sorting equipment is forced to stop about 3 times per day for 45 minutes to remove plastic bags, hoses, and other loose items that get tangled.

This cost is passed through to the town

Let's take closer look at the truckload from Trumbull...



# Bagged items do not get recycled



Loose plastic bags and wrap should not be put in your recycling

Plastic Bags & Wrap



Items should be empty, rinsed, and dry

Plastic containers should be rinsed clean and free of food residue

Cardboard should be clean and dry, pizza boxes without oil can be recycled



Dirty(oil covered)  
cardboard

# Some common items that are not accepted & contaminate the load

Styrofoam

Textiles

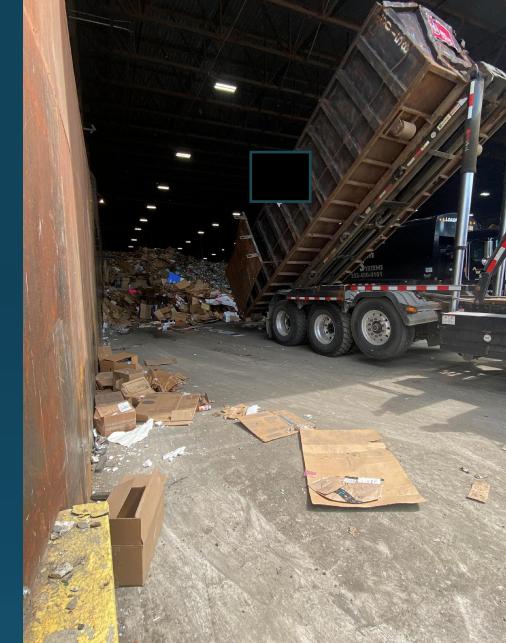
Plastic toys

Diapers

Personal Protective Equipment (face masks)

Tanglers such as hoses, wire, plastic bags

Shredded paper



*Let's take a look at what we found in Trumbull's load*



Luggage

Styrofoam



Styrofoam



Plastic  
Bags



Metal  
Chairs



Contaminated  
Plastic Bucket



Plastic bags and  
bagged items



# WHAT'S IN

## Plastic

- ✓ Plastic bottles (with or without caps attached)
- ✓ Plastic containers, tubs & lids
- ✓ Plastic one-use cups (no lids, no straws)



# WHAT'S OUT

## Plastic

- ✗ Black plastic trays and containers
- ✗ Loose bottle caps
- ✗ Plastic bags & wrap
- ✗ Plastic plates, bowls & utensils
- ✗ Prescription bottles
- ✗ Single-use coffee containers
- ✗ Styrofoam cups, containers & packaging peanuts
- ✗ Water filters



## WHAT'S IN

### Paper

- ✓ Cardboard & boxboard
- ✓ Food & beverage cartons
- ✓ Junk mail
- ✓ Magazines & newspaper inserts
- ✓ Newsprint
- ✓ Office paper
- ✓ Pizza boxes



## WHAT'S OUT

### Paper

- ✗ Gift wrap & gift bags
- ✗ Ice cream containers
- ✗ Paper cups (hot & cold)
- ✗ Shredded paper
- ✗ Take-out food containers
- ✗ Tissue paper



Recycle CT

# WHAT'S IN

## Metal

- ✓ Aerosol containers (food grade only)
- ✓ Aluminum foil
- ✓ Cans & bottles
- ✓ Foil containers
- ✓ Metal lids from cans & bottles



Recycle CT

# WHAT'S OUT

## Metal

- ✗ Aerosol containers (deodorizers, cleaners, pesticides, etc.)
- ✗ Foil tops from yogurt containers
- ✗ Paint cans
- ✗ Pots and Pans
- ✗ Small pieces of scrap metal
- ✗ Spiral wound containers



## WHAT'S IN

### Glass

- ✓ Beverage bottles & jars
- ✓ Food bottles & jars



## WHAT'S OUT

### Glass

- ✗ Ceramic mugs & plates
- ✗ Drinking glasses



Note: Glass can be dropped off at the Trumbull Transfer Station to be recycled creating a cost savings to the town and you!



Single stream recycling information  
[www.recyclect.com](http://www.recyclect.com)

Trumbull town-specific recycling information:  
[www.trumbull-ct.gov/903/Reduce-Reuse-Recycle](http://www.trumbull-ct.gov/903/Reduce-Reuse-Recycle)

**CAN I RECYCLE IT?**  
Find out using our RecycleCT Wizard

Please type in the name of a material:

**RECYCLE RIGHT.  
RECYCLE SMART.**

**Download the app today!**

[Home](#) > [Community](#) > [Sustainable Trumbull](#) > [Reduce, Reuse, Recycle](#)

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

- [Monthly Recycling Drive-Full List \(PDF\)](#)
- [Savor Sustainability - Tips for Creating An Earth-Friendly Dining Experience \(PDF\)](#)
- [Recycle Vs. Wish-Cycle \(PDF\)](#)

### Transfer Station / Recycling Center

The Transfer Station is a processing site where Trumbull, Monroe, and Easton residents can bring their local waste and recycling items. Waste is temporarily collected before it is transported to disposal in an incinerator, landfill, hazardous waste, or recycling facility.

### Recycle vs. Wish-Cycle

Recycle Right. Every Time. Use this Guide to learn What's In and What's Out of your recycling bin.

### Recycling Drop-Off: Trumbull Health Department

The Trumbull Health Department and Sustainable Trumbull have partnered to offer additional recycling locations in town.

### Recycling Drop-Off: Trumbull Library

The Trumbull Library and Sustainable Trumbull have partnered to increase recycling in town.

### Monthly Recycling Drive

Sustainable Trumbull hosts a monthly recycling drive on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Trumbull High School. We have teamed up with TerraCycle, Crayola, Planet Green Recycling, and TREX to collect hard-to-recycle items to be repurposed.

### Textile Recycling Program

Learn more about the Bay State Textile and Helpsy Curbside Recycling Programs.

### Plastic Film Collection

Stretchy plastic film, such as produce bags, dry cleaning bags, the wrap around paper towels and diapers, and more, can be recycled along with plastic bags. Give your plastic film a second life through recycling.