



Preserving Resources,  
Preventing Waste

# The New Jersey WasteWise Bulletin

Newsletter of the New Jersey WasteWise Business Network – Summer 2022  
WasteWise ... improving your bottom line and the environment  
through waste reduction, recycling, and recycled product procurement.

## The A, B, Cs and Ds of Recycling

Those new to recycling in New Jersey will undoubtedly hear terms and lingo used by their recycling peers that at first seem unusual, even esoteric. MRF ("Murf"), MSW, source separation, commingled, postconsumer, anaerobic and other somewhat cryptic terms are often sprinkled into the conversations of those involved in public and private recycling. The terminology used for various recyclable material categories can also seem confusing at first, but in fact the regulatory labeling system for recyclable materials is easy to digest. As found in New Jersey's Recycling Rules (N.J.A.C 7:26A), recyclable materials are divided into four distinct categories - Class A, Class B, Class C and Class D recyclable materials.

**Class A recyclable materials** - source separated metal, glass, paper, plastic containers, and corrugated and other cardboard.

**Class B recyclable materials** - source separated waste concrete, asphalt, brick, block, asphalt-based roofing scrap and wood waste; whole trees, tree trunks, tree parts, brush and leaves provided that they are not composted; scrap tires and petroleum contaminated soil.

**Class C recyclable materials** - source separated food waste; biodegradable plastic; yard trimmings, including any biodegradable paper bags in which the yard trimmings are collected; biomass and lakeweed.

**Class D recyclable materials** - source separated used oil, antifreeze, latex paints, lamps (light bulbs), oil-based finishes,

batteries, mercury-containing equipment, and consumer electronics.

**Note:** For full regulatory definitions, visit [https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/resource/rules\\_docs/26A.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/dep/dshw/resource/rules_docs/26A.pdf).

## Recycled Content Law to Stimulate Demand for Recyclables

Governor Phil Murphy enacted legislation in January 2022 establishing recycled content requirements for certain plastic, glass and paper packaging that is set to take effect in 2024. The law also bans polystyrene packaging peanuts.

Recycled content laws are not only beneficial since they create continued demand for recyclable materials, but they also help mitigate the fluctuating demand for these materials caused by variability in worldwide markets, such as seen with the impact of oil price fluctuations on the plastic recycling market.

Initially, rigid plastic containers will need to contain at least 10 percent postconsumer recycled content, and plastic beverage containers will need to contain at least 15 percent. These rates will rise incrementally over the years and eventually cap at 50 percent recycled content.

The law also establishes a 35 percent standard for recycled content in glass bottles; a 20 percent standard for plastic carryout bags; a standard of between 20 percent and 40 percent for paper carryout bags, depending on size; as well as a range of standards for plastic trash bags based on thickness.

## Did You Know...

- The U.S. Plastics Pact has identified 11 plastic packaging items in its new “Problematic and Unnecessary Materials” list that are “not currently reusable, recyclable, or compostable at scale in the U.S.” and likely will not be by 2025. The pact calls for these items to be phased out by that year. Visit <https://usplasticspact.org/problematic-materials/> for detailed information.
- The NJDEP’s Small Business Assistance Program helps New Jersey’s small businesses understand the complex world of environmental regulation. Services provided by this program include consultations, referrals, guidance documents, and education/outreach. For more information, visit <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/ages/sbap/index.html>.
- Approximately 40 percent of all food produced is wasted.
- There are hidden dangers tied to improper handling and disposal of batteries at their end-of-life. This has led to an increasing number of fires at recycling centers and waste facilities and in garbage trucks. Learn how to safely manage batteries and find drop-off locations for end-of-life batteries at the “Avoid the Spark – Be Battery Safety Smart” website found at <https://www.call2recycle.org/avoid-the-spark-nj/>.
- Steel, copper, aluminum, plastics, glass - even gold and silver - can all be found in electronics and recovered.
- Tin-plated steel cans were first introduced to America in 1818.

## Recycled Rubber a Key Ingredient in Porous Flexible Paving

Porous flexible paving was developed in Europe in the 1990s but took some time before breaking into the U.S. market. It is now widely accepted as an excellent paving choice for walkways, sidewalks, trails, paths, tree surrounds, driveways, parking stalls, playgrounds and more. The product is typically made with dry stone aggregate and

recycled automobile tire rubber mixed with a urethane binder. Porous flexible pavement is slip resistant, ADA compliant and extremely permeable. It also comes in a variety of colors.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation recently upgraded 25,000 square feet of their walking paths at its corporate headquarters in Princeton, NJ with porous flexible paving material. This recycled content pavement also was recently installed on a walking path around Lake Como in Spring Lake.

## Not All Plastic Bags Prohibited at Stores

As New Jersey residents have learned upon recent visits to their local supermarket, the statewide prohibition on single-use carryout paper and plastic bags went into effect on May 4, 2022. The law does not apply to all plastic bags used in retail settings, however, as plastic bags may still be utilized in the following uses:

- to contain or wrap uncooked meat, fish, or poultry;
- to package loose items such as fruits, vegetables, nuts, coffee, grains, baked goods, candy, greeting cards, flowers, bulk food, or small hardware items;
- to contain live animals, such as fish or insects sold in a pet store;
- to contain food sliced or prepared to order, including soup or hot food;
- a laundry, dry cleaning, or garment bag;
- a bag provided by a pharmacy to carry prescription drugs;
- a bag for newspapers; and
- any similar bag, as determined by the Department pursuant to rule, regulation, or guidance.

**Reduce – Reuse – Recycle**



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