



Rhode Island Mattress Recycling Program for Municipalities

Rhode Island's General Law 23-90 requires the mattress industry to create a recycling program for mattresses and box springs used & discarded in the state.

The new law does *not* require solid waste facilities that collect used mattresses to recycle them. Facilities may *voluntarily participate* in the program, thereby gaining access to a no-cost recycling service for mattresses and box springs.

The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) is a non-profit organization established by the mattress industry to plan and manage the Rhode Island mattress recycling program.

Beginning May 1, 2016, retailers and other businesses selling mattresses will collect a recycling fee on each mattress and box spring sold to Rhode Island consumers. These fees will be remitted to MRC and used to transport and recycle mattresses.

Participant Eligibility

Participating municipalities no longer incur mattress recycling costs.

MRC uses the collected recycling fees to pay for the transportation and recycling of the mattresses.

Recycling mattresses conserves natural resources and benefits the environment. Program participants divert mattresses from waste-to-energy facilities and landfills and allow materials like fiber, foam, steel and wood to be reused.

What MRC Provides

- Collection containers at your site
- Transportation from your site to the contracted recycler
- Mattress recycling services

Participation Requirements

- Provide a secure site for the collection container
- Must register with MRC Program Coordinator for no-cost recycling services
- Keep mattresses dry and segregated
- Pack mattresses efficiently to maximize container capacity
- Complete required paperwork to track outgoing shipments

Which items are accepted and not accepted by the program?

Most mattresses and box springs discarded by Rhode Island residents or collected in curbside bulky waste pickup are eligible for the program.

We are unable to accept:

- Severely damaged, wet, twisted, frozen or soiled mattresses or box springs
- Items infested with bed bugs
- Mattress pads or toppers
- Sleeping bags
- Pillows
- Car beds
- Juvenile products such as carriages, baskets, cribs, bassinets, dressing tables, strollers, and playpens or their pads
- Infant carriers, lounge pads, or crib bumpers
- Water beds or camping-style air mattresses
- Fold-out sofa beds
- Futons and furniture



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