Don't Throw It Away!

A Guide to Recycling or Disposing Almost Anything

APPLIANCES. Old or gently used appliances can be donated to the **Habitat for Humanity ReStore,** located at 90 Shelter Rock Road in Danbury, or to **Green Demolitions,** located at 15 East Putnam Avenue in Greenwich.

BATTERIES:

- **Alkaline Batteries:** Currently, alkaline batteries go into the trash.
- **Rechargeable Batteries:** Can be taken to either **Household Hazardous Waste** collection events in the spring or fall or the **Ridgefield Transfer Station (s**pecify at the gate that you are disposing of rechargeable batteries).
- **Camcorder, power tool and cell phone batteries:** These batteries are called Nickel-Metal Hydride (NiMH) batteries, and are to be recycled at either **Household Hazardous Waste collection events** or the Ridgefield Transfer Station once they reach the end of their lives.
- **Car batteries:** Most places that sell cars will accept batteries to be recycled. These can also be taken to the **Transfer Station**.
- **Hybrid Car batteries:** Hybrids such as the Prius use NiMH batteries. These can be taken at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**. In addition, Toyota and its sister company, Lexus, will take these batteries back and recycle the parts.

BOOKS. Used books can be donated to the **Ridgefield Library,** the **Ridgefield Thrift Shop, Farmingville Elementary School's recycled book/media bin,** or **Goodwill.**

CAMCORDERS. Accepted at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

CELL PHONES. These can be recycled at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station** or **Verizon, T Mobile** and **AT&T** stores in town or in neighboring towns. They could be brought to **Ridgefield's Town Hall** at 400 Main Street and be reprogrammed for emergencies for distribution to senior citizens. In addition, **Cell Phones for Soldiers**, a charity, has a drop off point at 272 Main Street, Danbury.

CD PLAYERS. Accepted at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

CD-ROMs/DVDs. CDs may, at times, contain precious metals; as such, they should be recycled rather than thrown out. Old music CDs can be donated to the **Ridgefield Library.** Unfortunately, they are too complicated to be processed at regular recycling centers, and must be shipped to special centers. The closest is **NESAR Systems**, located at 420 Ashwood Road in Darlington, PA, 16115. They can also go into **Farmingville Elementary School's recycled book/media bin**

CHRISTMAS TREES. The Boy Scouts will pick up your Christmas tree for a donation (set each year approx. $15.00) and bring for chipping at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**. You must contact the Scouts to schedule your pickup. Go to the Town of Ridgefield's website at www.ridgefieldct.org in late December for the date, times, and details of the event. You can also bring trees to the **Ridgefield Transfer Station's Brush Area** as a regular drop off and fee.

CLOTHING. Old clothing can be donated to the **Ridgefield Thrift Shop** on Catoonah Street, **Ridgefield Recycling Center,** or **Good Will** on South Street. See **TEXTILES.**

COMPUTER MONITORS, MICE, ETC. Accepted free at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

COPYING MACHINES. Accepted free at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

DESKTOP/LAPTOP COMPUTERS. Accepted free at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

ELECTRONIC WASTE. Electronic equipment contains valuable heavy metals including gold, nickel, and copper, as well as many plastics. All are valuable and can be easily recovered. The **Ridgefield Transfer Station** will accept most types of e-waste (and all of the e-waste mentioned in this document) for free.

EXPIRED MEDICATIONS/PILLS. ***DO NOT FLUSH MEDICATIONS!*** The Ridgefield Police Department has a secure, locked, drop box in the lobby of their headquarters located at 76 East Ridge. The facility is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. **If you cannot get to the drop box**: place the medications in a hard plastic container such as one for bleach or laundry detergent with a screw-on lid. Add coffee grinds, soil, and/or kitty litter with water and dish detergent. Mark the container "not for recycling", tightly screw on the cap and put it in the trash.

EYEGLASSES. The **Lion's Club of Ridgefield** collects used eyeglasses throughout the year. These can be placed in collection boxes at **Stop and Shop, Town Hall, Post Office, Opti-Care, Family Eye Care, Dr. Amatuzzi's Office, Dr. Doty's Office, and Dr. Reynold's Office.**

FURNITURE. The **Habitat for Humanity ReStore**, located at 90 Shelter Rock Road in Danbury, takes in nearly ALL used furniture. **Green Demolitions**, located at 15 East Putnam Avenue in Greenwich, also takes in furniture.

GAS GRILLS. These are particularly difficult to dispose of, but it can be done. First, the propane must be disposed of separately (see **Household Hazardous Waste** below). Once this is done, the grill must be cleaned. Anything electrical or flame-creating, such as the ignitor and sparks, must be removed from the grill. The grill can then be taken to the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**. The gas tank is also accepted at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station at the Metal Dropoff**.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MATERIALS. Hazardous materials generally include chemicals. If not disposed of properly, can cause serious health problems.

- Hazardous wastes are usually marked **Corrosive, Flammable, Toxic, or Reactive**. ***READ LABELS CAREFULLY***.
    - **The Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRA)** is the municipal solid and hazardous waste management organization for Ridgefield and several other municipalities in the region. The HRRA holds two different free collection events each year, one in Danbury in the fall and another in Newtown in the spring. Residents must bring with them proof of residency (valid driver's license is best). Refer to the website www.HRRA.org for dates, what/not to bring, and further recycling information. The following items are some of what is accepted at the **Household Hazardous Waste** collection events:
    - **Adhesives**
    - **Gasoline and other fuels (butane, methane, etc.)**
    - **Drain cleaners**
    - **Rust removers**
    - **Oven cleaners**
    - **Toilet bowl cleaners**
    - **Pesticides, Insecticides, etc.**
    - **Antifreeze**
    - **Moth balls**
    - **Chlorinated Pool Chemicals/Cleaners**
    - **Mercury Thermostats**
    - **Oil-based Paint*** (See **Paint**)

LEAVES, BRUSH and WOOD.

- **Ridgefield Transfer Station** will take **brush and leaves** for disposal. However, they ***WILL NOT*** take stumps, logs, brush over five (5) inches in diameter or one (1) foot long, or grass clippings.
- **Ferris Mulch** in Danbury will take **brush, grass clippings, leaves, wood chips/mulch, Christmas trees, and yard waste.** You must deliver it directly to their facility, at minimal charge. Located at 6 Plumtrees Road in Danbury, Ferris requires a valid driver's license.

LIGHTBULBS. As people continue to switch over to CFLs and LEDs, remember that you should use up your incandescent lightbulbs *first* to conserve resources.

- **Incandescent:** Unfortunately, there's no other way to dispose of an incandescent lightbulb than to throw them in the trash. Wrap them in newspaper or put them in a plastic sandwich bag before tossing them out to prevent injury.
- **CFLs:** It is important to dispose of CFLs properly because they contain trace amounts of mercury. **Ridgefield Transfer Station** will take CFLs, as will **Home Depot stores** in **Danbury** or **Norwalk** at no charge.

MAGAZINES. Clean, dry magazines can be put into your home recycling bin and left on the curb for recycling. Alternately, they are accepted at the **Ridgefield Recycling Center** (loose, please) to be placed into the single stream compactor.

MATTRESSES. Accepted at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station. New in 2015: If a mattress is in fairly good condition** it can be recycled for free. The person dropping it off will need to place it into the mattress collection container. All mattresses that are wet or soiled beyond the guidelines must be disposed of with the garbage and a tipping fee will be charged (for information and visual aides regarding mattress collection guidelines, please visit the **Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRA)** website and click on the mattress recycling link.)

MEDICINE CONTAINERS. **CVS Pharmacy** on Main Street will accept empty prescription medication bottles for disposal; however, they cannot accept the actual pills or medication. See **EXPIRED MEDICATIONS/PILLS** for proper disposal.

MEDICAL WASTE. Needles, inhalers, etc. should be placed in a hard plastic container such as one for bleach or laundry detergent with screw-on lids. Mark the container "Not for recycling" and put it in the trash.

MP3 PLAYERS/IPODS. Accepted free at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

NEWSPAPERS. Clean, dry newspapers can be put into your home recycling bin and left on the curb for recycling. Alternately, they can be brought to the **Ridgefield Recycling Center,** loose, please.

PAINT. Oil-based and latex paint is accepted at the **Ridgefield Recycling Center's** Paintcare collection gaylord. Latex-based paint, which cleans with soap and water, is NOT hazardous. To dispose of latex paint, leave the lid off of the can to allow any remaining paint to dry out. You can also simply fill the can with kitty litter. When dried, place the can in the trash. **Empty latex** paint cans can be rinsed out and recycled. See **Household Hazardous Waste**. (For information regarding product collection guidelines as well as locations, please visit **www.paintcare.org** website.)

PESTICIDES. See **Household Hazardous Waste**, above.

PLASTIC BAGS. The most environmentally friendly policy, of course, is to use reusable grocery bags. However, plastic bags can be recycled at **Stop and Shop** and the **Ridgefield Recycling Center**. Plastic bags ***cannot go*** into the single stream recycling as they get into the compactor's gears and cause problems! Also, The Trex Challenge begins every November and ends on Earth Day (April 22). Participating schools and clubs collect bags to possibly win a grand prize made of Trex material.

PRINTERS. Accepted free at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

PRINTER/INKJET CARTRIDGES. Most cartridges contain valuable amounts of plastic and can be recycled up to six times, usually by manufacturers. Companies will often provide recycling information right on the label. Other options include:

- **Town Hall** (on Main Street), **The Ridgefield Transfer Station**, and **Nature's Temptation** (on Prospect Street) have bins for ink cartridges
- **Ridgefield Office Supply, Staples, Office Max, Best Buy, and Target**, either located in Ridgefield or the greater Danbury area, collect printer cartridges for recycling. Saving old cartridges and bringing several at a time will help reduce excess driving and lower your carbon footprint.
- **Farmingville Elementary School** accepts cartridges.
- **Mr. Nichols,** a science teacher at **Ridgefield High School,** collects used printer cartridges for recycling. All RHS science teachers are aware of his project. He can be reached at pnichols@ridgefield.org.

RADIOS. Accepted free at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

SCANNERS. Accepted free at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

STEREOS. Accepted free at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

TELEVISIONS. Accepted free at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

TELEPHONES (all types). Accepted free at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

TEXTILES. **All** clean, wearable **and** ripped, torn, stained, bleached, holey, faded clothing, textiles, pairs of or single shoes , wallets and purses, are accepted free at the **Ridgefield Recycling Center.** The items go back to **Baystate Textiles** for redistribution, repurposing and recycling. **NOTE: The Town of Ridgefield receives $ 100/ton from this collection effort** and helps offset costs at the **Recycling Center**.

VCRs. Accepted free at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.