

Sustainable Materials Recovery Program

Mattress Recycling Incentive - Guidelines for Grantees

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Grant Program Contact Information

Contact Lydia Meintel-Wade with any questions or concerns at (617) 556-1011 or Lydia.Meintel-Wade@state.ma.us.

Mattress Recycling Incentive Introduction

The purpose of this grant is to encourage municipalities to source separate residential mattresses and box springs for recycling and reuse. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has matched your municipality with a state contracted recycler (Recycling Vendor). MassDEP will pay the Recycling Vendor directly for mattresses collected from your residents.

Your municipality will be provided some or all of the following services:

- A collection container for the municipal collection location
- Transportation from the municipal collection location to the Recycling Vendor's facility
- Processing costs for residential mattresses collected through the program

Refer to the Mattress Recycling Grant Checklist for details regarding your municipality's award. Grantees that were not awarded a collection container may be able to rent one from their recycler at their own expense.

Acceptance Criteria

Municipal staff at the collection location must examine incoming mattresses and box springs to determine suitability for recycling. Items that don't meet the acceptance criteria must be disposed of as trash by the municipality at their cost. The Recycling Vendor will alert the municipality and MassDEP in writing, with photo documentation, when an unacceptable item is received; after the first instance the Vendor will assess the municipality a \$15 fee for each unacceptable item.

Acceptable

- Mattresses and box springs received from residents of grantee communities only (with certain exceptions for regional facilities)
- No mattresses or box springs collected by private mattress retailers
- Twin, double, queen, king, California king; traditional mattresses constructed of metal, textiles, wood and foam. Includes crib mattresses and memory foam mattresses.



Unacceptable

- Excessively torn, punctured, soiled or moldy items
- Twisted or crushed mattresses or broken box springs
- Wet or frozen mattresses or box springs
- Mattresses or box springs infested with bed bugs or other pests
- Futons, fold-out sofa beds
- Mattress pads and toppers
- Infant sleeping pads; air or water beds; any other furniture or textiles



Bed Bug Identification

The **likelihood of encountering mattresses infested with bed bugs is extremely low**; however, as a best practice collection facility staff should inspect incoming mattresses and box springs for evidence of bed bugs. Mattresses infested with bed bugs or other pests should not be accepted for recycling. Infested mattresses should be disposed of as solid waste; do NOT include in the recycling collection program.

Bed bugs are small flat, oval shaped insects about the size of an apple seed (1/4").

They are tan to brown in color, but may be reddish-brown as well.

Young bed bugs (nymphs) are about the size of a sesame seed when they hatch.

Bed bug eggs are tiny, white and barrel shaped.



Look along tufts and corners of mattresses for clusters of small black spots or smeared black spots. In addition to insects, shed skins, eggs and these smears (fecal spots) may be apparent on infested mattresses.

Mattress Collection and Storage Instructions

Track the number of mattresses and box springs collected in each load. You must report this number on the Bill of Lading and provide it to the Vendor at collection time. Mattresses will be counted again as they are unloaded at the recycling facility.

Store mattresses and box springs protected from the elements; mattresses should be loaded into weatherproof containers or otherwise protected from the elements immediately upon acceptance.

Do not compact or otherwise damage the mattresses.

Provide oversight to keep unacceptable items out of collection containers. Remove any non-approved materials from collection containers before sending the mattresses for recycling.

Loading Instructions

Efficiently stack mattresses to maximize the number of pieces contained in each load hauled. Mattresses must either be loaded by municipal employees or municipal employees must actively direct residents in stacking their own mattresses. Municipal employees must rearrange as necessary to maximize loading efficiency. A forty-yard roll off should hold 40-50 mattresses.

The table below indicates the number of mattresses expected to fit in a variety of container sizes.

Container Type	Number of Mattress Pieces
40-yard roll-off container	40-50
40-foot sea container	80-110
48-foot trailer	110-180
53-foot trailer	125-190
Other container	Approximately 1 piece/cubic yard of capacity

An example of vertical mattress stacking in a container (left); this method is preferred when residents will be stacking their own mattresses. However, it is less efficient than horizontal stacking when well executed, as below (right).



Bill of Lading Completion

Your municipality has been provided with a Bill of Lading (BOL) for reporting mattress transactions during the grant term. Complete a BOL for each mattress load sent to or picked up by the Recycling Vendor; retain a copy for your records and submit the original to the Recycling Vendor with the mattress load.

BILL OF LADING

Sustainable Materials Recovery Program: Mattress Recycling Incentive Grant Program

Municipality to Complete this Section - Keep a copy for your records and send the original along with the mattress shipment. The Receipt Information will be provided by the recycler.

Municipality: _____

Haul Date: _____

Number of Mattress and Box Spring Units in Load:

Collection Container Type (check one): ☐ 40 yd. roll-off ☐ 20 ft. sea container ☐ 40 ft. sea container
☐ 48 ft. trailer ☐ 53 ft. trailer ☐ other: _____

Collection Site Certified Net Weight (if available): _____ lbs.

The information provided here is to the best of my knowledge true, accurate and complete. All of the products described in this document were discarded by residents of my municipality (or other grantees, as assigned by MassDEP).

Name (print)	Phone	Signature	Date
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Recycling Vendor to Complete this Section – Keep a copy of the completed form for your records and submit the original to MassDEP. Each invoice submitted must include a Bill of Lading for each load.

Company Name: _____

Units Accepted for Recycling: _____

Units Rejected/Disposed: _____; these units were (check one): ☐ rejected at the collection site
☐ received at the recycling facility

Notes/Explanations of Discrepancies: _____

The information provided here is to the best of my knowledge true, accurate and complete.

Name (print)	Signature	Date
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SMRP MRI Bill of Lading Updated 1/19/17

Hauling Instructions

- Grantees should contact their Recycling Vendor before their container is full of mattresses. Contact your Recycling Vendor at least 48 hours in advance to schedule a pickup. As the program progresses, you should be able to predict the approximate rate of collection and provide advance notice accordingly.
- The Recycling Vendor will pick up the full container and drop an empty container at the same time unless they are off-loading from container to box truck.
- The collection container should be readily accessible and full on the arranged collection day.
- At the time of each haul, municipal staff should be available provide to the hauler the Bill of Lading with the top portion completed, to be completed by the recycling vendor when the load is accepted. Grantees may also develop a procedure with their recycler by which the Bill of Lading is scanned and emailed on the day of the haul.

Charging Fees to Residents

Some municipalities charge residents a fee for disposal of bulky items including mattresses. This grant has a fee policy intended to prevent the municipality from earning a profit while MassDEP is subsidizing mattress recycling, unless the fee revenue will allow the municipality to continue recycling mattresses after the grant ends. Grantees may not charge more than \$5 per mattress accepted at a drop-off during the grant period, unless the grantee commits to recycling mattresses for at least twelve months after the grant ends. Grantees that collect mattresses curbside for recycling will be permitted to charge a higher fee, subject to approval by MassDEP. Grantees that are required to provide a storage container may be permitted to charge a higher fee, subject to MassDEP approval.