

# THANKS FOR RECYCLING!

PLEASE RECYCLE THESE:



**Aluminum and Steel Cans**  
empty and rinse



**Bottles and Jars**  
empty and rinse



**Kitchen, Laundry, Bath**  
empty and replace cap



**Mixed Paper, Newspaper, Magazines, Cardboard**  
emptied and flattened

**Not sure if an item is recyclable? Visit [www.stoneham-ma.gov](http://www.stoneham-ma.gov).**

**NO!**



Do Not Bag Recyclables  
No Garbage



No Plastic Bags or  
Plastic Wrap



No Food or Liquid  
Empty & rinse all  
containers



No Clothing or Linens



No Tangles  
(no hoses, wires,  
chains, or electronics)

# IMPORTANT NOTICE

From the desk of the Town Administrator 6-25-2018:

The Town of Stoneham is facing a recycling contamination problem that is projected to cost local residents upwards of \$140,000 in Fiscal Year 2019 based on current projections. Contamination has become such a global problem that China, one of the world's largest receivers of recyclables, has instituted a "National Sword" policy which now bans 24 types of solid waste, which includes various plastics and unsorted paper and sets tougher standards for contamination levels. The result has been a near complete shutdown of U.S. recycling exports which, in 2016, was worth 5.5 billion dollars and has caused substantial fees for local municipalities.

Casella, the Town's trash and recycling hauler, currently charges over 70 dollars per ton to dispose of recycling. With annual collections hovering around 2,000 tons the Town reasonably expects to spend \$140,000 over the next 12 months. Town Administrator Thomas Younger stated "It's a serious issue we need to address. Not only from an environmental standpoint but from a fiscal one." To combat this problem the Town applied for and was awarded a \$30,000 grant through MassDEP's Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP) to implement Recycling IQ. The purpose is to reduce contamination in the residential recycling stream in the Commonwealth.

One of the major causes of contamination is the collection of recyclables in plastic bags and the general deposit of plastic bags and wraps in recycling bins which have the negative effect of being caught in conveyor belts, sorting equipment or mixed in with various recyclables. Another major issue is "wishful recycling" which has led to large amounts of contamination by residents who believe items are recyclable but instead have a detrimental impact on the finished product. A general rule of thumb is clean paper, No. 1 or No. 2 plastic bottles, clean metal cans, clean glass jars and cardboard without grease stains are recyclable. Stoneham residents will have their recycling rejected for contamination and see tougher enforcement of the no recycling, no trash collection policy as a result.

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