

Benson Recycling & Disposal Center



**A Residents Guide To Solid Waste Management
Benson Vermont**

Solid Waste Management Ordinance

This Ordinance is enacted and ordained for the purpose of promoting the health, safety, and general welfare of the Town of Benson, its residents, and the general community; to regulate the Management of Solid Waste within the Town; to require Separation of certain materials from Solid Waste destined for Disposal; to facilitate the adequate provision of Solid Waste services such that the generators of Solid Waste pay costs that reflect the real costs to society of the Management of Solid Waste; to establish fees for services provided by the Town to Manage Solid Waste; to regulate Waste Disposal practices that pose a concern to the public health and welfare and the environment; to fulfill the Town's responsibilities under 24 V.S.A. §2202a; to implement and further the Town's Plan and the State's Solid Waste Management Plan; and to provide for the efficient, economical, and environmentally sound Management of Solid Waste. The Ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authority contained in the Town's Charter (Title 24, Chapter 405), 24 V.S.A. §1971 and 24 V.S.A. §2291.

The Ordinance consolidates into one document the Town's Waste Management Ordinance, Solid Waste Management Fee Ordinance, and the Regulations for the Collection and Recycling of Solid Waste. This document was created to encourage residents, businesses, and institutions in Benson to recycle more of their waste.

Transfer Station - Recycle and Disposal Facility (RDF)

The Benson Transfer Station mission is to provide efficient, economical, and environmentally sound management of solid waste generated by residents and businesses within Benson.

The transfer station, which serves as a local collection point, plays an important role in moving waste to the disposal site. It's more than just a place where the trash goes—it's a fundamental part of effective regional waste management.

Most Benson residents dispose of their trash and recyclable items at the transfer station on Wednesdays and Saturdays. In the process, they often get a chance to greet friends and find out what's going on.

The Transfer Station is operated by the Selectboard and is 100% supported from tax dollars appropriated directly to the Transfer Station by Town Meeting, recycling and the sale of Transfer Station Permits and Stickers.

Items Not Allowed at Transfer Station

Disposal of the following materials is *not* permitted at the transfer station:

- Auto scraps and auto waste,
- Vegetation (leaves, brush, grass clippings, etc.)
- Demolition materials
- Commercial waste
- Paints, oils, solvents or thinners, chemical wastes of any kind

Transfer Station Permits and Stickers

To use the transfer station, you must be a resident of Benson and have a Transfer Station Permit visible on or in your car and Stickers on all trash bags. Transfer Station regulations are strictly enforced.

Permits may be purchased at the Town Hall from the Town Clerk during regular business hours, or at the Benson Village Store from 6 a.m. – 1 p.m. Monday - Saturday. You will need to present your current drivers license when you pick up your permit. If the driver's license does not show your Benson address, you will also need to present a letter or other document as evidence that you live in town.

You may also purchase Transfer Station Permits and Stickers by mail. Send a large (8-1/2x11) self-addressed, stamped envelope, plus a copy of your drivers license and a check (payable to: Town of Benson) to P.O. Box 163 Benson, VT 05731-0163.

Most residents purchase their permits for the upcoming year when they go on sale in January. Watch this website or the Benson Bulletin for notices regarding the sale of new Transfer Station Permits and Stickers.

Beyond Recycling: Reducing and Reusing

Bottles become more bottles. Cans become more cans. Steel finds its way back into cars. Paper becomes insulation. Old tires become more tires, pipe, or aggregate for roads. And plastic containers become more containers or are woven into fabrics. Our ability to reclaim and reuse is as great as our ability to develop better and more sustainable ways to continue the efforts. It takes skill, imagination, and determination. But it's worth it.

Recycling is a good thing. Compared to creating products or packaging from virgin resources, recycling conserves resources, saves energy, and reduces pollution. There are two other options, however, that are even better than recycling... reducing and reusing.

Reducing means minimizing waste before it has a chance to be created. This concern has prompted manufacturers to try a variety of innovative strategies ranging from reducing packaging on CD's to reducing the thickness of the plastic and aluminum used to package beverages.

Reusing means choosing durable products that can be used over and over again. This sounds like common sense, but two factors seem to be working against this practice: the convenience of disposable products, and our rapidly changing technology.

Electronics have revolutionized our lifestyle with telephones, radios, TVs, computers and cell phones. These items make up the bulk of electronics that threaten the environment, because of the dangerous elements in them. Reuse and recycling prevents electronic items from reaching landfills, creating less waste, providing usable items to organizations that need them and recapturing valuable resources. As new products hit the market, relevant information and resources are necessary to ensure old items are properly discarded.

A recent study by the U.S. EPA shows that electronics already make up approximately 1 percent on the municipal solid waste stream. Research indicates that electronic waste is growing at three times the rate of other municipal waste.

- According to the U.S. EPA, over 20 million personal computers became obsolete in 1998 and only 13% were reused or recycled.
- Electronic circuit boards, batteries, and color cathode ray tubes (CRTs) can contain hazardous materials such as lead, mercury and hexavalent chromium. If improperly handled or disposed, these toxins can be released into the environment through landfill leachate or incinerator ash.
- In just one year, over 112 million pounds of valuable materials were recovered from disposed electronics for recycling and reuse. Materials includes steel, glass, plastic and precious metals

Reusable Items

Anyone who has ever visited a waste disposal facility understands the truth in the saying "One person's trash is another person's treasure." Clothing, furniture, bikes, and books are among the most common treasures to be found in the trash. To help keep these and other useful items out of the landfill, we are instituting a reuse program.

Donation Dos

- Wash or dry-clean clothing.
- Test electrical equipment and battery-operated items.
- Include all pieces and parts to children's games and toys.
- Check with your local Goodwill Industries agency to determine standards for donating computers and vehicles.

Donation Don'ts

- Leave items unattended outside a collection center.
- Donate broken or soiled items.
- Give items that have been recalled, banned, or do not meet current safety standards.

Salvation Army

1 Field Ave.

Rutland, VT 5701

802-775-4827

Clothing, books and small household appliances and furnishings, in good condition, are accepted at no cost.

Customers make the initial decision about what goes in, and anyone is welcome to take items out. RFD staff helps keep the ReUse Zone tidy and periodically weeds out unwanted items. The goal is to divert as much reusable material as possible from landfill disposal.

Although there is no fee to take items from the ReUse Zone, customers who add items are charged regular disposal fees. This is to ensure that disposal costs are covered if these items never find a new home and end up going into the trash.

Recycling

Recycling activities consist of: separating, collecting, packaging, selling, and delivering recyclable materials; developing new market sources and maximizing revenue opportunities; monitoring and promoting residential and commercial participation to increase the number of participants and the tonnage recycled; answering inquiries and providing information to residents and others about the recycling program; and controlling the quality of recyclable materials.

Costs associated with recycling functions include labor, equipment, hardware, transportation, and promoting recycling. Funds for these costs come from tax dollars appropriated directly to the Transfer Station by Town Meeting. All revenues earned through the Recycling Program are returned to the Town General Fund.

Category/Receptacle	Includes	Special Instructions
Corrugated Cardboard	All <i>corrugated</i> boxes	Must be flattened Separate from paper
Mixed Paper	Newspapers/inserts Magazines, catalogs, phone books Junk mail, office paper Brown paper bags Paperboard (non-corrugated cardboard) NO: wax-covered paper, such as milk cartons or juice cartons	Flatten all boxes Remove cereal box liners
Clear Glass	Bottles and jars <i>only</i>	Rinse clean Lids, collars, neck rings, corks may stay on Paper labels may stay on
Green Glass	NO: broken glass or other glass items, such as window glass, dishes, glasses, Pyrex, ceramics, or light bulbs	
Brown Glass		
Aluminum Cans	All aluminum cans (deposit or non-deposit) NO: aluminum foil or trays	Rinse clean OK to flatten Labels may stay on
Metal	Tin or steel cans and lids NO: aerosol cans, cans containing oil-based paint, aluminum foil or trays	
Plastic (#1)	All containers with number <u>/ 1 \</u> in triangle on bottom Typically, soft, clear plastic... includes all soda and water bottles, some food product bottles	Rinse clean OK to flatten Milk containers go in separate bin, except opaque white Hood milk containers go in #2 plastic bin
Plastic (#2)	All containers with number <u>/ 2 \</u> in triangle on bottom Includes many opaque, hard plastic containers NO: milk containers, except opaque white Hood milk containers	
Plastic Milk Bottles	Translucent milk bottles	

Electronics Reusing

Electronics Recycling

Type of Item	No. of Stickers
Televisions up to 13"	3 Stickers each
Televisions 14" – 26"	7 Stickers each
Televisions 27" and over	10 Stickers each
Televisions 35" and over	12 Stickers each
Computer Monitors up to 16"	3 Stickers each
Computer Monitors 17" and over	7 Stickers each
Computers (including board & mouse)	7 Stickers each
Printers (all sizes)	4 Stickers each

Large Item Drop Off

Specific days are designated for dropping off large items during the last three weeks of October and the last three weeks of April. Watch the Benson Bulletin or this website for notice of those dates.

Bulky items must have stickers before entering the transfer station and must be off-loaded from a vehicle under the direction of the monitor. Current year Stickers must be affixed to bulky items according to the following schedule per item:

Type of Item	No. of Stickers
Major household appliances, including refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers, dishwashers, water heaters, humidifiers, dehumidifiers and large fans (classified as "white goods")	8 Stickers each
Small household appliances and small consumer electronic items, that can fit in a standard trash bag (no bag is required)	1 Sticker each
Sofas, loveseats	10 Stickers each
Box springs, mattresses, easy chairs, bookshelves, sideboards, dressers or tables	5 Stickers each
Upright chairs	2 Stickers each
Unmounted Tires	2 Stickers each
Screens, doors, windows up to 80 lbs. in weight	5 Stickers per bundle
Carpeting rolled up	5 Stickers per bundle
Area carpeting (fits in plastic bag)	1 Sticker each
Metal fencing, fence posts and wire up to 80 lbs. in weight	5 Stickers per bundle

Hazardous Waste Disposal

You can dispose of hazardous waste materials once a year.

Proof of Residency is required.

When: Typically, 2nd Saturday in September. Watch for a notice in the mail regarding the exact date and time.

Where: Benson Transfer Station

Time: 9:00am-3:00pm

What You Can Bring

From the Workbench: Oil Based Paints Stains & Varnishes Wood Preservatives Paint Strippers/Thinners Solvent Adhesives Lighter Fluid	From the Garage: Fuels/Gasoline/Kerosene Engine Degreaser Brake Fluid/Carburetor Cleaner Transmission Fluid Car Wax, Polishes Driveway Sealer Antifreeze Roofing Tar Swimming Pool Chemicals Motor Oil Car Batteries Fluorescent Lights	From the House: Rubber Cement Airplane Glue Fiberglass Resins Aerosol Cans Photo Chemicals Furniture Polish Oven Cleaner Toilet Cleaner Spot Remover Rug & Upholstery Cleaner Hobby & Art Supplies Household Batteries Floor & Metal Polish
From the Yard: Weed Killers Chemical Fertilizers Flea Control Products Poisons, Insecticides Fungicides Moth Balls Propane Tanks (small)		

Hazardous Waste Disposal

What Not to Bring

- Empty Containers/Trash
- Latex Paint
- Commercial or Industrial Waste
- Radioactive Waste, Smoke Detectors
- Infectious & Biological Waste
- Ammunition, Fireworks, Explosives
- Fire Extinguishers
- Prescription Medicines/Syringes
- Asbestos

How to Safely Transport Hazardous Waste

- Leave materials in original containers
- Tighten caps and lids
- Sort and pack separately: oil paint, pesticides and household cleaners
- Pack containers in sturdy upright boxes and pad with newspapers
- NEVER MIX CHEMICALS
- NEVER SMOKE while handling hazardous material