



Trash and Recycling Reduction Tips

Each and every year, Norwood residents throw away 8,600 tons of trash and recyclables. While we've been working hard on Recycling Right, we can also make a huge difference by reducing how much we throw away. Think about it – each household throws away, on average, nearly 2,000 pounds of trash and recyclable items. Regardless if it is trash or recyclables, we still pay a lot of money for its collection and disposal. What if, we all made an effort to REDUCE how much is thrown away? If each household reduced what is thrown away by just 5% (100 pounds), the Town would save over \$82,000! If each household reduced what is thrown away by 10% (200 pounds), the Town would save over \$165,000!! And, if we tried really hard and reduced what is thrown away by 15% (300 pounds), the Town would save over \$247,000!!! These are real savings that could be better used for schools, roadways and other much needed services.

You ask “how can I make a difference”? Surprisingly, it is very simple. We have listed nine ways that are easy to do and will provide the largest reduction in what we throw in the trash and recycling thereby reducing our costs.

Nine Ways To Reduce How Much We Throw Away

1. Do not throw textiles in your trash or recycling - Either donate them to local charities (Norwood's Woman's Community Committee, Goodwill, etc.), drop them off at one of Bay State Textiles ten convenient locations or, put them out in one of your pink Simple Recycling bags for curbside pickup on your recycling day.
2. Do not throw food in your trash or recycling. Norwood residents throw away over 1,100 tons of food scraps into the trash costing over \$205,000 for disposal!!! Use your garbage disposal, start food scrap composting at home or, drop off your food scraps at the food scrap compost tumbler located at the DPW or at the Winter Street Recycling Center.

3. Do not throw yard waste in your trash or recycling. Start composting at home, drop off your yard waste at the Winter Street Recycling Center or, leave out for curbside pickup by the DPW from April thru November.
4. Do not throw away your cans and bottles that have a deposit. Take the time and go to a store that redeems you for your deposit, drop them off at the weekly charity car washes located across from the Norwood Recreation Department or, separate them and leave them out for our fellow citizen pickers.
5. Reduce all that junk mail. Norwood spends over \$72,000 each year to get rid of unwanted mail. Go to www.norwoodma.gov click on **Departments**, click on **Trash and Recycling** and finally, click on **Junk Mail Reduction** for directions on how to stop all that junk mail.
6. Make sure to completely empty your drink containers (i.e. coffee cups, water and sport drink bottles, milk and juice cartons, etc). We pay by the weight for disposal so paying to get rid of liquids is just plain wasteful!
7. Do not throw books in the trash or recycling. FYI - bound books are considered a contaminant in the Single Stream Recycling process. Either donate them to charity or drop them off at the Winter Street Recycling Center.
8. Take advantage of reusable containers and reduce how much we throw away into the trash and recycling. Try out a lunch box/bag for your daily lunch rather than paper or plastic bags which just get thrown away into the trash. Bring your thermos to your favorite coffee shop rather than using their paper and styrofoam cups which just get thrown away. Try out Tupperware type products to put your sandwich and other lunch items in rather than wrapping them in foil or plastic bags that just gets thrown in the trash.
9. Stop buying bottled water. Purchase your own personal water bottle and refill it with tap water. Our MWRA water cost pennies, is great tasting and is of the highest quality. Not only will you save money, there will be less trash thereby saving the Town money.

Please share these ideas with your family and friends.
Think of other ways and please share them with us here at

dpw@norwoodma.gov

Together, we can make a difference!