

TOWN OF BEDFORD
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS



Refuse & Recycling

<https://www.bedfordma.gov/recycling>

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**Announcing:
New Textile Recovery Partnership with CMRK**

The DPW recently announced a new partnership with CMRK to offer free curbside pick-up of clothing & other household items, including books, dishes and home décor items to residents. Pick ups will be scheduled online at www.cmrkne.com.

CMRK/Big Brother, Big Sister will accept the following for pickup:

Clothing, all sizes and seasons	Shoes (including singles)
Bedding, curtains, blankets, towels	Stuffed animals
Home décor items	Pots, pans, dishware, glassware
Books, DVDs, records (No VHS)	Small toys (must fit easily into a box)
Musical instruments	Bicycles

CMRK cannot accept furniture of any kind, mattresses, lamps or suitcases. For a full list of acceptable items or to schedule curbside pick-up, visit www.cmrkne.com

CMRK is a textile recovery organization. This means they can accept items in any condition – ripped, worn/torn is fine – as long as the items are clean and dry. Residents should pack clothing & shoes into plastic bags labeled CMRK/BBBS and all other items in boxes, up to 30LBS each. Donations should be left at the curb by 7AM on the day of a scheduled pick-up. CMRK drivers will not enter private property to collect items.

Clothing reuse is a big deal. It reduces the enormous environmental burden of the second most polluting industry in the world. Did you know that 95% of unwanted textiles can be reused or recycled for other purposes? A ripped towel will likely find a new life as an industrial wiping rag, while your gently used jeans will be sent to a thrift store to be worn again. According to MassDEP, nearly 6% of the waste delivered to combustion facilities for disposal is clothing, curtains, towels and other fabrics. That's 230,000 tons of textiles, annually.

Beginning Nov 1, 2022, MassDEP waste disposal ban will include textiles.

This means that clothing, rags and other fabrics are no longer allowed to be landfilled or incinerated under state law and must be diverted from the trash. You can help by separating these materials and donating them for reuse or recycling. Use the new CMRK curbside program, drop items off in a clothing drop-box, or donate to your favorite charitable organization (check acceptable item list before dropping off.)