

April 1, 2020

Solid Waste & COVID-19 State of Emergency

During the COVID-19 state of emergency, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) asks the public to please take the following precautions when visiting solid waste facilities and drop offs.

- Only visit if you are healthy.
- Call before you head out to check hours of operation and available services. Many facilities have reduced their hours and/or changed their operations.
- Keep it simple, only bring waste that can't wait like trash, food scraps, and [blue bin recyclables](#).
 - Recyclables should be empty of liquids and clean.
 - Trash should be contained in bags or contained so that it does not blow around.
 - Minimize the number of trips you are making by storing this material for as long as you can. Trash can be stored longer if food scraps are managed separately from this stream.
- Practice social distancing by keeping at least 6 feet of space between other customers and staff.
- When possible, stay in your vehicle while waiting at the scales or in line to drop your trash.
- If you need to enter a building, follow the facility's restrictions for number of persons at one time.
- Pay with cards/check rather than cash if possible and follow the facility's payment system such as placing payments in the collection container provided instead of handing cash directly to the staff.

Postpone these visits if possible:

- **Spring cleaning.** The old couch, bed, tires or lawnmower that has been sitting in the garage or shed for a few months can wait a little longer.
- **Yard clean up.** If something was hanging out in your yard already, please let it spend a bit more time there, or start a backyard compost pile. Learn more about backyard composting [here](#).
- **Household Hazardous Waste.** Store toxic products in safe, leak-proof containers somewhere that kids and pets cannot access them. Learn more about safe storage [here](#).

Donation sites or Swap Shops may be closed during this time. Please do not leave donations at a closed site—this is considered illegal dumping. Save items in good condition to donate later.

Questions? Please contact the [VT DEC Solid Waste Program](#) at 802-828-1138.

Help prevent the spread of COVID-19 throughout Vermont. Learn more at [VT Department of Health](#).