

Solid Waste Management in Connecticut

Marina operators must make provisions for the proper disposal of solid waste on their site [33 USC 1905(a)(2)]. In addition, marina facilities are also required to make provisions for separating recyclables from other solid waste.

What Is Solid Waste?

Solid waste means unwanted or discarded solid, liquid, semisolid or contained gaseous material, including, but not limited to, demolition debris, material burned or otherwise processed at a resources recovery facility or incinerator, material processed at a recycling facility and sludges or other residue from a water pollution abatement facility, water supply treatment plant or air pollution control facility [CGS §22a-207(3)].

Municipal solid waste (MSW) means solid waste from residential, commercial and industrial sources, excluding solid waste consisting of significant quantities of hazardous waste, land-clearing debris, demolition debris, biomedical waste, sewage sludge and scrap metal [CGS §22a-207(23)]. The solid waste in your dumpster is considered MSW.

How Must a Marina Manage its Solid Waste and the Waste of Customers?

Under federal law, marinas are required to provide adequate collection for garbage from customers and transients [33 USC 1905(a)(2)]. For stormwater management purposes, the dumpster should be covered with intact drain plugs or be positioned in a roofed area which do not allow dumpster leakage to enter any stormwater drainage system.

Marinas must recycle certain wastes. State law requires that every resident living in a single or multifamily house or building, every business including non-profits, and all public and private agencies and institutions such as colleges, hospitals, local and state government agencies recycle [CGS §22a-241b(c)].

Items that must be recycled are:

- **Glass and Metal Food/Beverage Containers.** The small number of containers generated by the employees who work at your facility can be taken home for recycling, to a grocery store to reclaim the deposit or taken to your town's recycling drop-off center or transfer station. Remember that boaters tend to generate a lot of these recyclables.
- **Corrugated Cardboard** has three layers with a wavy layer between two flat paper layers. Keep the corrugated cardboard separate from your other waste. Remove any contaminants from corrugated boxes (e.g., plastic, foam, wood), open and flatten the boxes and place them in a dumpster or compactor used only for corrugated cardboard.
- **Office Paper and Newspaper.** The simplest way to recycle office paper is by taking it to your municipal recycling center/transfer station or by joining with other small businesses to develop a cooperative office paper collection program (some businesses share a dumpster and hauling

arrangements). Because most small businesses generate very few newspapers, one easy way to recycle them is to have employees take newspapers home for collection with their residential program.

- **Leaves and Grass Clippings.** Small businesses can rake leaves to a wooded area on their site, or compost leaves on site in a small contained pile (provide water and turn periodically to provide oxygen for the microorganisms). In some towns you may be able to place leaves at the curb for municipal collection or take them to a municipal leaf composting pile. It is recommended that grass clippings be left on the lawn areas since they act as a natural organic fertilizer.
- **Scrap Metal.** Items consisting predominantly of ferrous metals (steels), aluminum, brass, copper, lead, chromium, tin, nickel or alloys must be recycled. You can store metal separate from other waste or share storage containers with other small businesses in your area.
- **Used Oil.** See fact sheet on “Used Oil” for more information.
- **Lead Acid Batteries.** See fact sheet on “Battery Replacement” for more information.
- **Nickel-cadmium Batteries.** Call (800) 8BATTERY to find the nearest participating retail outlet that collects these batteries for recycling.

Specific questions about recycling options can be answered by your municipality, or call the CT-DEP’s Recycling Program at (860) 424-3365 for more information.

In addition to the items listed above, many municipalities have ordinances which require additional items to be recycled, such as plastic containers labeled with a Number 1 or Number 2, old magazines, drink boxes, and mini-juice cartons, and discarded mail. To find out about those additional items, contact your municipal recycling contact or refer to your local solid waste and recycling ordinance.

Bottles, cans and plastics can be collected together, but kept separate from paper and cardboard.

Management of hazardous waste is described in Appendix B.

What Should and Should Not be Placed in a Dumpster?

Any waste that must be recycled (see above) or is a hazardous waste should not be placed in a dumpster. Wastes like used oil, antifreeze, liquid paints or varnishes, pesticides, or lead acid batteries should not be placed in a dumpster. Check with your solid waste hauler for more specific requirements.

What Are Some of the State Requirements for Solid Waste Haulers?

In Connecticut, solid waste haulers are required to:

- Provide a warning notice to customers suspected of violating separation requirements [CGS §22a-220c].
- Assist the municipality in identifying persons responsible for creating solid waste loads containing significant amounts of recyclables detected by the receiving resource recovery or solid waste facility [CGS §22a-220c].

Be advised that there are no facilities or municipal solid waste haulers permitted in Connecticut to “pick through” mixed MSW to retrieve designated recyclable materials.

What Are the Laws about Littering?

According to CGS §22a-250(a), no person shall throw, scatter, spill or place or cause to be blown, scattered, spilled, thrown or placed, or otherwise dispose of any litter up on any public property in the state or upon private property in the state not owned by him or in the waters of this state.

State statute defines “litter” as “any discarded, used or unconsumed substance or waste material, whether made of aluminum, glass, plastic, rubber, paper, or other natural or synthetic material or any combination thereof, including, but not limited to, any bottle, jar or can, or any top, cap or detachable tab of any bottle, jar or can, any unlighted cigarette, cigar match or any flaming or glowing material or any garbage, trash, refuse, debris, rubbish, grass clippings or other lawn or garden waste, newspaper, magazines, glass, metal, plastic or paper containers or other packaging or construction material which has not been deposited in a litter receptacle” [CGS §22a-248(4)].

What Are the Laws about Disposal of Solid Waste from Boats?

The Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act of 1987 [33 USC 1901-1909, 33 CFR 151] (MPPRCA) implements the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of Ships (MARPOL). The MPPRCA makes it illegal for any vessel to dump plastic trash anywhere in the ocean or navigable waters of the state, and makes the following restrictions on disposal of non-plastic trash:

- Within U.S. lakes, rivers, bays, sounds and within 3 nautical miles from shore, it is illegal to dump plastic, paper, rags, glass, food, garbage, metal, crockery, or dunnage (lining and packing material that float).
- Between 3 and 12 nautical miles from shore, it is illegal to dump plastic and dunnage, paper, rags, glass, crockery, metal or food (unless ground to less than one inch in size).
- Between 12 and 25 nautical miles from shore, it is illegal to dump plastic and dunnage.
- Outside 25 nautical miles from shore, it is illegal to dump plastic.

NOTE: MPPRCA does not apply to fish waste [33 CFR 151.05].