Rowley Trash Tips

Many Rowley residents ask how they can dispose of large or unusual trash items. Here are some resources and ideas.

# THE BOARD OF HEALTH’S SPECIAL WASTE COLLECTIONS.

In Spring and Fall, the Board usually sponsors special Waste Collections. In April, it’s white goods and light metals collection, which includes all metals: copper, tin, aluminum, steel, stainless, brass, nickel, bronze, high temp alloys, titanium, wire, electronics and electric motors.

In November, it’s the hazardous waste collection, including electronics, cleaners, pesticides, oil-based paints and stains, and so much more. Watch for the announcements of these events on the Board of Health website. <https://www.townofrowley.net/board-health>

Cardboard, Newspaper, Books and Magazines. – The Rowley Boy and Girl Scouts collect cardboard, newspapers, books, magazines and redeemable bottles and cans between 9am and 12pm on the second Saturday of January, March, May, July, September and November. Flatten cardboard, and take it to the First Congregational Church parking lot – and maybe buy cookies or ask about joining! If you have questions call George Pacenka at (978) 948-7918.

Donate - A Salvation Army, Goodwill or local thrift store like the Leeward Light, will take unwanted items and old furniture. It's easy; give them a call, tell them what you would like to dispose of, and they will tell you if they will take your donation. Here in Rowley, the First Congregational Church runs a thrift shop which accepts gently used clothing, small household goods, sewing items and jewelry. See <https://www.firstchurchrowley.org/thrift-shop> for hours and current information.

Textiles: A textile recycling bin has been placed in the rear parking lot of the Town Hall Annex at 39 Central Street. Residents can drop off clothing, shoes, linens, sheets, pillows, blankets, hats, duffle bags, belts, gloves, towels, draperies, handbags, tablecloths, bathrobes, and stuffed animals. All items must be dry, bagged, and placed in the bin. Do not leave items on the ground.

Old Technical Instruments and Commercial Items- Try calling local vocational and tech schools. Many will take some items to work on in shop classes, vocational studies, or epicycle or reuse for their facilities.

Sell Your Stuff - "One man's trash is another man's treasure”. People will respond to your ads for furniture, TVs, toys, tools, and antiques – Sites include Craigslist, Offer Up, Facebook Market Place, and Let Go! Even if you get very little for your item, it’s cheaper than paying to have it taken away! BUT – be safe, either meet buyers in a public location, or make sure to have lots of people around if buyers must come to your home to pick up.

Give it away! Freecycle has (online) exchange groups in Ipswich, Newburyport, Beverly, Danvers and other towns where you can offer your stuff up for free (and ask for what you need too!)

Recycle or Resell Tires - If your tires are in good shape a local gas station may be willing to take tires that they can sell as a used tire for those in need of a quick spare. The BOH takes smaller tires (under 17”, no rims) at their HHW collection for a small fee.

Old Furniture and Antique Dealers – Many thrift stores will take old furniture that is still in good shape for free. Local antique dealers may be happy to take some old items. Rowley is blessed with lots of these shops – give them a call or stop by with a picture of your items.

Some people make a living up cycling old wooden objects. Ask on social media whether anyone knows any ‘furniture flippers’ in your area.

Yard/Garage Sales – Please see <https://www.townofrowley.net/sites/g/files/vyhlif4956/f/uploads/regulations.pdf> for complete Town regulations concerning yard or garage sales. A permit can be obtained from the Police department.

Rummage Sales – Charitable Institutions may organize sales. See <https://www.townofrowley.net/sites/g/files/vyhlif4956/f/uploads/regulations.pdf>

Dumpsters: If you are moving or doing a large construction project, you can hire a dumpster. If you do, remember to check with the Board of Health to get a permit. See our webpage for applications. <https://www.townofrowley.net/board-health/pages/forms-applications>

Compost: The best way to reduce your food and yard waste is to compost it into rich garden soil! See <https://www.npr.org/2020/04/07/828918397/how-to-compost-at-home> and <https://www.pennlive.com/gardening/2016/10/how_to_compost_your_yard_waste.html> for more information.

# Plastic Bags - To recycle those flimsy plastic grocery bags, first make sure that they are clean (e.g., no food residue) and dry. Take them to Market Basket or another supermarket, and place in the bins provided.

Please do not leave your unwanted items on the curb! They are hazardous to walkers and bikers, and attract rodents and insects. Glass may break and endanger pets! Keeping the sidewalks and side of the road clean increases neighborhood pride. Our beautiful community deserves to be kept neat and clean.