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## FLAGS

If you are looking to retire or replace a worn, torn, faded or soiled flag in a dignified manner, you may contact your municipality to see they offer a disposal box for retired flags. The websites below list Post locations to drop off flags or you may also contact the Scouts.

- American Legion ([www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org))
- Boy Scouts of America ([www.colbsa.org](http://www.colbsa.org))
- Elks Lodge ([www.elks.org](http://www.elks.org))
- US Flag Store ([www.usflagstore.com](http://www.usflagstore.com))
- Veterans of Foreign War ([www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org))

## FLARES, FIREWORKS

Dunk flares and fireworks in water after use. Submerge them in a large bucket of water until they are thoroughly cooled and all of the embers have been extinguished. Soak for at least 24 hours. This applies to all spent fireworks, "dud" fireworks, and sparklers. It's important to soak even the flares or fireworks that don't go off. Sometimes, "duds" explode late, causing fire or injury. Never try to relight a "dud" – wait 20 minutes after the failed detonation, and then soak the explosive in water.

- **Remove the fuse from live fireworks.** If you are trying to dispose of fireworks that have not yet been lit, make sure to pull off the wicks so that the explosives won't detonate. **Remove the ends of flares** and in half or into thirds.
- **Wrap the soaked flares or fireworks.** Use trash bags, Ziploc, or plastic wrap so that the wet explosives don't dry out. Consider double-wrapping the bags. It's okay to put multiple flares or fireworks in the same bag, as long as it is sealed.
- **Place flares or fireworks in regular household trash.** Flares and Fireworks cannot be recycled or composted. If you don't feel comfortable placing flares or fireworks in the garbage, contact your local fire department. Some police and fire authorities will take flares and fireworks and ensure proper disposal. This applies especially to live fireworks.

## FOAM, STYROFOAM

Currently, Styrofoam cannot be recycled in your household single stream recycling bin. Foamed polystyrene, sometimes referred to generically by the brand name Styrofoam, is marked as plastic number 6 on items like foam cups and take-out containers. It has gained a notoriously bad environmental reputation because very few recycling programs accept it and it can sit in a landfill for centuries. You can check online to see if you live near one of the few facilities that do accept polystyrene for recycling. If you do, make sure your materials are clean and dry before dropping them off.

## FOOD COMPOSTING

Food scraps and yard waste currently make up 20-30 percent of what we throw away. Composting is an environmentally-friendly alternative to keep these material out of landfills where they take up space and release methane, a potent greenhouse gas. For businesses, organic material can easily impact the quality commercial garbage fees.

Steps to reduce your food waste:

- **Shop wisely:** Plan meals, use shopping lists and avoid impulse buys.
- **Learn when food goes bad:** Get familiar with what the sell-by, best-by and use-by labels mean.
- **Use your freezer:** Freeze fresh produce & leftovers if you cannot eat them before they go bad.
- **Eat leftovers:** If you eat out, get your leftovers packages up so you can eat them later.
- **Donate Food:** Non-perishable food can be donated to local food charities

## FUELS/ SOLVENTS

Any type of fuel such as butane, diesel, gasoline, kerosene and lamp oil is accepted at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection events. You can also contact your local fire department, they may be able to use in fire training events. Fuels are not regulated if from a private home; therefore can be disposed of with trash. Absorb into an absorbent material. Divide larger quantities and dispose over several collection periods.

## FURNITURE

Contact your municipality building or your trash hauler for specified bulk pickup days, or schedule a pickup. Useable furniture can be donated to a community organization or a local thrift or donation center.