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This directory is intended to help users properly dispose of, and if possible, divert items from landfill disposal. Northampton County does not promote any particular business. The mention of any business or organization does not constitute its endorsement by the County. This is only to serve as a guide and is not necessarily complete. However, if you would like an item or location added let us know by emailing [PUBWRKSCentral@northamptoncounty.org](mailto:PUBWRKSCentral@northamptoncounty.org)

MATERIAL	WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:		DISPOSAL METHOD
<b>MAKE-UP</b>	The following items can be mailed to <a href="#">Terracycle</a> and recycled (free shipping label): lipstick cases, lip gloss tubes, mascara tubes, eye shadow cases, bronzer cases, foundation packaging and bottles, powder cases, eyeliner cases, eyeliner pencils, eye shadow tubes, concealer tubes, concealer sticks, and lip liner pencils. All brands of make-up are accepted through this recycling program.		<a href="#">TerraCycle®</a> Mail-in recycling program
<b>MARINE FLARES</b>	Marine flares are used as a visual distress signal out on the water. If you have unused flares, beware that it's against the law to set them off in a non-emergency situation, even on Independence Day. Dunk flares 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. It's important to soak even the flares 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. <u>Remove the fuse from live flare.</u> If you are disposing of flares that have not yet been lit, remove the ends of flares, break in half or into thirds. <u>Wrap the soaked flares.</u> Use trash or Ziploc bags, or plastic wrap so that the wet explosives don't dry out. Double-wrap the bags. Multiple flares can go in the same bag, as long as it is sealed. <u>Place flares in household trash.</u> Flares cannot be recycled or composted. If you don't feel comfortable placing flares or in the trash, contact your local fire department. Some police and fire authorities will take <u>live</u> flares/fireworks to ensure proper disposal. Dump the leftover water on gravel or grass – not down a sink or storm drain.		Soak in water, wrap in plastic bags, and dispose in household trash.
<b>MARKERS</b>	Instead of throwing your used markers in the trash, sign up for a free mail-in program and recycle them. It saves landfill space and is the eco-friendly way to recycle markers.		<a href="#">ColorCycle</a>
<b>MASCARA WANDS</b>	<a href="#">Wands For Wildlife</a> accepts old mascara wands (mail back option only). Before mailing, wash wands in warm soapy water to remove residual mascara and let dry. Mail the old wands and <a href="#">donation form</a> to: P.O. Box 1211, Skyland, NC 28776. Please send with correct postage amount. The Wands for Wildlife program uses old mascara wands to remove fly eggs and larva from the fur of wild animals. Please do not purchase new wands, the goal is to recycle and re-purpose old wands.		<a href="#">Wands For Wildlife</a>
<b>MATTRESS</b>	Mattresses can be disposed of as bulk trash. For the health and safety of workers, many municipalities or haulers are requiring mattresses be wrapped in plastic before placing on curb for disposal. Plastic wrapping for mattresses can be purchased at a home improvement store. If you have a box spring-style mattresses combo, you can separate the material from springs and recycle springs as scrap metal or upcycle into DIY projects for the home and garden.		Trash
<b>MATTRESS BEDDING</b>	Clean, usable bedding can donated to local thrift stores or animal shelters. Unwanted comforters, pillow cases and sheets can be recycled at municipal recycling drop-off centers that accept textiles. Pillows can be disposed of in household trash or repurposed.	 	Donate <a href="#">Municipal Recycling Drop-Off Site</a>

<b>MEAL KIT PACKAGING</b> CARDBOARD, CARTONS, PLASTIC BAGS, FILM, PLASTIC CONTAINERS STYROFOAM	Examples of meal kit services might include Hello Fresh, Blue Apron and Green Chef. Delivery meal kits generally come with several types of packaging. Some kits include recycling or disposal instructions on the packaging itself. You can also check the meal kit website to see if they have specific instructions for proper recycling and disposal of packaging.		Recycle: cardboard, cartons, plastic containers
			Grocery store: plastic bags & film
			Trash: Styrofoam
<b>MEDICAL AIR TANKS</b>	Can be returned to the manufacturer or distributor from which they were purchased.		Contact Supplier
<b>MEDICAL EQUIPMENT</b>	Durable medical equipment/supplies that are non-hazardous (wheelchairs, crutches etc.), can be donated for reuse. Medical equipment that is electronic often requires specialized facilities and technical personal due to its complexity and presence of hazardous materials. Contact manufacturer for disposal options. <a href="#">Project C.U.R.E.</a> takes working medical equipment and various other medical based items. Items no longer supported by manufacturer are not accepted.		<a href="#">Donate</a>
			Contact Manufacturer
<b>MEDICAL WASTE</b>	Medical waste comes with a variety of laws and guidelines to ensure safe disposal to prevent adverse environmental and health effects. Please make sure you contact a registered medical waste disposal company.		Medical Waste Disposal Company
<b>MEDICINE</b> LIQUID	Mix with an unpalatable substance such as dirt, kitty litter, or used coffee grounds, place the mixture in a sealed plastic bag, and place in regular trash. Remove personal information from plastic bottles and place empty bottles in recycling bin.		<a href="#">Medication Disposal Guide</a>
<b>MEDICINE</b> PILLS, SUPPLEMENTS, VITAMINS	Medication Collection boxes are located at local police departments, County Courthouse and state police barracks. Expired or unused medications can be disposed of anonymously. If you cannot safely dispose at secure collection box, mix with an unpalatable substance such as dirt, kitty litter, or used coffee grounds, place the mixture in a sealed plastic bag, and place in regular trash. Remove personal information from plastic bottles and place empty bottles in recycling bin. See the <a href="#">Medication Disposal Guide</a> for more information.		Medication Collection Box, located at local police depts.
<b>MERCURY*</b>	Mercury is a hazardous chemical that can cause serious health programs. Proper disposal and recycling is encouraged at all times. Mercury can be found in common household products such as thermostats, thermometers, electrical switches, fluorescent lighting and batteries. For more information please visit the <a href="#">Environmental Protection Agency website</a> .		Hazardous Waste
<b>MERCURY*</b> COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHTBULBS (CFLS)	Accepted at Home Depot and Lowe's for free recycling.		Home Depot or Lowe's
<b>MERCURY*</b> FLUORESCENT LAMPS, TUBES	Fluorescent lamps contain small amounts of mercury and should be recycled or disposed of properly at all times. Residents may drop off tubes to a household hazardous waste event. Businesses must make other arrangements for disposal.		<a href="#">Bulb Recycling Locations</a>
<b>MERCURY*</b> SWITCHES	Mercury switches are used in thermostats, "silent" light switches, clothes washer lids and chest freezers. A mercury switch is usually present when no mechanical switch is visible. Keep the mercury intact and bring it to a household hazardous waste collection event. If you spill mercury, do not vacuum it up. Proper cleanup procedures can be found on <a href="#">the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website</a> .		Hazardous Waste
<b>MESH PLASTIC PRODUCE BAGS</b>	Mesh plastic produce bags refer to the bags that might hold apples, clementines, sweet potatoes, etc. that you can get from the grocery store. These types of bags go in the trash after use.		Trash

<b>MICROWAVES</b>	Microwaves are accepted as scrap metal at most municipal recycling drop-off centers or can be taken to a scrap yards.		Metal Scrap Recycling
<b>MICROWAVE GLASS TRAY</b>	Microwave glass trays can be thrown away as trash. This type of glass is not recyclable in curbside recycling.		Trash
<b>MINERAL SPIRITS</b>	Mineral Spirits are commonly used in thinning paints and varnishes. It is flammable and toxic, although it is of a lower toxicity. Mineral spirits are a petroleum distillate and can be harmful through inhalation, skin and eye contact, and ingestion. Mineral spirits should be disposed of as a hazardous waste. . <u>If you cannot wait for or attend a collection event:</u> Mineral Spirits are not regulated if from a private home; therefore can be disposed of with trash. Dry out with an absorbent material. Divide larger quantities and dispose over several trash pickups. Please see the <a href="#">Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Guide</a> , for more information.		Hazardous Waste
<b>MIRRORS</b>	No matter the condition of the mirror, start by taping up the surface. If the mirror is intact consider donating or selling. If the mirror has spider web cracks or not useable it can be discarded as trash, but precautions should be taken to ensure the safety to others handling the mirror. Tape an x-shape across the front of the mirror first. Then a band across the center. Use a strong tape like packing tape or duct tape. Painting tape and masking tape will not hold well enough to keep the weight of the glass from coming out.		Trash
<b>MIXER ELECTRIC, CORDLESS</b>	Useable kitchen appliances can be donated. You can also contact the manufacturer to see if there is a mail-in recycling program. Mixers that are at least 50% metal can be recycled as scrap metal at a municipal drop-off site or scrap yard. Otherwise they can be thrown away in your household trash. If your cordless mixer runs on a battery, remove the battery and dispose of properly.		Donate or Metal Scrap Recycling
			Trash
<b>MIXER BOWLS, BEATERS</b>	Mixing bowls and beaters can be donated if in useable condition, otherwise they can be recycled as scrap metal at a municipal recycling drop-off site or scrap yard. They should not go into your curbside recycling bin.		Donate or Metal Scrap Recycling
<b>MOBILITY EQUIPMENT</b>	Includes wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, commodes, bathtub rails, shower chairs, transfer benches, and more. You can donate, give away, or sell good condition mobility equipment items. Some of these items are in high demand. Recycle metal equipment in bad condition as scrap metal. If you have equipment in bad condition or cannot donate them, put them in the trash. Before tossing them, remove and recycle batteries from powered devices.		Donate or Recycle
			Trash
<b>MOLD</b>	Mold growth is encouraged by warm, humid conditions and can be a serious health concern. It can grow on building materials and personal belongings. Research the contamination before taking action. The extent and cost of removing the mold may depend on the type, cause and time of mold growth. The <a href="#">US EPA guide</a> provides more information.		Research contamination before taking action.
<b>MONITORS</b>	Old computers, monitors, keyboards, printers, TVs, cell phones, and other electronic devices, referred to as "e-waste" contain dangerous lead, mercury, arsenic, cadmium, and more. Many of these metals comprise circuit boards and electrical parts such as computer chips, monitors, and wiring. It is illegal to place TVs at the curb or in the trash.		<a href="#">Electronics Recycling</a>
<b>MOTHBALLS</b>	Mothballs contain pesticides made from toxic, harmful chemicals. They are poisonous when eaten and seizures can develop within less than an hour. Mothballs contain 100% of either Naphthalene or Paradichlorobenzene. Both of these ingredients can produce harmful effects when they enter your system through inhalation and are considered household toxic waste, not meant to be discarded in the regular trash or flushed down the drain. Store the collected mothballs in an airtight container well out of the reach of children and pets. Clearly mark the container as "mothballs" or "poison" so you do not forget what's inside.		Hazardous Waste

<b>MOTOR OIL</b>	Most auto service stations and oil change businesses will accept used motor oil and used oil filters from residents for recycling. Motor oil should never be used to kill weeds, as a dust suppressant on dirt or gravel roads, burned, or poured down the drain or sewer.		<a href="#">Auto Waste Drop-Off Locations</a>
<b>MOTOR OIL CONTAINERS</b>	Empty containers go in the trash. They cannot be recycled.		Trash
<b>MOTOR OIL FILTERS</b>	Most auto service stations and oil change businesses will accept used motor oil and used oil filters from residents for recycling.		<a href="#">Auto Waste Drop-Off Locations</a>
<b>MP3 PLAYERS</b>	MP3 Players should be recycled as electronic waste. Best Buy®, Staples® and Target™ also accept MP3 players for free recycling at their store locations.		<a href="#">Best Buy, Staples</a> or Target
<b>MUGS</b>	Donate the old coffee mugs to a thrift store. If your mugs are perfectly fine but unwanted, donating them is a good option. Chipped or broken mugs are not recyclable curbside and should be thrown away in household trash.		Trash
<b>MURIATIC ACID</b>	Muriatic acid is one of the names for hydrochloric acid, a corrosive strong acid commonly used as a pool chemical. Do not dispose down the drain or in storm drains. Do not dispose of in the trash: liquid wastes can leak in a trash truck and react with other chemicals. Wastewater treatment facilities routinely use muriatic acid. You can call your local facility to see if they will accept it, or bring to a household hazardous waste collection event. Keep mind additional uses for muriatic acid include: cleaning concrete and brick walls and floors, killing mold & mildew, cleaning glazed tile, grout and porcelain.		Hazardous Waste
<b>MYLAR BALLOONS</b>	Mylar balloons can easily be deflated and reinflated, by carefully removing the ribbon, flattening the balloon and saving for future celebrations. Mylar is a plastic film stretched thin – then given a metallic coating to get the shiny look. Because of the metal coating Mylar is not recyclable in your curbside bin.		Trash

\*Mercury is a naturally occurring, highly toxic, heavy metal that moves between water, air, and soil as a result of natural and human activities. It is a persistent and bioaccumulative toxin (PBT), which means it accumulates in animals and people, becoming more concentrated as it moves up the food chain, causing harm to people and the environment. Mercury should not be discarded in the trash, flushed down the toilet, or left on the side of a road. All mercury containing products should be disposed of as a hazardous waste.