

# Don't Throw It Away!

## A Guide to Recycling or Disposing Almost Anything

**APPLIANCES.** Old or gently used appliances can be donated to the **Habitat for Humanity ReStore**, located at 90 Shelter Rock Road in Danbury, or to **Green Demolitions**, located at 15 East Putnam Avenue in Greenwich.

**BATTERIES.** Currently, it is legal to throw away alkaline batteries, but soon they will be on the mandatory recycling list for Ridgefield. Please recycle ALL alkaline batteries!

- **Rechargeable Batteries:** Can be taken to **RadioShack** in Copps Hill, where they will be properly recycled. Alternately, they can be taken to the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**. Specify that you are disposing of batteries.
- **Alkaline Batteries:** Can also be taken to Radio Shack or Ridgefield Transfer Station.
- **Camcorder, power tool and cell phone batteries:** These batteries are called Nickel-Metal Hydride (NiMH) batteries, and can be recycled at RadioShack or the Ridgefield Transfer Station once they reach the end of their lives (cannot be recharged).
- **Car batteries:** Most places that sell cars will accept batteries to be recycled. These can also be taken to the Transfer Station.
- **Hybrid Car batteries:** Hybrids such as the Prius use NiMH batteries. These can be taken at the Ridgefield Transfer Station. In addition, Toyota and its sister company, Lexus, will take these batteries back and recycle the parts.

**BOOKS.** Used books can be donated to the **Ridgefield Library**, **Goodwill**, or the **Ridgefield Thrift Shop**.

**CAMCORDERS.** Accepted at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

**CELL PHONES.** These can be recycled at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station** or **Verizon, T Mobile** and **AT&T** stores in town or in neighboring towns. In addition, **Cell Phones for Soldiers**, a charity, has a drop off point at 272 Main Street, Danbury.

**CD PLAYERS.** Accepted at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

**CD-ROMs/DVDs.** CDs may, at times, contain precious metals; as such, they should be recycled rather than thrown out. Old music CDs can be donated to the **Ridgefield Library**. Unfortunately, they are too complicated to be processed at regular recycling centers, and must be shipped to special centers. The closest is **NESAR Systems**, located at 420 Ashwood Road in Darlington, PA, 16115.

**CLOTHING.** Old clothing can be donated to **Goodwill**, located on South Street, or to the **Ridgefield Thrift Shop**.

**COMPUTER MONITORS, MICE, ETC.** Accepted at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

**COPYING MACHINES.** Accepted at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

**DESKTOP/LAPTOP COMPUTERS.** Accepted at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station.**

**ELECTRONIC WASTE.** Electronic equipment contains valuable heavy metals including gold, nickel, and copper, as well as many plastics. All are valuable and can be easily recovered. **Ridgefield Transfer Station** will accept most types of e-waste (and all of the e-waste in this document)

**EXPIRED MEDICATIONS/PILLS.** These must be DISSOLVED in water or GROUND UP into small pieces, then placed into coffee grinds, soil, or kitty litter before being placed in the trash. DO NOT FLUSH MEDICATIONS.

**EYEGLASSES.** The **Lion's Club of Ridgefield** collects used eyeglasses throughout the year. These can be placed in collection boxes at **Stop and Shop, Town Hall, Post Office, Opti-Care, Family Eye Care, Dr. Amatuzzi's Office, Dr. Doty's Office, and Dr. Reynold's Office.**

**FURNITURE.** The **Habitat for Humanity ReStore**, located at 90 Shelter Rock Road in Danbury, takes in nearly ALL used furniture. **Green Demolitions**, located at 15 East Putnam Avenue in Greenwich, also takes in furniture.

**GAS GRILLS.** These are particularly difficult to dispose of, but it can be done. First, the propane must be disposed of separately (see **Household Hazardous Waste**). Once this is done, the grill must be cleaned. Anything electrical or flame-creating, such as the ignitor and sparks, must be removed from the grill. The grill can then be taken to the **Ridgefield Transfer Station.**

**HAZARDOUS WASTE MATERIALS.** Hazardous materials generally include chemicals. If not disposed of properly, can cause serious health problems.

- Hazardous wastes are usually marked **Corrosive, Flammable, Toxic, or Reactive.**  
READ LABELS CAREFULLY.
  - **The Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority (HRRA)** is the municipal solid and hazardous waste management organization for Ridgefield and several other municipalities. The HRRA holds two different collection events each year, one in the Danbury in the fall and one in Newtown in the spring.
  - **Adhesives**
  - **Gasoline and other fuels (butane, methane, etc.)**
  - **Drain cleaners**
  - **Rust removers**
  - **Oven cleaners**
  - **Toilet bowl cleaners**
  - **Oil-based paints**
  - **Pesticides, Insecticides, etc.**
  - **Antifreeze**
  - **Moth balls**
  - **Chlorinated Pool Chemicals/Cleaners**
  - **Mercury Thermostats**
  - **Oil-based Paint\*** (See **Paint**)

- Please note that **oil-based paint ONLY** is accepted. **Latex-based paint** is not hazardous.

#### **LEAVES, BRUSH and WOOD.**

- **Ridgefield Transfer Station** will take **brush and leaves** for disposal. However, RTS WILL NOT take stumps, logs, brush over 5 inches in diameter, or grass clippings.
- **Ferris Mulch** in Danbury will take **brush, grass clippings, leaves, wood chips/mulch, Christmas trees, and yard waste**, delivered directly to their facility, at minimal charge, and recycle it as compost. Located at 6 Plumtrees Road in Danbury, Ferris requires a valid driver's license.

**LIGHTBULBS.** As people switch over to CFLs, remember that you should use up your incandescent lightbulbs first in order to conserve resources.

- **Incandescent:** Unfortunately, there's no way to dispose of incandescent lightbulbs other than throwing them in the trash. Wrap them in newspaper or put them in a plastic sandwich bag before tossing them out to prevent injury.
- **CFLs:** It is important to dispose of CFLs properly because they contain trace amounts of mercury. **Ridgefield Transfer Station** will take in CFLs, as will **Home Stop in Ridgefield. Home Depot stores in Danbury or Norwalk** will take in **expired or broken** CFLs at no charge and recycle them.

**MAGAZINES.** Clean, dry magazines can be either tied up or put in a paper bag and left on the curb for recycling. Alternately, they can be brought to the **recycling center** (loose, bagged, or tied up).

**MEDICINE CONTAINERS.** **CVS Pharmacy** on Main Street will take empty prescription medication bottles for disposal; however, they cannot take the actual pills or medications themselves.

**MEDICAL WASTE.** Needles, inhalers, etc. should be placed in a hard plastic container such as a bleach or laundry detergent container with a screw-on lid. Mark the containers "Not for recycling" and put them in the trash.

**MP3 PLAYERS/IPODS.** Accepted at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station.**

**NEWSPAPERS.** Clean, dry newspapers can be either tied up or put in a paper bag and left on the curb for recycling. Alternately, they can be brought to the **recycling center** (loose, bagged, or tied up).

**PAINT.** Oil-based paint is accepted by the **HRRA** as hazardous household waste. Latex-based paint, which cleans with soap and water, is NOT hazardous. To dispose of it, let the remaining paint dry out (or fill with kitty litter), remove the lid from the can, and throw it in the trash. Empty latex paint cans can be rinsed out and recycled.

**PESTICIDES.** See **Household Hazardous Waste**, above.

**PLASTIC BAGS.** The most environmentally friendly policy, of course, is to use reusable canvas bags. However, when used, plastic bags can be recycled at **Stop and Shop, Ancona's Market** and the **Ridgefield Recycling Center**.

**PRINTERS.** Accepted at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

**PRINTER/INKJET CARTRIDGES.** Most cartridges contain valuable amounts of plastic and can be recycled up to six times, usually by manufacturers. Companies will often provide recycling information right on the label. Other options include:

- **Town Hall** (on Main Street) and **Nature's Temptation** (on Prospect Street) both have bins for ink cartridges. Donating them here will benefit the **Ridgefield Youth Commission**.
- **Ridgefield Office Supply, Staples, Office Max, Best Buy and Target**, all located in Ridgefield or in neighboring towns, collect printer cartridges for recycling. Saving old cartridges and bringing them all at once can help reduce excess driving.
- **Mr. Nichols**, a science teacher at **Ridgefield High School** collects used printer cartridges for recycling. All RHS science teachers are aware of his project. He can be reached at [pnichols@ridgefield.org](mailto:pnichols@ridgefield.org).
- **Please note:** These CANNOT be recycled at Ridgefield Transfer Station! Please try to keep them out of landfills.

**RADIOS.** Accepted at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

**SCANNERS.** Accepted at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

**STEREOS.** Accepted at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

**TELEVISIONS.** Accepted at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

**TELEPHONES (all types).** Accepted at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.

**VCRs.** Accepted at the **Ridgefield Transfer Station**.