

## Resources for the *Recycle to the Max* Challenge

**Questions?** Want to know if something is recyclable? Ask at [www.recyclelect.com](http://www.recyclelect.com)

**Branford Transfer Station** accepts a wide range of materials – including books, textiles, shoes, electronics, and even mattresses. Explore the possibilities here: <https://www.branford-ct.gov/departments/solid-waste-recycling/transfer-station-information>

To use this great resource first buy a Resident Sticker for \$5 at the Tax Collector's Office at Town Hall. More info at [https://www.branford-ct.gov/sites/default/files/field/files-docs/resident\\_permit\\_information\\_sheet\\_0.pdf](https://www.branford-ct.gov/sites/default/files/field/files-docs/resident_permit_information_sheet_0.pdf)

**Food Waste:** Invest in **Blue Earth Composting** – they will pick up your food waste bin every week. They take the food scraps to Quantum Biopower where it is processed to create electricity. And you get 3 bags of compost each year! Check it out at <https://www.blueearthcompost.com>

**Plastic Film:** For information about how to recycle plastic bags and other stretchy plastic film, visit <https://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/recycling-bags-and-wraps/plastic-film-education-individuals/> Plastic film is soft, flexible polyethylene (PE) packaging such as grocery, bread, zip-top and dry cleaning bags. It's also the wrap around many products including paper plates, napkins, bathroom tissue, diapers, and more.

Big Y, Walmart and Kohls are all listed as Branford stores that receive plastic film items. Ever notice the "How to Recycle" label on packaging? There's a great picture and explanation of the label on this website.

**TerraCycle:** [www.terracycle.com](http://www.terracycle.com) is a wonderful website for discovering other recycling possibilities for materials that cannot be recycled through our municipal recycling program. *TerraCycle* offers 3 different programs to help you deal with hard-to-recycle items as well as DwellSmart, an online store that sells a wide range of items made out of upcycled materials. The 3 recycling programs include:

1. Free Recycling Programs: partnerships with leading-brand companies who will pay *TerraCycle* for recycling their packaging at no cost to the consumer. Register at the website, sign up for your program, and they will mail you a mailing label.
2. LOOP: a new partnership with Walgreens that provides favorite products in refillable packaging. The program is now available nation-wide and will deliver products as well as pick-up empty containers right at your door.
3. Zero Waste Boxes for recycling almost everything that won't go into the municipal recycling bin. The boxes are sold at a cost which covers both the recycling of the materials as well as postage. Boxes are delivered to you and you mail them back via UPS.

**Ink and Toner Cartridges:** Staples offers rewards for returning computer ink and toner cartridges. You return them at the cashier's station. Staples also sells recycled copy paper and sticky notes. [www.staples.com](http://www.staples.com)

**Hazardous Waste:** Treating hazardous waste with care is an important way to protect the health of our Planet home. For safe hazardous waste disposal, Branford offers free access to our permanent regional household hazardous waste center [HAZWASTE CENTRAL](#) in New Haven 22 Saturdays a year. A visit to HazWaste Central is quick and easy and you never have to leave your vehicle as the waste is off-loaded by professionals. Some of the household wastes that can be dropped off include aerosol cleaners and sprays, antifreeze, oil-based paint and pool chemicals. Click [here](#) for a complete list. **Note:** Alkaline batteries can be added to your trash, but other types of small can only be safely disposed of as hazardous waste.

**Paint cans:** Recycle them at Branford Building Supply, Rings End or Sherwin Williams. Left over latex and lead paint as well as paint thinner can be taken to Haz-Waste Central.

**Small appliances:** Learn more about recycling small appliances at <https://earth911.com/recycling-guide/how-to-recycle-small-appliances/>