



Mattress Recycling Council

**California Mattress Recycling Program
COLLECTION GUIDELINES**

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About the Mattress Recycling Council

In 2013, California enacted Senate Bill 254 as amended which requires mattress manufacturers to create a recycling program for mattresses discarded in the state. The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) is the nonprofit organization established by the mattress industry to develop and operate the California mattress recycling program. The Program began December 30, 2015.

MRC has contracted with service providers to transport and recycle mattresses, futon mattresses and box springs from collection sites throughout the state. For simplicity, we will refer to mattresses, futon mattresses and box springs as mattresses. These guidelines describe the Program and what your facility needs to do to participate. MRC reserves the right to update, change, modify, amend, add or remove terms or otherwise alter these guidelines at any time with or without prior notice.

What MRC Provides

Staff at all participating collection sites must be knowledgeable regarding these guidelines before accepting mattresses.

MRC provides the following to participating solid waste facilities:

- A collection container to store mattresses that is appropriate for the number of mattresses that the collection site expects to generate and the site’s available space
- Transportation from the solid waste facility to a contracted recycler
- No-cost mattress recycling services

INCLUDED PRODUCTS

- **Mattresses:** which are defined as any sleep surface covered with ticking or fabric that contains resilient material such as steel innersprings, foam, fiber or other filling or upholstery materials, used alone or in combination, regardless of size or shape. **This definition includes foam mattresses.**
- **Futons** see mattress definition above. Futon mattresses must be detachable from the frame or base to be accepted. (Futon mattresses that do not detach from the frame or base are not included.)
- **Box springs (also commonly called foundations):** A ticking or fabric-covered structure used to support a mattress or sleep surface and may be comprised of a frame, foam, springs or other structure, or other materials, used alone or in combination, regardless of whether the product is stationary or adjustable.

All items accepted for recycling by MRC must have been used and discarded in the state of California.



A participating collection site may not charge for mattresses that are dropped off by individuals at its site and recycled through the Program.

EXCLUDED PRODUCTS

- Out-of-state mattresses
- Severely damaged, twisted, wet, frozen or soiled mattresses
- Mattresses infested with bed bugs or other living organisms
- Air mattresses that contain no upholstery material (such as camping beds)
- Car beds
- Collapsible rollway beds
- Adjustable bases not covered in ticking or fabric
- Juvenile products including, carriages, baskets, dressing tables, strollers, playpens, infant carriers, lounge pad, crib bumpers
- Mattress pads and toppers
- Sleeping bags
- Pillows and cushions
- Loose bedding, blankets or sheets
- Water beds
- Fold-out sofa beds
- Futon frames or bases



Mattress Inspection and Examination

Facility staff should screen incoming mattresses to determine whether they are suitable for recycling and should remove mattresses that are:

- Excessively wet or frozen
- Severely twisted, punctured or crushed
- Infested with bed bugs or other living organisms
- Exceptionally soiled or moldy

Mattresses not suitable for recycling should be disposed of through your existing solid waste stream.

Bed Bug Identification

Mattresses and box springs infested with bed bugs are unacceptable for recycling and should be disposed of through your existing solid waste stream. Staff at collection sites should evaluate program materials for evidence of bed bug infestation. A bed bug training webinar is available on the Mattress Recycling Council's website. The webinar focuses on dispelling health-related myths, bed bug identification and best practices for protecting facility staff. It can be found here: <https://mattressrecyclingcouncil.org/resources/>



Bed bugs are tan to brown in color, but may appear redder if they have fed.

Adult Bed Bugs are dorsally flat insects, broadly oval, and the size of an apple or melon seed (1/4").

Nymphs look like adults in shape but are smaller.

Eggs are white and barrel shaped.

Signs of bed bug activity may be more obvious than the insects themselves. Look for clusters of dark spots or smudges on mattresses (fecal spots), especially along seams. Eggs, shed skins, and all life stages of bed bugs may also be present in these 'soiled' areas.



For more information on bed bugs, please refer to the resources made possible by the Connecticut Coalition Against Bed Bugs at www.ct.gov/caes/CCABB

MATERIALS COLLECTION & HANDLING

Each collection site will have unique operational considerations. Participating facilities must make their own decisions about how to best manage their operations in the safest manner possible in accordance with applicable laws. At a minimum, each participating site must meet these requirements:

	MINIMUM PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS
SITE	Each collection site must be secure with adequate space and staffing to handle and store acceptable mattresses.
PERMITS	Each collection site must have knowledge of and comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws. These may include, but are not limited to, zoning requirements, state permit requirements, and OSHA or other workplace requirements. Please contact your Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) to confirm whether your site is in compliance with all applicable notifications or requirements for accepting mattresses for recycling at your site. In many cases, this will be your County or local Public Health Department.
INSURANCE	Each collection site must maintain general liability insurance of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
TRAINING	Staff at each collection site must be trained and knowledgeable regarding these Guidelines before accepting mattresses for recycling.
STORING & LOADING MATTRESSES <i>See page 6 for photos and guidelines</i>	<p>Collection sites must keep mattress dry by storing in weatherproof containers or under cover to maximize their recyclability. In addition, all collection sites must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make every effort to place mattresses in MRC-designated storage containers immediately upon acceptance • Keep mattresses intact and not intentionally crush or puncture them • Efficiently stack mattresses to maximize the number of units loaded in each storage container • Provide oversight to keep unacceptable items out of MRC-designated storage containers • Remove any non-program materials from MRC-designated storage containers before transport to MRC recyclers • Practice good housekeeping standards, and keep storage containers and program materials in a neat and orderly condition
SITE ACCESS	

Loading Mattresses in Storage Containers

Container Type	Number of Mattresses
20-foot sea container	30-45
40-foot sea container	75-95
40-yard roll-off container	35-50
28-foot trailer	60-95
48 foot trailer	110-180
53-foot trailer	125-190

Expected number of mattresses that should fit in various container sizes



Mattresses and box springs must be packed as efficiently as possible to maximize the number of units in each container.

TRANSPORTATION AND RECYCLING

Transporters

MRC will assign each collection site a transporter to provide a storage container and transport services.

- MRC contracted transporters will provide participating locations with evidence of automobile insurance coverage of at least \$1,000,000 per occurrence
- Each collection site must notify transporter at least 2 business days before a storage container is full of mattresses
- The assigned transporter will pick up full containers and drop off an empty container at the same time
- On the scheduled pickup day, the collection site must make the collection container readily accessible to the transporter
- At the time of pickup, collection site staff must be present to sign a three-part Bill of Lading (BOL) supplied by the transporter that details the quantity of mattresses in the container, and must provide appropriate copies of the BOL to the transporter

A collection site may choose to provide its own storage containers and transportation at its own cost. These locations must contact the recycler directly to arrange for a convenient drop-off time.

Recyclers

Recyclers under contract with MRC will meet established recycling standards and accurately account for all mattresses received, the mattress components recycled (e.g., foam, steel, wood, fiber, etc.), and any residual disposal. Solid waste facilities will be assigned an MRC recycler to best service your facility.

PROGRAM WITHDRAWAL & TERMINATION

A collection site's participation in the California mattress recycling program is voluntary. Either party may withdraw from participation with 10 days' notice to the other party. MRC reserves the right to remove any collection site not in compliance with these guidelines from further participation in the Program.

RECORDKEEPING

Bill of Lading:

A Bill of Lading (BOL) will be provided by the transporter. Before a full container leaves the site, the BOL must be completed and signed by facility staff.