



OWN OF SEEKONK PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

NOVEMBER 2023

It's now been a year since the ban went into effect regarding mattresses, box springs and textiles being redirected from the trash into recycling. We've collected thousands of pounds of textile recycling, diverted hundreds of mattresses and box springs from the trash here in Seekonk, and now those materials are being used to make new items-reducing the need for new material production and saving resources!

Here are some FAQ's that have come up in that time:

- **Q:** What if my mattress is stained? **A:** Light staining is normal, as long as it is not wet it can likely be recycled. Heavy soiling will need to be disposed of as trash and costs significantly more to process.
- **Q:** What about bugs? **A:** If a mattress has been contaminated with bed bugs, it must be disposed of as trash and costs significantly more to process.
- **Q:** What about a crib mattress? **A:** Crib mattresses are part of the ban and must be recycled.
- **Q:** What about a mattress topper? **A:** Mattress toppers, mattress pads, pillows, bumpers, sofa beds, futon beds, waterbeds and air mattresses are not part of the ban. All of the other items should be passed along for reuse, or picked up as Bulky Waste/placed in blue bags for trash (except for pillows-which can be placed in textile recycling if not wet/moldy).
- **Q:** What about pillows? **A:** Pillows are not part of the ban, they should be passed on for reuse, or if not wet/moldy, they can be placed in the textile recycling bins at DPW & Seekonk Schools.
- **Q:** What about a foam mattress? **A:** Foam mattresses, latex mattresses and hybrid mattresses should be recycled along with all traditional mattresses.
- **Q:** What about a futon mattress? **A:** Futon mattresses are not part of the ban, and should be passed along for reuse, or picked up as Bulky Waste/placed in blue bags for trash if it will fit.
- **Q:** What about a sofa bed? **A:** Sofa beds are not part of the ban, and should be passed along for reuse, or picked up as Bulky Waste inside the sofa.
- **Q:** What about a mattress foundation? **A:** A mattress foundation would be considered the same as a box spring and needs to be recycled (or reused!).
- **Q:** What about bedding? **A:** Comforters, sheets, blankets and pillows are all considered textiles and are banned from the trash, but wouldn't be processed along with mattresses. They should be passed along for reuse, or they can be placed in the textile recycling bins at DPW & Seekonk Schools if not wet/moldy.

