



# bye bye mattress

A Program of the Mattress Recycling Council

## Oregon Program Fact Sheet and Frequently Asked Questions

### KEY DETAILS

- [Oregon's Mattress Stewardship Act](#) enacted in 2022 required the mattress industry to create a program to make it easy for consumers to recycle mattresses and box springs. This is similar to legislation passed for other products like paint and packaging.
- The program is funded by the \$22.50 per unit stewardship assessment. The assessment amount was approved by Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality. It is not set by individual retailers.
- The program is operated by the Mattress Recycling Council (MRC), a nonprofit organization created by the bedding industry.
- MRC operates similar programs in California, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Collectively these states have already recycled 15 million mattresses. Recyclers have diverted more than 500 million pounds of material from landfill.
- Direct customers to learn more at [ByeByeMattress.com](#).

### RETAILERS MUST PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT AVAILABLE COLLECTION OPPORTUNITIES

To assist retailers in fulfilling this requirement in the law, [posters](#) and [information cards](#) are available on demand, or you can request MRC print and ship materials to you ([order form](#)).

### RETAILER QUESTIONS ABOUT CUSTOMER EDUCATION

#### What do I tell my customer when they ask about the stewardship assessment?

Oregon law requires retailers to collect this assessment on each mattress and box spring that is sold. It is passed on to the Mattress Recycling Council to operate a statewide mattress recycling program known as Bye Bye Mattress. Learn more at [ByeByeMattress.com](#).

#### Is MRC (or Bye Bye Mattress) going to pick up an old/unwanted mattress from my customer's home?

No. MRC recycles mattresses dropped off at participating locations or diverted to us from participating retailers. Your customers can visit [ByeByeMattress.com](#) to learn what locations are available in their area or should be informed of your company's pick up/removal policy.

#### Will MRC provide other types of customer education assistance?

Yes. MRC can provide information for your websites, social media, blogs, customer emails or newsletters or collaborate to create materials specific for your needs. Contact [info@mrc-us.org](mailto:info@mrc-us.org) to request assistance.

#### Can I reorder cards and posters?

Yes and at no cost to you! [Use this order form](#) or contact [info@mrc-us.org](mailto:info@mrc-us.org) with questions.

### RETAILER RESOURCES

- **Recycle mattresses and box springs** you take back from your customers using the [Commercial Volume Program](#) – Contact [ORcyp@mrc-us.org](mailto:ORcyp@mrc-us.org) or (707) 307-3052.
- **Ask MRC anything!** Send any questions or comments to [info@mrc-us.org](mailto:info@mrc-us.org) or call 1-855-229-1691.
- [MRCreporting.org](#) has more FAQs and other resources.

## CUSTOMER QUESTIONS

*We've scripted some responses for questions your customers may ask you. Please share with your staff.*

### **Why do I have to pay the stewardship assessment (fee)?**

Oregon law requires retailers to collect this assessment on each mattress and box spring that is sold. It is passed on to the Mattress Recycling Council to operate a statewide mattress recycling program known as Bye Bye Mattress.

*If your company **DOES** recycle with MRC's Bye Bye Mattress you can say:*

We are using this program to recycle the mattresses our customers no longer want.

*If your company **DOES NOT** recycle with MRC's Bye Bye Mattress:*

On ByeByeMattress.com you can find participating drop-off locations, upcoming collection events and other information about responsible ways to get rid of an unwanted mattress.

### **What is the assessment used for?**

The Mattress Recycling Council uses this assessment to operate a statewide mattress recycling program known as Bye Bye Mattress. It is providing collection locations with containers, transportation of those containers to recyclers and the disassembly of the mattresses and box springs. Residents are now able to drop off any mattress or box spring - no matter its condition or when it was purchased - at no extra cost.

### **Who is the Mattress Recycling Council?**

The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) is a nonprofit organization founded by the bedding industry to administer the statewide mattress recycling program created by Oregon's law. For more information about MRC, go to [www.MattressRecyclingCouncil.org](http://www.MattressRecyclingCouncil.org). To learn how to recycle your mattress or to find a collection location or event near you, visit [www.ByeByeMattress.com](http://www.ByeByeMattress.com).

### **If I don't plan to discard a mattress now, why do I have to pay this assessment (fee)?**

Even if you aren't discarding a mattress right now, mattresses don't last forever and will eventually be discarded. State law requires retailers to collect this assessment on any mattress or box spring sale to fund this mattress recycling program. This program provides a network of participating cities, towns, retailers, recyclers and other organizations where old mattresses are collected for recycling at no additional cost to you. The assessment also supports efforts to combat illegal dumping of mattresses and help keep our community clean.

### **If I decide to take my old mattress to a recycler myself, do I still pay the assessment (fee)?**

Yes. State law requires retailers to collect this assessment on any mattress and box spring sale to fund the mattress recycling program. Visit [www.ByeByeMattress.com](http://www.ByeByeMattress.com) to find the location nearest you.

### **I didn't pay this fee when I bought my old mattress, so can I still drop it off for free at one of the participating locations?**

Locations participating in MRC's Bye Bye Mattress program must accept all mattresses and box springs at no additional cost no matter when they were originally purchased, and no matter the condition.

### **Are the mattresses really recycled?**

The Mattress Recycling Council is using three local recyclers that disassemble the units and prepare the steel, foam, fibers and wood for use in new products like carpet padding, insulation and mulch. MRC has found up to 75% of mattress and box spring materials can be recycled.

**What are the benefits of mattress recycling?**

Mattress recycling programs offer many benefits for the community, state and environment, including:

- Less reliance on incinerators and landfills by diverting mattresses from the waste stream
- Reduces the number of illegally dumped mattresses
- Conserves resources by making used steel, foam and other materials available for use in new products
- Creates recycling jobs

**What happens to my old mattress or box spring when it gets recycled?**

Recycled mattresses are cut open and the layers are separated and organized by type. Wood is recycled and used as a fuel source or shredded to produce landscaping mulch. Foam, fiber and other soft commodities are compressed and turned into carpet underlayment or animal bed padding. Metal and box springs are extracted, sent to recyclers and used to make building materials.

**Will the Mattress Recycling Council or Bye Bye Mattress program pick up my old mattress from my home?**

***If your store takes back old mattresses:***

No, but our store/company offers this service at time of delivery of your new mattress. (If your store recycles with the program, please let the customer know. Otherwise direct them to drop off their mattress at one of our free collection locations listed on [www.ByeByeMattress.com](http://www.ByeByeMattress.com).)

***If your store does not take back old mattresses, your response should be:***

Mattresses are collected from a vast network of free collection sites throughout the state. These are typically public works yards or transfer stations. Visit [www.ByeByeMattress.com](http://www.ByeByeMattress.com) to see what options are available. The Mattress Recycling Council or the Bye Bye Mattress program does not pick up mattresses from customer's homes.

**Can I contact someone at Mattress Recycling Council or with the Bye Bye Mattress program?**

Yes. Oregon residents can email [info@byebyemattress.com](mailto:info@byebyemattress.com) or call 1-855-494-8400.