



## California Mattress Recycling Program for Solid Waste Facilities

California's Used Mattress Recovery & Recycling Act requires the mattress industry to create a recycling program for mattresses and box springs used and discarded in the state.

The law does *not* require solid waste facilities that collect used mattresses to recycle them.

Facilities may *voluntarily participate*, thereby gaining access to a no-cost recycling services

### Want to be a collection site?

Visit the California page of [mattressrecyclingcouncil.org](http://mattressrecyclingcouncil.org) to complete the online survey.

The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) is a non-profit organization established by the mattress industry and certified by CalRecycle to plan and manage the California mattress recycling program known as Bye Bye Mattress.

As of December 30, 2015, retailers and other businesses selling mattresses must collect an \$11 recycling fee on each mattress and box spring sold in California. These fees are remitted to MRC and used to recycle mattresses.

### Participant Eligibility

- Permitted solid waste facilities with a California SWIS number are automatically eligible
- Other locations may be suitable, but should contact MRC to discuss eligibility
- Program participants can no longer charge an individual for dropping off a mattress

### What MRC Provides

- Collection containers
- Compensation for handling and packing mattresses into the provided containers
- Transportation from your site to a mattress recycler
- No-cost mattress recycling services
- No-cost signage

### Which items are accepted and not accepted by the program?

**Most mattresses and box springs discarded by California residents or collected in curbside bulky waste pickup are eligible for the program.**

We are unable to accept:

- Severely damaged, wet, twisted, frozen or soiled mattresses or box springs
- Items infested with bed bugs
- Mattress pads or toppers
- Sleeping bags
- Pillows
- Car beds
- Juvenile products such as carriages, baskets, cribs, bassinets, dressing tables, strollers, and playpens or their pads
- Infant carriers, lounge pads, or crib bumpers
- Water beds or camping air mattresses
- Fold-out sofa beds
- Futons and furniture

### Participation Requirements

Participants must sign a contract agreeing to these requirements:

- Provide a secure site
- Keep mattresses dry and segregated
- Pack mattresses efficiently to maximize container capacity
- Complete required paperwork to track outgoing shipments

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Program Participation & Contract Terms

### **The MRC contract must be approved by our City Council and a municipal attorney. This process could take months. Do you have a short-term solution?**

Yes! MRC has a one-page online agreement to [register as an MRC collector](#). Through this simplified agreement, you will receive no-cost storage, transportation and recycling. To receive financial compensation for handling costs, a more comprehensive contract is required.

### **How is the mattress handling cost reimbursement calculated?**

The reimbursement formula is based on known times to load mattresses into storage containers. The per unit rate is derived using labor rates for each facility including:

- Hourly wage plus benefits for general labor
- Hourly wage plus benefits for forklift operator (if applicable)
- Forklift rating in pounds (if applicable)
- Solid waste facility tipping fee per ton

### **What information, if any, do I need to take from an individual dropping off their mattress at my facility?**

You do not need to log personal information; however mattresses must have been used and discarded in California.

### **If we choose to participate, do we have to accept an unlimited amount of mattresses?**

No. Collection sites may establish a limit on the number of mattresses you will accept from individuals.

### **Can we charge the public to accept their mattresses?**

No, however participating solid waste facilities may choose to establish a maximum number to accept at no-cost.

### **Can we charge businesses for mattress disposal?**

Yes. The mattress law only provides no-cost recycling for individuals. Commercial generators may deliver large quantities directly to MRC contracted recyclers for no-cost recycling. Locations and contact information can be found at [byebyemattress.com](http://byebyemattress.com).

### **What happens to mattresses that are too soiled or contaminated to recycle?**

Regardless of the condition of the mattress, participating collectors cannot charge individuals a disposal fee. MRC will pay disposal costs for heavily contaminated mattresses from individuals that cannot be recycled.

### **Am I compensated for disposal of bad mattresses from commercial sources?**

No. Solid waste facilities should charge to accept and dispose of mattresses from commercial sources.

### **Can I continue to work with my current mattress recycler?**

If your current recycler is under contract with MRC, we will do our best to maintain these existing relationships.

### **Who will be paying the mattress transporter and recycler?**

MRC will have contracts with transporters and recyclers throughout California. MRC will pay these vendors directly.



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