



## Rhode Island Mattress Recycling Program for Educational Institutions

Rhode Island's General Law 23-90 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 educational institutions that dispose of used mattresses in Rhode Island to recycle them. Educational institutions located in the state may **voluntarily participate** in the program.

MRC will provide no-cost transportation and recycling services to educational institutions discarding 50 or more mattresses at one time.

The Mattress Recycling Council (MRC) is a non-profit organization established by the mattress industry to plan and manage the Rhode Island mattress recycling program.

As of May 1, 2016, retailers and other businesses selling mattresses began collecting a recycling fee on each mattress and box spring that is sold to a Rhode Island consumer. These fees are remitted to MRC and used to recycle mattresses.

### Participant Eligibility

**Participating educational institutions no longer incur mattress recycling costs.** MRC uses the collected recycling fees to pay for the transportation and recycling of the mattresses.

**Recycling mattresses conserves natural resources and benefits the environment.** Program participants divert mattresses from waste-to-energy facilities and landfills and allow materials like fiber, foam, steel

### What MRC Provides

- Transportation from your collection site to the contracted recycler
- No-cost recycling services

### Participation Requirements

- Must register with MRC Program Coordinator for no-cost recycling services
- Must accumulate a minimum of 50 units prior to MRC providing transportation services
- Keep mattresses dry
- Staff must load accumulated mattresses into the provided collection truck upon its arrival
- Complete required paperwork to track outgoing shipments

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

**Most mattresses and box springs discarded in Rhode Island are eligible for the recycling program. Mattresses from out of state sources are ineligible.**

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



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