

Press information from:
WAKEFIELD DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

For immediate release 6-15-06

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(Wakefield, MA) – The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has added certain construction and demolition materials to the list of items prohibited from disposal, at the Town’s disposal site, effective July 1, 2006. These items include asphalt, brick, concrete, metal and wood, as well as other items, such as cardboard and yard waste, that are already banned from solid waste disposal, but are often generated during construction and demolition projects.

Although the Wakefield Department of Public Works (DPW) has not accepted construction and demolition materials in its regular weekly trash collection at curbside for many years, DPW Director Richard Stinson reminds residents and businesses that the DPW risks severe penalties if this material is inadvertently collected by the company that handles Wakefield’s refuse.

To properly dispose of these items, residents and businesses should hire a dumpster or make arrangements with a private trash hauler, as they have been instructed to do in the past. Yard waste is collected at the Nahant Street Pit during scheduled openings and cardboard is collected as part of the every-other-week recycling curbside collection.

“By keeping these items out of solid waste facilities, the DEP is preserving valuable limited disposal capacity in the Commonwealth while encouraging the recycling of these materials,” Stinson said. “The DEP’s solid waste master plan has set a goal of

reducing non-municipal solid waste by 88% in 2010; to achieve this goal, the plan proposes to increase the recycling and reuse of construction materials and related debris. Most of these items can be recycled and reused in road construction and as structural fill, while ferrous and non-ferrous metals derived from construction materials can be recycled at metal recycling facilities.”

“It is our responsibility to make sure that all materials collected at curbside are only those items that are accepted at disposal facilities,” he added. “Please help us by properly disposing of all non-accepted items.”

In addition to construction materials and related debris, the following items can no longer be put in the regular trash collection: white goods (refrigerators, freezers, dishwashers, clothes washers, clothes dryers, gas or electric ovens and ranges, and hot water heaters), motor vehicle tires of all types, certain kinds of batteries, cathode ray tubes (CRTs - tvs and computer monitors), glass bottles and jars, plastics bottles (numbers 1 -7), recyclable paper (all paper, cardboard, and paperboard products, EXCEPT tissue paper, toweling, paper plates and cups, and wax-coated cardboard), aluminum beverage and food containers, and leaves and yard waste (leaves, grass clippings, weeds, garden materials, shrub trimmings, and brush).

The DPW maintains a list of sites that recycle construction and demolition debris and other items. The information is available at the DPW office in the Town Hall located at 1 Lafayette Street.

For further information about the Wakefield DPW trash collection and recycling programs, please call (781) 246-6300 or visit the website at www.wakefield.ma.us.