



Durham Public Works

Fall Newsletter



October 2025

Household Hazardous Waste Collection – Saturday October 25th, 2025

Durham Public Works would like to remind residents of this year's annual Household Hazardous Waste Day, which will be held at the Public Works Facility located at:

100 Stone Quarry Drive

All hazardous waste will be collected by appointment only. To register, call Durham Public Works at:

603-868-5578

This collection is limited to 5 gallons of material per household.

Please see Pg. 4 for more

Durham Public Works

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Leaf and Brush Collection Program – Begins November 10th

The Residential Leaf and Brush Collection Program begins on Monday, November 10th. Please place all items curbside no later than 7:00am during Fall Cleanup. Durham Public Works picks up brush (natural material from trees) first, followed by the collection of leaves. The amount of brush and limbs is limited to one truckload per household.

- Leaves should be placed in paper leaf bags. Plastic bags will not be picked up. Loose leaves **will not** be picked up but may be brought to the Transfer Station at:
100 Durham Point Road
- Brush should be placed in one direction, bundled and tied with string (no wire please).
- **Brush and limbs must be no greater than 5 feet in length and 5 inches in diameter. No stumps will be accepted.**
- Cutting off small limbs from branches will help maximize each load.
- Backyard composting of your leaves and brush reduces the flow of waste, while at the same time produces valuable organic matter for the soil. It improves your soil and the plants growing in it.



Did you know?

The 2024 program resulted in:

- 21.55 tons (~43,100 lbs) of **brush**.
That's 37.8 truckloads!
- 24.95 tons (~49,900 lbs) of **leaves**.
That's 20.8 truckloads!
- In total:
46.5 tons (~93,000 lbs)
58.6 truckloads!

*****The Transfer Station accepts leaves and brush free of charge year-round during public open hours.*****



Phase 3 Streetscape Improvements Continue

Final punch list items for construction activities on the Phase 1 and 2 Improvements portion of the Madbury Road Complete Streets Project were completed in September. Durham Public Works and its contractor, G.W. Brooks and Son will now focus their efforts on improvements to the Garrison Avenue to Edgewood Road corridor including the extension of the variable-width 8-10' wide multi-use pathway on the eastern side of the corridor, with construction of a 5' wide sidewalk on the westerly side. In addition to decorative lighting in select locations, this phase also includes the installation of traffic calming center median islands, landscaping improvements, and a left-turn lane from Madbury Road southbound onto Garrison Avenue. To date, the project team has completed infrastructure improvements, including stormwater system replacement, natural gas line relocations, water main replacement, roadway reconstruction with a stone base amendment, and binder course paving. Efforts this Fall will focus on completing granite curbing installation, sidewalk and multi-use path paving, and finalizing utility pole relocations in coordination with Eversource and telecommunications providers. Completion of the two-center median pedestrian refuge islands will take place in the spring. The timing of spring installation is planned to prevent potential damage to the cobblestone apron and radius curbing over the winter. In the interim, the area will receive temporary pavement, with pavement markings to indicate the island's layout and function to drivers and pedestrians until the permanent installation is complete.

Bickford-Chesley House Restoration at Wagon Hill Farm

Durham Public Works and its Contractor, Milestone Construction of Concord, NH, are in the final stages of the rehabilitation of the Bickford-Chesley House at Wagon Hill Farm. This project includes first-floor exhibit space, improvements to the barn for three-season use, fire protection and life safety, restrooms, structural repairs, and full occupancy of the second floor, which will be suitable for full occupancy and caretaker's quarters.

Remaining work includes pouring a concrete floor in the basement of the barn, finishing wood floors in the house, completing miscellaneous touch-up painting, installing appliances, and constructing exterior stairways and an accessible entry ramp. Substantial completion is scheduled for the end of November.



Solid Waste Information

Durham Public Works would like to remind residents that the Curbside Refuse and Recycling Collection Program will be altered for the following holidays:

- **Thanksgiving (November 27, 2025):** No collection Thursday 11/27/2025 – delayed to Friday 11/28/2025. There will be no commercial recycling collection on Friday 11/28/2025.
- **Christmas (December 25, 2025):** No collection on Thursday 12/25/2025 – delayed to Friday 12/26/2025. No commercial recycling collection on Friday 12/26/2025.

Due to the timing of holidays in 2025, the only changes to the normal operating hours of the Transfer Station are:

- **Veteran's Day (November 11, 2025):**
Transfer Station Closed!

The Swap Shop will close for the winter on:

- **December 13, 2025:** Bulky items will not be accepted on closing day.

A Permit must be obtained to enter the Raymond A. LaRoche, Sr. Transfer Station and Recycling Center. Permits are valid during the calendar year and expire on the 31st of December. **2026 Transfer Station Permits will be available** to residents and property owners **by the end of December** at the Durham Public Works office (100 Stone Quarry Drive) and at the Town Clerk Tax Collectors office.

Stormwater Information



Why Does it Matter?

As a Resource....GOOD

- ✓ Mulched leaves or grass clippings on your lawn add valuable nutrients and organic matter. A thin layer of leaves will break down and add much needed organic matter to plant beds.
- ✓ Compost is natural recycling. Compost can be used as a top dressing on your lawn or garden beds reducing or eliminating the need for fertilizer and mulch.

As a source of water pollution....BAD

- × Decaying leaves and grass kill critters in streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, and wetlands.
- × Yard waste on stream banks smothers natural vegetation.
- × Yard waste dumped near waterbodies contributes to stream algae and odors.
- × Yard waste dumped in or near wetlands or surface waters is against the law!

Water Service Line Inventory Survey

To meet EPA requirements, the UNH-Durham Water System is inventorying the material of all water service lines connected to its public drinking water system.

Water service lines connect the water meter and are often located in the basement or a meter vault.

To assist with the inventory, Durham Public Works kindly requests water system users complete this brief online survey by scanning the QR code or visiting <https://arcg.is/9G1Lb>. The survey includes a link to ways to identify commonly used water service line materials.

This survey requests:

- Address of water service
- Approximate year water service line was installed
- The type of material the service line is made of (up to the water meter), if able to identify
- A photo of the water service line where it connects to the meter

For Questions, contact the Durham Public Works at 603-868-5578

Durham Water Service Line
Inventory Survey



<https://arcg.is/9G1Lb>



**Durham Public
Works**

Household Hazardous Waste Day: October 25th, 2025

The 2025 Household Hazardous Waste Day will be held at the Durham Public Works facility located at 100 Stone Quarry Drive. All hazardous waste will be collected by appointment only, between 8:00 am - 11:30 pm.

To register, please call Durham Public Works at (603) 868-5578 or e-mail publicworks@ci.durham.nh.us.

This collection is limited to 5 gallons of material per household.

***** NO EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS, RADIOACTIVE WASTE, ASBESTOS, OR INFECTIOUS/BIOLOGICAL WASTE WILL BE ACCEPTED. *****

Consider reducing your purchase of products with hazardous ingredients and read labels thoroughly. Use and store products containing hazardous substances carefully to prevent any accidents at home. Never store hazardous products in anything other than their original containers and never remove labels. Never mix household hazardous waste with other products. Incompatible products might react, ignite, or explode, and contaminated household hazardous waste might become nonrecyclable. Remember to follow any instructions for use and disposal provided on product labels.

Typically, hazardous waste is categorized as ° ignitable, ° corrosive, ° reactive, ° toxic, or otherwise hazardous.

Please check the manufacturer's label.

NOT ACCEPTED AT HAZARDOUS WASTE DAY – LATEX, ACRYLIC, AND OIL BASED PAINTS. ANTI-FREEZE.

These items can be brought to the Transfer Station with your permit throughout the year.

Latex/Acrylic paints must be dried out first. Anti-freeze and oil-based paints can be brought to the Transfer Station as is.

Common Household Hazardous Waste:

Household Items

Aerosol Cans (empty aerosol cans are safe to dispose of as regular trash)

Bug Spray • Carpet and Upholstery Cleaner

Drain Openers/Cleaners • Flea and Tick Repellent

Metal or Furniture Polish • Mothballs • Oven Cleaner

Photo Chemicals • Rubber Cement

Toilet/Shower Cleaners

Basement/Garage Items

Car Wax • Adhesives

Brake or Transmission Fluid • Radiator Flush

Carburetor Cleaner • Charcoal Lighter Fluid

Driveway Sealer • Furniture Stripper

Mouse or Rat Poison • Pesticides

Weed Killers • Insecticides

Paint Thinner • Turpentine • Motor Oil

Solvents • Swimming Pool Chemicals

Unmixed Waste Fuels

Diesel fuel • Kerosene • Gasoline

MERCURY— No longer saved for Hazardous Waste Day.

Unbroken Old Thermometers & Old Thermostats - Bring these items to Transfer Station with your regular permit.

Septic System Maintenance Tips

Just because something says its “flushable” doesn’t necessarily mean it’s safe for your septic system. Only toilet paper and human waste should be flushed down your toilet.

Getting your septic system pumped doesn’t just help to keep it functioning properly. It also helps your community stay safe by keeping wastewater out of local waterbodies.



DON'T OVERLOAD THE COMMODE

DO



- ✓ Dispose of non-flushable, non-degradable items in the trash can!
- ✓ Only flush human waste and toilet paper

DON'T



- ✗ Flush non-degradable products or chemicals, such as feminine hygiene products, condoms, dental floss, diapers, cigarette butts, cat litter, paper towels and pharmaceuticals

Do your part, be Septic Smart.
More info at Getpumpednh.com



PROTECT & INSPECT YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

DO



- ✓ Have your system inspected every three years by a licensed contractor
- ✓ Have your septic tank pumped every three to five years

DON'T



- ✗ Wait for a failure to schedule a septic system pumpout

Do your part, be Septic Smart.
More info at Getpumpednh.com



Did you know that the placement of trees and shrubs on your lawn can affect your septic system?

Water efficiency goes a long way when it comes to your septic system. Small leaks could mean big problems!

SHIELD YOUR FIELD

DO



- ✓ Consult a septic service professional to advise you of the proper distance for planting trees and shrubs, depending on the location of your septic tank

DON'T



- ✗ Park or drive on your drainage field. The weight can damage the drain lines
- ✗ Plant trees or shrubs too close to your drain field. Roots can grow into your system and clog it

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More info at Getpumpednh.com



DON'T STRAIN YOUR DRAIN

DO



- ✓ Stagger the use of water-generating appliances. This can be helpful if your system has not been pumped in a long time
- ✓ Become more water efficient by fixing plumbing leaks and consider installing bathroom and kitchen faucet aerators and water-efficient products

DON'T



- ✗ Concentrate your water use by using your dishwasher, shower, washing machine and toilet at the same time. Extra water can strain your septic system

Do your part, be Septic Smart.
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