

MATTRESS DISPOSAL GUIDELINES

HOW TO COVER A MATTRESS WITH SHEET PLASTIC OR MATTRESS BAG



Starting May 11, 2026, the Department of Public Works will require all mattresses and box springs set out at the curb to be fully wrapped in sheet plastic or mattress bags before they can be picked up for collection. This requirement is vital for several reasons, including the safety of workers concerning bed bugs and pests, adherence to weight limits, and the prevention of litter from damaged mattresses. If both a mattress and a box spring are to be disposed of, each item must be packaged separately.

Mattresses can harbor bed bugs, dust mites, and other pests that can spread during handling and transport. A sealed plastic bag will prevent these pests from moving to the collection truck, other curbside items, or the workers.

An uncovered mattress exposed to rain or snow can absorb significant amounts of water, potentially doubling its weight and exceeding the allowable weight limit for the employee. Wrapping also ensures that loose materials remain contained. Foam, fabric scraps, and stuffing from damaged mattresses can scatter during collection. It's important to use sheet plastic or a mattress disposal bag, NOT a regular trash bag. As the plastic is waterproof, tear-resistant, and pest/bedbug-proof. Plastic items are available at hardware stores, moving supply shops, or online.

Slide the mattress in the bag or wrap with the plastic sheeting, fold any excess plastic at the open end, and seal it securely with heavy-duty packing tape. Apply tape along every seam, paying special attention to the corners and the opening, to create a fully enclosed seal without gaps that pests could escape through, moisture could enter, or debris could exit. Place at the curblines for bulk trash collection.

Any mattress or box spring that is not properly prepared will NOT be picked up after May 11, 2026. Please adhere to the manufacturer's instructions and refer to the guidelines we have provided. Any questions or concerns, please contact our department at 856-428-5499. Thank you for your cooperation and for helping to protect our workers and keep the community clean.

*Mattresses include, but are not limited to, bed, crib, futon, and sofa.

