

Improving Garbage and Recycling Service at Multifamily Communities throughout Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties.

Garbage and Recycling Changes for Apartments and Condos



Improved Service
Bins won't get overloaded



New Bins
Color-coded



Stickers and Signs
Easier to understand

Outlined in the [2030 Regional Waste Plan](#), these changes will help address some of the issues multifamily communities face regarding garbage and recycling while also providing better, safer, and easier garbage and recycling services. These changes center the voices, values, and needs of communities of color and historically marginalized groups in our region's solid waste and recycling system.

Regional Signage – By 2024, shared multifamily bins will be labeled with the regional signage. Signage is image-based with key words in five languages. Some communities have already received updated signage!



Recycling
Reciclaje Утиль Rác Tái chế 回收

Plastic bottles, plastic round containers, metal, paper & flattened cardboard, empty & dry

- ✗ No plastic bags or wrap, lids, glass, garbage



Glass
Vidrio Crekno Rác Thủy tinh 玻璃

Bottles & jars only, empty & dry

- ✗ No lids, lightbulbs, caps, ceramics, broken glass



Garbage
Basura Mycop Rác còn lại 垃圾

All garbage, including plastic bags, to-go containers, lids & packaging

- ✗ No TVs, computers, batteries, hazardous waste (flammables, acids, pesticides)

Color Standards – By July 1, 2028, shared multifamily garbage and recycling bins will be consistently colored (excludes compactors and drop boxes).

Garbage – black or grey

Recycling – blue

Glass – orange

Yard Debris / Food – green (for those who have the service)

Bulky Waste Collection – By July 1, 2025, multifamily communities will have “regularly-occurring bulky waste collection.” A regional work group is leading an effort to engage stakeholders about what the regular collection of large, unwanted items from multifamily communities may look like. Be prepared to share your ideas about such a service.

Minimum Service (frequency & volume) – New minimums require at least weekly collection of all bins and provide a guideline for determining collection volumes. Multifamily property managers/owners still need to provide “adequate” service (no overflow, lids close, etc.); minimums may not be “adequate” for all communities. In fact, most communities will probably need service somewhere between the minimum and recommended service levels.

| | Minimum (per unit/week) | Recommended (per unit/week) |
|-----------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Garbage | 20 gal. | 40 gal. |
| Recycling | 20 gal. | 40 gal. |
| Glass | 1 gal. | 3 gal. |

Enclosure Design – It is important that garbage and recycling areas provide safe, adequate space and access to bins for residents, staff, and the garbage & recycling company. Local governments continue to improve their processes to provide guidance in Zoning and Development Ordinances and through staff support.