

Chapter 20.970

SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING

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20.970.010 Purpose.

Purpose. It is the intent and purpose of these provisions to implement the recycling and waste management policies of the City and to support the goals, priorities, and strategies of the Clark County and State of Washington Solid Waste Management Plans. Additionally, the purpose of these regulations is to facilitate the delivery of efficient, safe and convenient refuse and recycling services to facility occupants using collection **receptacles**, vehicles and technologies offered through the City's contracted or licensed service providers. Facility designs must incorporate adequate storage space for both solid waste and recyclables and shall provide for a serviceable and accessible on-site location(s) and/or enclosures to temporarily store these materials between scheduled collection days. (Ord. M-3643, 01/26/2004)

20.970.020 Applicability.

A. *Chapter applicability.* This section shall apply to new multi-family residential buildings containing five or more units and nonresidential construction projects that are subject to site plan review, as governed by Chapter [20.270](#) VMC. (Ord. M-3643, 01/26/2004)

20.970.030 Amount of Storage Required.

A. *Storage area criteria.* The amount of solid waste and recyclable storage area required is based on the predominant use(s) of the building, i.e., residential, office, retail, educational/institutional, commercial/industrial or other. If a building has more than one of the uses listed in this section, and that use occupies 20% or less of the gross floor area of the building, the floor area occupied by that use shall be counted toward the floor area of the predominant use(s). If a building has more than one of the uses listed in this section, and that use occupies more than twenty percent (20%) of the gross floor area of the building, then the storage area requirement for the whole building shall be the sum of the requirement for the area of each use.

B. For multiple uses. Storage areas for multiple uses on a single site may be combined and shared.

C. *Storage standards.* Storage shall be provided consistent with the following:

1. Multi-unit residential buildings containing five or more units shall provide a minimum storage area using this formula:

Number of units X 32 gallons = Total weekly storage volume for garbage

Number of units X 48 gallons = Total weekly storage volume for recycling

Number of units X 8 gallons = Total weekly storage volume for glass

Depending on the number of units, the total volume needed for each stream of waste can be calculated and the number and size of carts or containers determined. Mixed recycling is collected in 95 gallon recycling carts. Glass is collected in 64 gallon carts. Each storage area must provide for collection of both garbage and recycling with space to walk between the containers.

Mixed recycling or cardboard containers and cages, with a standard size of 3 or 4 cubic yards (606 gallons), can be planned for accommodating a portion of the required recycling storage for these commodities.

For recycling, determine the number of mixed carts needed by dividing total weekly storage requirements by 95; determine the number of glass recycling carts needed by dividing total weekly storage requirements by 64.

Complexes with less than 20 units are encouraged to include space for a recycling container large enough to accommodate flattened cardboard boxes (typically a 3 yard or 4 yard container). Complexes larger than 20 units are required to include space for a 3 or 4 yard recycling container large enough to accommodate flattened cardboard boxes.

Large apartment complexes sometimes utilize a centralized garbage compactor(s) instead of or in coordination with more distributed garbage containers. Compactors are intended for commercial and industrial use by trained personnel and should not be the container that residents use directly for disposal of their household garbage.

Property owners/managers must still provide convenient recycling locations accessible to residents.

Recycling roll carts are normally co-located with the garbage collection containers, rather than with the compactor, to improve recycling convenience and participation. Containers larger than 4 cubic yards do not have wheels, so it is necessary to allow sufficient space so they can be emptied without being rolled out. No solid waste or recyclables collecting shall be done in any residential zone before 6:30 a.m. or after 6:30 p.m. (VMC [6.12.130](#)).

Maximum distance from residential unit to closest garbage/recycling enclosure shall be no more than 150 feet.

2. Nonresidential buildings shall provide a minimum storage area of 100 square feet plus:
 - a. Office: four sq. ft./1,000 sq. ft. of gross floor area (GFA);
 - b. Retail: 10 sq. ft./1,000 sq. ft. of GFA;
 - c. Educational/Institutional: four sq. ft./1,000 sq. ft. of GFA; or
 - d. Other: four sq. ft./1,000 sq. ft. of GFA.
3. Large developments or single buildings utilizing a compactor for garbage shall plan for the size of concrete pad appropriate for the equipment being installed and the volume of waste and recycling to be generated, plus allocate additional space for containers for materials not compacted.
4. Storage area size and area configuration needs be determined based on an assessment of how similar facilities meet their waste disposal and recycling needs.

5. Service agreements between the building owner and the service provider may be required if proposed methods or technologies used to manage waste are atypical or unproven.

20.970.040 Location, Design and Access Standards.

A. *Location.* Required storage areas for solid waste and recyclable materials shall comply with the following standards:

1. The storage area(s) for source-separated recyclable materials in multi-unit residential complexes shall be at the same locations(s) as storage areas for residential mixed solid waste.
2. Indoor and outdoor storage shall comply with City Adopted Building and Uniform Fire Code requirements.
3. Storage area space requirements can be satisfied with a single location or multiple locations, and can combine both interior and exterior locations. Storage areas shall be no farther than 150 feet from each unit and be easily accessed by users and maintenance personnel.
4. Outdoor storage areas can be located within interior side yard or rear yard areas. Outdoor storage areas shall not be located within a required front yard setback or in a yard adjacent to a public right-of-way or private street easement, except alleys, unless no alternative location is possible. Outdoor storage areas shall not be located in a side or rear yard setback that abuts property that is not within the same development, i.e. impacts of the location on neighboring properties is an important consideration. Every effort should be made to locate outdoor garbage and recycling areas so as to minimize their impacts on neighboring properties. When a single family home is converted to an office, the business owners are encouraged to continue roll cart garbage service instead of container service to minimize the noise impacts on their neighbors.
5. Exterior storage areas shall address both user safety/security and aesthetic considerations.

6. Exterior storage areas can be located in a parking area if the proposed use provides at least the minimum number of parking spaces required per the requirements of Chapter [20.945](#) VMC, Parking and Loading, after deducting the area used for storage and access.

7. The storage area shall be accessible for collection vehicles and located so it will not obstruct pedestrian or vehicle traffic movement on the site or on public streets or sidewalks adjacent to the site.

B. *Design standards.*

1. The dimensions of the storage area shall accommodate containers consistent with current methods of local collection and allow for pedestrian (driver and residents) access between containers. **Plans shall show footprints of all intended receptacles using dimensions from City- provided solid waste receptacle standards. The preferred recycling receptacles for resident use are roll carts versus recycling containers.** Roll carts are more easily accessed by residents and help to prevent confusion/contamination with garbage.

3. Exterior storage areas shall be enclosed by a screen comprised of a sight-obscuring wall, fence and/or vegetation. **For multifamily tenant access, a person door, gate, or walkway ,separate from the service gate or door, is required. Service gate(s) for haulers shall be capable of being secured in closed and open positions of 90 degrees or greater.**

4. Storage containers shall be clearly labeled to indicate the type of materials accepted.

5. Where electrical connections or engineered structures and surfaces are required to support the utilization **compactors or other** storage and handling equipment, these shall be designed according to the applicable codes.

C. *Access standards.*

1. Access to storage areas can be limited for security reasons. However, the storage area shall be accessible to users at convenient times of the day, and to collection service personnel on the day and approximate time they are scheduled to provide collection service.

2. Storage areas shall be designed to be easily accessible to collection trucks and equipment, considering paving, grade and vehicle access. Where direct truck access to a storage area is not possible, the grade and ramp design shall consider the weights and size

of containers that can reasonably and safely be managed for “roll-out” to an accessible truck loading position. If the collector is expected to move compacted containers larger than 2 cubic yards, mechanized equipment such as motorized pushcart must be provided for efficient transferring of receptacles and to promote worker safety.

3. Storage areas shall be accessible to collection vehicles without requiring backing out of a driveway onto a public street. If only a single access is available to the storage area, adequate turning radius shall be provided to allow collection vehicles to safely exit the site in a forward motion. All circulation and turnaround designs must meet the requirements of VMC 11.80.070 and the Transportation Standard Details and be feasible using City-provided solid waste truck turning modelling templates and truck specifications. Collection vehicles shall be able to circulate the development and service receptacles with minimal backing required.