To: Construction and Demolition Permit Customers

Re: Proper Handling of Construction and Demolition Waste and Recyclables

Whether you are a homeowner tackling a remodeling project or a building contractor demolishing a home or large commercial building, there are things you need to do with the waste and recyclables you generate on your site. These requirements are found in Snohomish County Code (SCC), but you will find easy-to-follow information in this packet and on our website. These requirements are applied to all construction and demolition sites within Snohomish County and its cities.

These are the key requirements:

- Garbage created in Snohomish County must be disposed of in Snohomish County. Disposing of non-recyclable material outside of the Snohomish County system is considered a misdemeanor.
- If you choose to recycle at your project site, you are required to maintain separate, labeled garbage and recycling containers. Containers of recyclable materials must contain less than 10 percent incidental waste by volume.
- Only state certificated or municipal-contracted haulers may transport non-recycle waste for disposal, unless you haul the garbage yourself.
- Recyclable material may be hauled to private locations inside or outside of Snohomish County for processing. You must confirm with the location receiving the material that they will recycle the material, and not dispose of it.
- Intermodal containers on project sites are only allowed for disposal of asbestos containing materials and petroleum contaminated soils.

This information packet contains an overview of SCC 7.35, SCC 7.41, and a Q&A specifically for contractors. You can also visit www.snohomishcountywa.gov/CDwaste for more information and additional resources to use with your contractor, their employees and subcontractors on the job site.

If you have questions regarding these requirements, please contact Solid Waste at (425) 388-3425 (press 0) or email solid.waste@snoco.org.

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**Title VI/ADA:** Interpreter and translation services for non-English speakers and accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Call 425-262-2966. For questions regarding Public Works’ Title VI Program, contact our Title VI Coordinator via email at spw-titlevi@snoco.org, or phone 425-388-6660. Hearing/speech impaired call 711.

Si los solicita, hay disponibles servicios de interpretación y traducción para personas que no hablan inglés y adaptaciones para personas con discapacidades. Llame al 425-262-2966. Si tiene preguntas sobre el Programa de Obras Públicas del Título VI, comuníquese con nuestro Coordinador del Título VI por correo electrónico a spw-titlevi@snoco.org, o por teléfono al 425-388-6660. Las personas con dificultades auditivas/del habla deben llamar al 711. (Spanish)
Purpose of County Solid Waste Codes

Snohomish County code (SCC) clarifies how waste and recyclables are handled, including recyclable and non-recyclable construction and demolition debris. The purpose of SCC 7.35 and 7.41:

- Provide transparency about which materials are recycled and which are disposed at a landfill,
- Promote recycling, and
- Ensure landfill-disposed materials are properly handled and are disposed in the county solid waste system.

It is important to keep disposal fees for waste generated in Snohomish County in the local solid waste system to fund critical programs and services. Disposal fees pay for the monitoring of nine closed landfills, operation of six disposal facilities, disaster debris planning, illegal dumping cleanup, recycling and program planning, environmental monitoring, and operation of a household hazardous waste drop-off station. The system benefits all residents and businesses in the county and receives no local taxes or general-fund revenues.

Key Provisions

- Commercial containers hauling non-recyclable waste must be marked “solid waste for disposal,” “landfill,” or “garbage” and can ONLY be transported to a county transfer station. (State law restricts who can commercially haul waste for landfill disposal to WUTC-certificated waste haulers, city contracted haulers, and demolition companies hauling waste from their own demolition projects. Others can “self-haul” their waste, including contractors, who can “self-haul” construction waste for landfill disposal. In all cases, the waste must go to Snohomish County disposal facilities.)

- Commercial containers hauling recyclables must be marked “recyclables,” “recycling” or display the universal recycling symbol ☯. Recycle containers can ONLY be transported to a reclamation site/processor to be recycled. However, that can be in or outside of Snohomish County at whatever rate is offered by the hauler/processing facility. (State law allows a wider range of businesses to commercially haul materials to be recycled, including properly licensed common carriers, such as construction and demolition material haulers. Materials can also be “self-hauled.”)

- Any site utilizing recycling services must also have a properly marked container for non-recyclable waste for landfill disposal.

- Only recyclables should be put in the recycling containers. If the recycling containers have more than 10 percent incidental waste by volume, they need to be “cleaned up” before they are hauled to a recycling facility.

- Intermodal containers hauling waste to rail facilities are not allowed on construction/demolition job sites, except as otherwise approved by the county for the purposes of hauling asbestos containing materials or petroleum contaminated soils.

- Non-recycled residuals from reclamation facilities processing recyclables in the county must be disposed as solid waste.

For more information, visit www.snohomishcountywa.gov/CDwaste
Should I recycle?
Yes. There are many good reasons to recycle, including reducing your costs. You can also earn LEED and Built Green points, conserve materials, protect the environment, create local jobs and businesses (your future clients), and make the world a better place. In Snohomish County, you are not legally required to recycle, but it is a smart thing to do.

If I recycle, am I required to have a container for garbage?
Yes. All projects generate non-recyclable materials that must go into a properly marked solid waste container for disposal.

Does the container for garbage have to be as big as the container for recyclables?
No. Many construction materials generated are recyclable. However, the non-recyclable container should be proportional to the project’s size and amount of waste generated. The majority of new construction materials are recyclable if properly managed.

Do I need to have separate containers for each kind of recyclable, like metal and wood?
County code does not require recyclables to be separated at the job site. It can be mixed if the service you have hired allows this. However, some services require you to separate materials and there can be financial benefits to do so. Shop around to determine which arrangement and service works best for you.

Can I have one company haul my garbage and have a different company haul my recyclables?
Yes, absolutely.

Are there haulers who can handle both “recycle” and “waste” containers?
Yes and no. It depends . . .

Only “G-certificated” or municipal-contracted haulers can haul solid waste for disposal. They have their garbage rates and services reviewed and set by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) or are contracted with a local municipality. Solid waste containers must be hauled by a G-certificated hauler or garbage collection company under contract with a city or town if you don’t haul it yourself. These haulers can also transport recyclables, and may offer a recycling service. The rates for the recycling services are not set by the WUTC but may be set by city contract.

If your G-certificated or municipal-contracted hauler is also hired to haul recyclables, then yes, your “recycler” can also haul the garbage container. But if you hire a recycler who is not one of these, your “recycler” cannot also haul the garbage container. Other transporters that are not allowed to haul solid waste may be allowed to haul recyclables. You can hire any transporter registered as a “common carrier” with the WUTC to haul recyclables to a reclamation facility/processor to recycle them.

Can I haul the garbage myself?
Yes. You can take your garbage directly to a Snohomish County transfer station yourself.

Can I haul the recycling container myself?
Yes. You can take recyclables to a reclamation/processing facility or recycler yourself. Be sure to check what materials are accepted for recycling at the facility and that you don’t have more than 10 percent incidental waste by volume.

Do I have more than one option for who can haul my solid waste for disposal?
No, there is only one WUTC G-certificated or municipal-contracted hauler in a given area unless you haul it yourself. To find your disposal service, refer to the Garbage Service Provider list under Additional Resources at www.snohomishcountywa.gov/CDwaste.
Do I have more than one option for who can haul my recyclables for recycling?
Yes, there is open competition for hauling of clean recyclables which many businesses provide. You can research recycling services in a variety of ways, including visiting http://1800recycle.wa.gov.

How do I know what is recyclable?
The recycling hauler or the facility that you haul to should provide a list of accepted materials. Not all transporters and facilities have the same list of accepted materials. Just because a material can be recycled doesn’t make it a recyclable. Only materials actually recycled (sold to be made into new products) are considered recyclables in Snohomish County.

What if workers put non-recyclables in the recycling container?
You will need to clean out the non-recyclable materials before the container is hauled. Containers must have no more than 10 percent incidental waste by volume. Please work with employees/subcontractors to ensure that the problem doesn’t persist.

If the recycling container has been contaminated with garbage, can’t it just be hauled to the transfer station as solid waste?
No. Marked recycling containers are not allowed at disposal facilities. Such containers should be free of non-recyclable materials before the container is transported to a recycling processor.

Is incineration or the combustion of materials considered recycling?
No. Per the Snohomish County Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan and SCC 7.35, incineration or combustion of material is not considered “recycling.” Additionally, reclamation of material does not include combustion of solid waste or the preparation of a fuel from solid waste (other than hog fuel).

What if there is no longer a market for a material that was previously considered “recyclable”? How should that be handled?
Per the Snohomish County Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan, the designation of “recyclable” only applies to those materials that have actual markets and that are actually recycled. For instance, not all plastics or roofing may qualify as recyclable. If not recycled, designated materials and other wastes must be managed as solid waste for disposal.

How am I supposed to get my workers and contractors to put the right stuff in the right box?
The recycling service should provide signage and instructions on the container showing what can be recycled and what must be put in garbage containers. If they don’t provide this information, shop around. Using this information, make sure that the waste/recycling handling is done correctly.

What happens if I don’t separate the non-recyclables from the recyclables? Can I be fined?
You are not required to recycle. If you don’t want to separate the materials, it can all be disposed of as garbage.

If you choose to recycle, it is required to separate the garbage from recyclables and place each in the properly marked container. You can be fined if you do not have a separate garbage container.

If your recycling container has more than 10 percent waste, your recycling service provider cannot haul it to a recycling facility. You will need to clean it up before it can be hauled. Your hauler can be fined if it exceeds the limit and they transport the box. If the problem persists, your recycling service provider may withdraw their service, and all of your materials will then have to be sent to landfill. Recycling saves you money, so you will want to avoid this situation.

Can I get help from the county?
Yes. If you already have a solid waste and/or recycling hauler, please seek assistance and information from them first. If you still need to contact the Snohomish County Public Works Solid Waste Division, you can call 425-388-3425 or email solid.waste@snoco.org.
Separate garbage container(s) and recycling container(s) are on site (legal requirement)
___ They are clearly labeled (legal requirement)
   ___ Recycling, recyclables, or recycling symbol
   ___ Garbage, landfill, or solid waste
___ Primary garbage & recycle containers are placed close together
___ Garbage container also near job shack
___ Garbage container also near break room
___ Consider job shack/break room recycling containers for cans, bottles, etc.

List of recyclables accepted by service provider
___ Inform your crews on recycling plans
___ Inform subcontractors of accepted items
___ Post list of acceptable items on container
___ Post list in job shack and break room

Recycle container can have no more than 10% incidental non-recyclables in container (legal requirement)
___ Check recycle container daily for non-recyclables
___ If contaminated, have container cleaned up before it’s moved
___ Take corrective action to prevent further contamination

Garbage container provider is G-certified by the WUTC (legal requirement)
___ Check garbage container for misplaced recyclables daily
___ Post list of non-accepted items for garbage (paint, mercury lighting, etc.)

Track recycling to show cost savings of recycling vs. garbage
___ Educate
___ Encourage
___ Reward crews with savings

For recycling information call 1-800-RECYCLE or visit http://1800recycle.wa.gov.
For more information visit: www.snohomishcountywa.gov/CDwaste.