



Snohomish County
Planning and Development
Services

Visit us at :

2nd Floor Robert J. Drewel Bldg.
3000 Rockefeller Avenue
Everett, WA 98201

425-388-3311
1-800-562-4367, ext. 3311



ONLINE INFORMATION
www.snohomishcountywa.gov/1190



This Assistance Bulletin only applies to property within unincorporated Snohomish County and does not apply to property within incorporated city limits.

Solid Waste/Recycling Collection Areas

Assistance Bulletin

57

Revised March 2015

WWW.SNOCO.ORG

Keyword: Assistance Bulletins

Q: What are the solid waste/recycling collection area guidelines?

A: These guidelines help ensure that new multi-family, commercial, industrial, and public construction projects include adequate space for both recycling and garbage containers. They were established, in part, due to growing public demand for recycling and the fact that rates for collection service for residential multi-family complexes now automatically include both recycling and garbage pickup. These recommendations will help property owners meet tenants' needs up front, without the expense of retrofitting in the future.

Overall, these guidelines will help site planners provide users with a facility that meets both garbage and recycling needs at less cost.

Q: Are these guidelines legal requirements?

A: Any specific reference to a county code section or rule indicates a legal requirement (see next question). In other cases, these guidelines are recommendations based on information supplied by solid waste and recycling collection companies. Adherence to these suggested design guidelines is highly encouraged and may result in preventing unnecessary fees associated with the collection of your solid waste and recyclable materials.

Q: What specific legal requirements apply?

A: Screening must be provided in accordance with Section 30.25.024 SCC. If a new development or redevelopment project must comply with Snohomish County Code 30.63A.515 (Minimum requirement 3: Water pollution source control for new development or redevelopment), then structural design requirements and other best management practices specified in Section 5.1.4 of Volume IV of the Snohomish County Drainage Manual must be employed to minimize stormwater pollution. Also, Section 304.3 of the International Fire Code requires specific fire prevention measures for various size dumpsters.

Q: How big should the collection areas be?

A: Collection areas should be large enough to accept both solid waste and recycling containers. The optimum size is 12 feet deep by 22 feet wide (inside dimensions). This size may vary according to site restrictions, type of business, size of apartment complex, and other factors. The following dimension standards allow for both solid waste and recycling containers in each storage enclosure:

This bulletin is intended only as an information guide. The information may not be complete and is subject to change. For complete legal information, refer to Snohomish County Code.

Multi-Family Residential (three units or more)

Facilities should meet the following minimum space configurations per solid waste/recycling collection area:

<u>Units</u>	<u>Interior Dimensions</u>	<u>Total Sq. Ft.</u>
Fewer than 10	12' x 12'	144
10-15	12' x 18'	216
16-30	12' x 20'	240
31-35	12' x 22'	264

- For sites with 36-50 units, provide at least two collection areas that, combined, meet minimum space configurations.
- For sites with more than 50 units, provide at least one collection area per 25 units, that meets minimum space configuration.

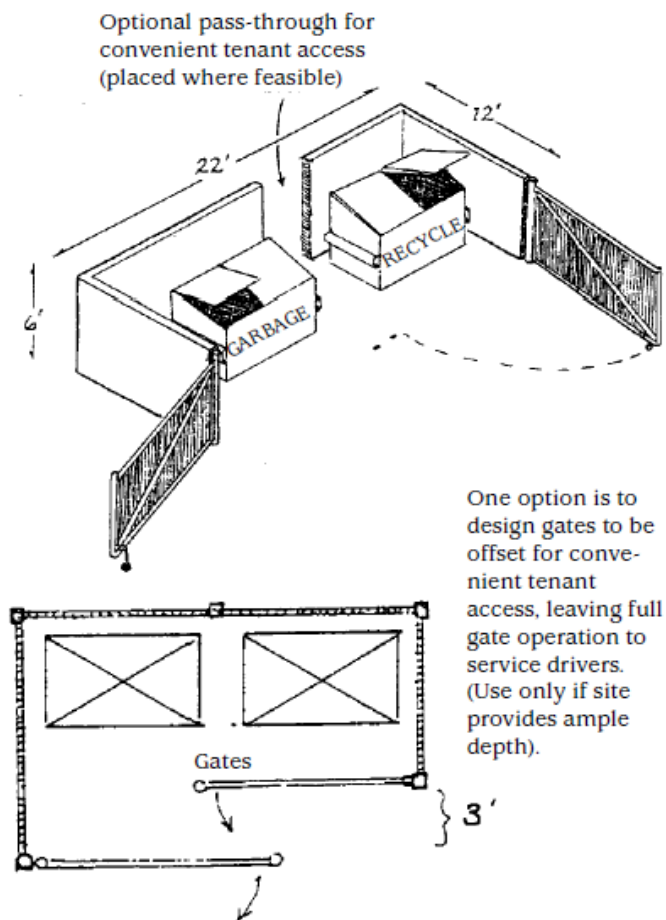
Note: Combinations of collection areas that, in total, meet the standards are also acceptable.

Non-Residential Use

A minimum collection area of 12 feet by 16 feet is recommended to accommodate solid waste and recycling containers for new commercial and industrial facilities (including schools and churches). This standard does not apply for roll-off or compactor service.

Q: Where should solid waste/recycling collection areas be located?

A: Exterior collection areas should be located in an area accessible and convenient to the intended users (typically no more than 200 feet from the farthest user). The location of the collection area should not interfere with the primary use of the site. It should be located in areas that can tolerate noise, odor and increased pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Collection areas that house containers of 1.5 cubic yard capacity, or greater, may not be placed within 5 feet (1,524 mm) of combustible walls, openings or combustible roof eave lines, in accordance with Section 1103.2.2 of the 1997 Uniform Fire Code. For projects within rural business zones, these collection areas must be located at least 100 feet from residential uses or designations (see 30.31F.100 SCC).

Typical Enclosure Design

Q: What about access to the collection area?

A: The collection area should be designed to be easily accessible by all collection vehicles. These vehicles often are 30 feet long or longer and need appropriate turning radii to get to containers. To prevent traffic hazards, you should design your approach so it minimizes or eliminates the need for vehicles to back up, especially onto a main street or road. Your collection area should have a minimum 70-foot-long straight-line approach to the container's lifting pockets. The collection area should be level with the approach so collection trucks can insert their forks easily into the container's lifting pockets.

Q: Are there any other design considerations?

A: Collection areas should be large enough to accept both solid waste and recycling containers and allow access by all employees and tenants. Enough room should be provided within the enclosure to move and lift containers. The design of enclosure covers should make it easy to keep container lids shut at all times. Gate openings should allow appropriate space for removal and placement of all containers, including a 1.5-foot minimum clearance on each side of each container. In addition, frontloading containers without casters require a minimum overhead clearance of 15 feet 8 inches. The collection area should be built on an asphalt or concrete surface with positive drainage of less than 2 percent. It also should be fenced or contained within a structural enclosure such as a wall.

Q: Who should I call for more information?

A: For more information on solid waste/recycling collection areas, call the following:

Snohomish County Public Works, Solid Waste Management Division: 425-388-3425 (press "0")
Waste Management Northwest: 1-800-835-2272
Lynnwood Disposal: 425-778-6508
