



County of San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Guidelines for Recycling Containers for Recyclable Material Collection Services Provided by County of San Diego Solid Waste Collection Franchisees and Recyclable Materials Collectors

The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure the provision of adequate and convenient recycling containers, both in number, type, and location, to ensure effective segregation and collection of designated recyclables in connection with the county’s recycling ordinance. To ensure that the county meets the state mandate under Assembly Bill 939 to divert at least 50 percent of its waste from landfill disposal, “container,” “adequate” and “convenient” are defined below. It is expected that with time and as your recycling program becomes established you will be able to adjust your service levels to surpass the 50% goal described herein.

Placement of Recycling Containers/Dumpsters in Waste Disposal Areas:

Definition of “Container” – Container means a receptacle for collecting and storing recyclable materials pending collection and includes, but is not limited to, cans, dumpsters, chutes, enclosures, automatic lift containers, bins, roll-offs, and other receptacles. A “recycling container” refers to a container for recyclable materials. A “solid waste container” refers to a container for solid waste.

Definition of “Convenient” - It is recommended that recycling containers be placed in convenient locations, meaning either at or next to each current solid waste container or disposal area, or as close as possible to these areas and/or high pedestrian traffic areas. To allow separate storage of the designated recyclable materials, it is recommended that recycling containers be paired with solid waste containers of at least equivalent volume capacity at each waste disposal area.

Definition of “Adequate” - In addition to placing recycling containers at “convenient” locations, the following are the minimum recommended recycling collection service levels (by container volume capacity) considered to be “adequate” to divert the designated recyclable materials:

Type of Facility	Minimum recommended ratio of recycling capacity to trash capacity
Office Buildings (commercial, governmental or educational greater than 20,000 ft ²)	40% recycling to 60% trash
Hospitality Facilities	40% recycling to 60% trash
Multi-Family Complexes (four units and greater)	40% recycling to 60% trash
Single Family Residence/Residential Facility	Minimum of one recycling container of equal capacity to each refuse container.

Residential and Commercial Responsibilities

Property owners and tenants shall be responsible for safe and sanitary storage of all solid wastes and designated recyclables that accumulate on the property. Property owners and tenants shall store designated recyclables separately from solid waste.

Standards for Recycling Containers:

Container Features – All recycling containers within the county shall be equipped with close-fitting lids and be leak-proof and rodent-proof.

Cleaning and Maintenance – All county franchisee or recyclable materials collector shall maintain all of their recycling containers used for providing service in the county in a safe, neat, clean and operable condition at all times.

Container Identification – All recycling containers shall be clearly identified as a recyclable materials container and shall display the name and phone number of the franchisee or recyclable materials collector to whom the recycling container belongs.

Container Signage – Displaying a list or images of the recyclable materials which may be deposited into the recycling container is considered a best management practice and is highly encouraged. Contact your recyclable materials collector or the County of San Diego's Recycling Section for signage.