

Department of Permitting and Environmental Review (Permitting)

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Zoning Code: Recyclables

Permitting Customer
Information Bulletin #**45A****• FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS •**

*Visit the Permitting Web site at
www.kingcounty.gov/permits
for more information*

King County Permitting has created customer information bulletins to inform the general public about the effect of codes and regulations on their projects. These bulletins are not intended to be complete statements of all laws and rules and should not be used as substitutes for them. If conflicts and questions arise, current codes and regulations are final authority. Because the codes and regulations may be revised or amended at any time, consult King County staff to be sure you understand all requirements before beginning work. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that the project meets all requirements of applicable codes and regulations.

For alternate formats, call 206-296-6600.

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What zoning requirements pertain to recyclables?

As the need for recycling increases, so does the need for building areas to be set aside for storage and collection of recyclables. King County has developed zoning standards that apply to the rate of storage space required per dwelling unit or area in square footage, and to the location and number of collection points where recyclables are stored and centered. [See Chapter 21A.14.210 of the King County Code (KCC).]

What is the rate of storage space required in specific types of developments or land uses?

The storage space shall be provided at the following rates, calculated based on any new dwelling unit in multiple dwelling developments and any new square feet of building gross floor area in any other developments.

In multiple-dwelling residential units, one and one-half square feet of storage space per dwelling unit is required, unless the development is participating in a King County-sponsored or approved curbside collection program.

For non-residential development, including land uses designated as office, educational, institutional, retail or manufacturing, the following rate of storage space is required:

| Rate of Storage Space Required | Land Uses |
|--|---|
| Two square feet per 1,000 square feet in building gross floor area | Office Educational Institutional |
| Three square feet per 1,000 square feet in building gross floor area | Manufacturing Other Non-Residential Developments (Except retail or uses listed above) |
| Five square feet per 1,000 square feet in building gross floor area | Retail |

What requirements apply to the location and number of collection points in residential developments?

Residential storage spaces must be dispersed in collection points throughout the site. When a residential development comprises more than one building, one collection point is required for every 30 dwelling units.

As long as other requirements in this section are met, collection points may be located within residential buildings, in separate buildings/structures without dwelling units, or outdoors. When collection points are located in separate buildings, structures, or outdoors, they must be no more than 200 feet from a common entrance of a residential building.

Collection points must be located so that none of the following occurs:

- The swing of any collection point gate must not obstruct pedestrian or vehicle traffic on site
- The swing of any collection point gate must not obstruct vehicle traffic or access to parking
- The swing of any collection point gate or any hauling truck must not project into any public right-of-way.

What requirements apply to the location of storage collection points for non-residential developments?

As with residential developments, collection points in non-residential developments must be located so that none of the following occurs:

- The swing of any collection point gate must not obstruct pedestrian or vehicle traffic on site
- The swing of any collection point gate must not obstruct vehicle traffic or access to parking
- The swing of any collection point gate or any hauling truck must not project into any public right-of-way.

Collection points may be centrally located on the site. Outdoor collection points shall not be located in any required setback areas.

Access to collection points may be limited, except during regular business hours and/or specific collection hours.

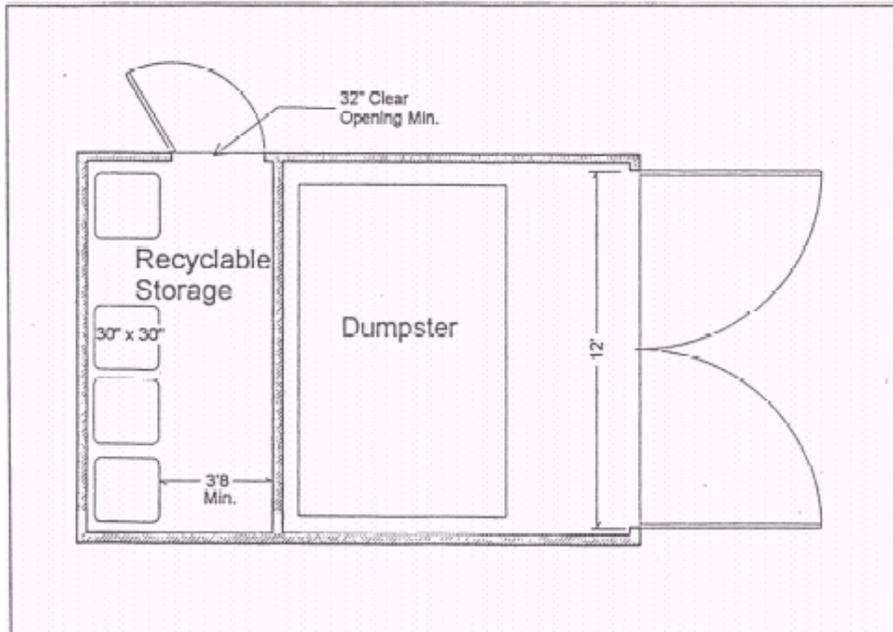
What design standards apply to the storage and collection points for recyclables?

For a recycling program to work, storage spaces for recyclables must be sufficiently dispersed throughout the development, convenient and accessible to all parties, and both aesthetic and functional in design. In addition to specifications for location, the following design standards must be observed:

- The dimensions of the collection points must be wide and deep enough to enclose containers used for recyclables.

- The architectural design of any structures enclosing an outdoor collection point or any building used to contain a collection point must be aesthetically and functionally compatible with the design of the primary structure(s) on the site.
- Signs must identify collection points. The signs must not exceed two square feet in size.
- An outdoor collection point must be enclosed by a six-foot-high wall or fence, except for collection points located in industrial developments that are greater than 100 feet from residentially zoned property;
- Enclosures for outdoor collection points and buildings used primarily to contain a collection point must have gate openings at least 12-feet wide for hauling trucks. The gate opening for any building or roofed structure used primarily as a collection point must have a vertical clearance of at least 12 feet.
- Recyclables must be protected from inclement weather conditions by using weather-proof containers or by constructing a roof over the storage area.
- Site facilities must be designed to be barrier-free. Surface slopes shall not exceed one vertical to 48 horizontal. Gate/door hardware shall be accessible (lever-type). (See Illustration B.)
- Contact the King County Solid Waste Division and your local waste management provider or any questions concerning non-recyclable items and for solid waste disposal.

Illustration B



What restrictions have been placed on recycling activities at collection points?

Only recyclable materials generated on-site will be collected and stored at collection points. Recyclables may be initially sorted by users on-site. All other processing of such materials must be conducted off-site.

What waivers are available?

The Director may waive or modify specific storage space and collection point requirements set forth in the KCC. To waive or modify these requirements, the Director must find, in writing, that an alternative recycling program design, proposed by the applicant, meets the needs of the development and provides an equivalent or better level of storage and collection of recyclables.