



Construction: Space Guidelines for Waste Containers

Public Works Department

Zero Waste Division

RecyclingProgram@berkeleyca.gov

Mandatory Recycling and Composting Requirements:

- All commercial and multi-family (5+ units) properties are subject to State Law SB 1383 and corresponding local [Alameda County Organics Reduction and Recycling Ordinance](#).
- Collection rooms/enclosures must be adequately sized to accommodate Berkeley's **FOUR (4)** material streams:
 1. Trash
 2. Recycling for Glass, Metal, Plastics
 3. Recycling for Cardboard, Mixed Paper
 4. Organics collection for Food Waste, Compostable Paper, Plant Debris
- To determine the multifamily dwelling (MFD) service requirements please follow the 40-40-20 guideline for MFD container sizes. For weekly collection services, 40% will be trash, 40% will be recycling, and 20% will be organics (not including landscape debris).

Material Collection Room Considerations:

- Tenant access: tenants must be provided convenient access to trash rooms and all 4 streams must be collocated.
- Adequate space is necessary for all 4 streams and ceiling height and room size must be adequate to open lids and move each container.
- Consider the distance/access from the material collection room to the service location.
- Doorways should be wide enough to easily move containers in/out.
- Bins need a smooth surface and a ramp to be wheeled curbside.

- Floor surface should be smooth and easy to clean; convenient access to a faucet is recommended or ease of cleaning and pest/odor avoidance.
- Designate wall space for instructional signage; adequate lighting to read signs and sort materials.
- Chutes are not recommended. If installing chutes, provide equal access to all four waste streams.
- Installation of compactors is allowed; be aware that waste services are provided on a minimum, once-a-week collection schedule and are billed at double the maximum compactor volume.

Service Location Considerations

- Property owners are responsible for placing carts and/or bins at the curbside for collection; cart/bin lids must close completely; and carts/bins must be removed from the curb within 24hrs of collection.
- Ensure that you provide a staging area for the carts/bins to be picked up on their collection day.
- Ensure that the gate doors are wide enough to accommodate the bin and make sure that you have permitted curb cuts to push those bins to the street if needed for collection service.
- Locating trash bins in underground garages or in areas inaccessible by collection vehicles is not advised. It increases the risk of injury and property damage. Bin service with long push outs or inclines may not be provided by the City; if provided, significant additional monthly charges apply. Review the [rates for push/pull service](#).