



## Metro is proposing changes to multifamily regional service standards for garbage and recycling collection.

*Since 2015, Metro has engaged with people living in apartments and condos (what we call multifamily homes), local government officials, property managers and owners, and companies that collect garbage and recycling, to better understand garbage and recycling at multifamily homes. We heard that our services for multifamily homes are not fully providing what people need.*

*We collaborated with our partners to propose changes to Metro Code and Administrative Rule to create better, more equitable services for residents of apartments and condos, which make up over 25 percent of homes in the region.*

### **Our proposed changes will do two things:**

1. We'll **improve the clarity and consistency of stickers and signs, and implement a color-coded system for garbage and recycling collection** at apartments and condos across greater Portland—so that no matter where you are, you'll know what goes where.

We're creating new stickers that use universal images to better help people know what to put in each bin (a term we also use to describe carts, containers, drop boxes or compactors). Metro has new stickers ready for printing, and we plan to start using them later this year.

We'll also establish a color-coded bin system. No matter the location, the garbage will be grey, the recycling will be blue, and the glass will be orange. People who move frequently won't need to re-learn the system. Metro is proposing a seven-year deadline for color standard implementation for the new bin colors.

- Metro worked with a local consultant, Chris Bell, who helps area governments set rates to identify a cost-effective timeline for implementation that gives collection companies the most flexibility in meeting the requirement.
- The timeline also takes advantage of the seven-year equipment depreciation schedule already built into local government franchised commercial rates.

2. We'll **create an improved and more consistent garbage and recycling collection experience** from building to building, and between multifamily and single-family homes.

We want to ensure that everyone has access to quality service, no matter where they live or what type of housing they're in. To do that, Metro is setting a minimum level of service for garbage, mixed recycling and glass recycling. The proposed minimums will increase mixed recycling service at 60 percent of multifamily properties.

People living in single-family homes enjoy a relatively high level of service based on prescriptive code and rule, and we are long overdue to bring multifamily service up to the same level.

The proposed minimums should not result in additional costs. For franchised commercial areas (i.e., all areas outside of Portland city limits), most commercial rate structures already provide for a one-to-one ratio of garbage to recycling collection service.

**These changes are intended to address concerns that Metro heard from residents, property managers, local governments and haulers.**

In March 2019, Metro adopted the [2030 Regional Waste Plan](#), which sets the policy direction for the region’s solid waste and recycling system. This plan reflects the needs and ideas from members of our community who have not had a strong voice in the development of environmental plans, policies or programs before.

To inform the plan, Metro, in 2017, completed a [collaborative analysis of garbage and recycling](#) in apartment and condominium buildings across greater Portland. In addition to talking with our partners and residents, we also analyzed the level of garbage and recycling use at 4,000 multifamily homes and the level of contamination. Here are some specific things we heard:

- There’s **inadequate access** to mixed recycling and glass recycling service at many multifamily sites.
- The current **collection equipment is inconsistent and confusing** to those who use it (different carts, containers, colors, stickers and signs).
- **Contamination** in the mixed recycling stream is high.
- **Bulky waste**, such as sofas, chairs, appliances and mattresses, is inadequately managed.

The changes Metro is proposing will help create more equitable, safer and cleaner environments for people living in multifamily homes. These changes also center the voices, values and needs of communities of color and historically marginalized groups in our region’s solid waste and recycling system.

**Lend your voice.**

Before these code and rule changes are presented to the Metro Council for a vote, we’re seeking comments from the public and local governments. The full language of these proposed changes and a document that has answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at [www.oregonmetro.gov/servicestandards](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/servicestandards).

Between September 15 and October 15, you can visit [www.oregonmetro.gov/servicestandards](http://www.oregonmetro.gov/servicestandards) to fill out a form and share your thoughts with us. You can also email us at [ServiceStandards@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:ServiceStandards@oregonmetro.gov) or mail written comments to:

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**Key dates:**  
September 14: Draft of code and rule posted  
September 15 – October 15: Public comment period  
October 27: Final draft of code and rule posted