



Metro is proposing changes to garbage and recycling services.

Metro works with communities, businesses and residents in the Portland metropolitan area to create a plan for the future while protecting the things we love about this place. If you take your kids to the Oregon Zoo, picnic at Blue Lake or drive your car, you've already met us.

We also like to talk about trash. Since 2015, Metro has worked 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 worked with our partners to propose changes to Metro Code and Administrative Rule to create better services and fill in gaps for residents of apartments and condos.

Our proposed changes will do two things:

1. All garbage and recycling bins will have new signs, stickers and colors that tell you which is for garbage, recycling or glass. They will be the same across the greater Portland area. No matter where you are, you will know what goes where.

Later this year, you will see new stickers that use pictures to help identify what goes in the trash and what is recyclable. Right now, there are some bins that don't have any stickers. There are also some bins that have confusing stickers, or really old ones.

We will also replace trash and recycling bins with ones that are color-coded. No matter where you move, the garbage bin will be grey, the recycling bin will be blue, and the glass bin will be orange. The bins will always stay the same colors, so people who move a lot don't have to learn new colors.

The first change you will see is new stickers on your garbage and recycling bins. The new bin colors will be changed slowly over several years. The changes should not change your garbage bill right away or very much.

2. Garbage and recycling will be **collected more often**, so your bins won't be overloaded.

Metro is setting a minimum level of service for garbage, mixed recycling and glass recycling. This will increase recycling service at most multifamily properties.

These are just the first steps we are taking. In the future, we will provide better service for bulky items, like furniture and mattresses. We will also look at how we can improve the garbage and recycling areas at multifamily homes to make them cleaner and safer.

These changes are meant to address concerns that Metro heard from residents, property managers, local governments and garbage collectors.

In March 2019, Metro created a [2030 Regional Waste Plan](#). This plan set the policy direction for the region’s garbage and recycling. 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.

As part of this work, Metro [researched how garbage and recycling](#) was collected in apartments and condos across greater Portland. Here are some specific things we heard:

- There is **not enough access** to mixed recycling and glass recycling service at many multifamily homes.
- The current collection **bins are very different and confusing** (different carts, containers, colors, stickers and signs).
- A lot of **garbage is put in the recycling bin**.
- It is really hard to throw away **bulky waste** in the right way.

The changes Metro is proposing will help address some of these issues and provide you with better, safer and easier garbage and recycling services. 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.

Does this meet your needs? Let us know. Before these code and rule changes are presented to the Metro Council for a vote, we are seeking comments from the public. 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.

Between September 15 and October 15, visit www.oregonmetro.gov/servicestandards to share your thoughts via a quick form. You can also email us at 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