



List of approved multifamily receptacle colors by vendor and FAQ

This document details tote, cart and container manufacturer colors that meet [Metro AR 5.15-2045](#), excerpted below.

5.15 - 2045 Multifamily Receptacle Colors; Signage; Informational Materials

For all multifamily residential customers, a local government must comply with the regional standards for collection receptacles by the dates below.

- 1. All receptacles ordered after July 1, 2022 must comply with the color standard below and must be labeled with the correct Metro-approved regional signage.*
- 2. All plastic receptacles for garbage, mixed recyclable materials, and yard debris and/or food scraps ordered after July 1, 2022 must contain at least 30% post-consumer recycled content.*
- 3. Garbage receptacles must be gray or black, mixed recyclable materials receptacles must be blue, yard debris and/or food scraps receptacles must be green and source-separated glass receptacles must be orange by July 1, 2028. Metro will provide a list of approved receptacle colors by vendor.*
- 4. Color standards do not apply to compactors and drop boxes.*
- 5. As of December 31, 2023, all receptacles must be labeled with the correct Metro-approved regional decals for acceptable recyclable materials, glass, yard debris, and garbage. All previous garbage and recycling instructional decals must be removed from each receptacle and replaced with correct and approved regional decals.*

Table 1: Approved regional multifamily receptacle colors*

| Stream Color | These colors meet the Metro multifamily standard |
|--|--|
| Garbage Gray and Black Must contain at least 30% post-consumer recycled content | Otto: 50-Dark Gray, 57-Light Gray, 60-Black |
| | Rehrig Pacific: GR75 ROC Gray, GR42 ROC Gray UV, Black |
| | Schaeffer: CL.GRY.1, CL.BLK.2 |
| | Toter: Ind. Gray #146, Black #200 |
| | Portland residential color standard: Gray PMS 424C, 431C and Cool Gray 11C |
| Recycling Blue Must contain at least 30% post-consumer recycled content | Otto: 51-Light Blue |
| | Rehrig Pacific: BL52 ROC Dark Aqua |
| | Schaeffer: CL.BLU.1 |
| | Toter: Blue #705 |
| | Portland residential color standard: Blue Reflex Blue C, 662C and 287C |
| Glass Orange No recycled content requirement | Otto: Orange-59 |
| | Rehrig Pacific: OR11 ROC Van Zyverden Orange |
| | Schaeffer: --- |
| | Toter: 490 Orange |
| | Beaverton multifamily standard: Orange PMS 21C |
| Yard waste/Food scraps Green Must contain at least 30% post-consumer recycled content | Otto: 56-Green, 78-Green |
| | Rehrig Pacific: GR65 ROC Green |
| | Schaeffer: CL.GRN.1 |
| | Toter: Green #940, #925 Waste Green |
| | Portland residential color standard: Green PMS 347 |

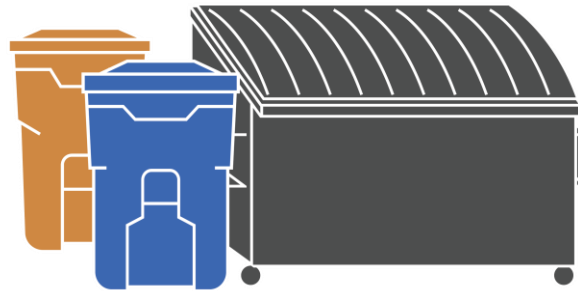
*Other manufacturers and colors may be allowed if approved by Metro in advance of purchase or use.

AR 5.15-2045 Approved color by vendor FAQ

Does the color standard apply to lids and bodies of receptacles?

The color standard applies to the entirety of carts and totes (body and lid) and to only the body of yardage containers. Color standards do not apply to drop boxes and compactors.

Fig 1. Sample multifamily setup with gray garbage container, blue recycling cart and orange glass cart



What material stream receptacles are required to contain recycled content?

Plastic receptacles used for garbage, recycling and yard waste/food scraps must contain a minimum of 30 percent post-consumer recycled content. Until further notice, orange receptacles used to collect glass do not need to meet the post-consumer recycled content requirement.

Multifamily encompasses a number of customer types, from mobile home sites with individual service to more traditional apartment sites. Do all customer types need to meet the standard?

The Metro multifamily color standard is intended to address contamination issues at shared service multifamily sites. To that end, there is a priority on implementing the color standard at sites with shared service, meaning more than one household utilizes the collection equipment.

Will Metro offset additional costs of orange carts and totes?

In 2021, Metro committed to looking at potential opportunities to offset the additional costs of multifamily orange carts and totes for glass collection through approaches such as cooperative purchasing.

Metro staff held a meeting on July 21, 2021 and gave a brief presentation reviewing approaches and received feedback from haulers. At the meeting, and in a follow up email from the Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association, haulers identified logistical and customization needs as barrier to the cooperative purchasing

options. It was noted that any potential savings would likely be exceeded by these barriers.

Based on this feedback, and at the interest of local governments, in fall of 2021 Metro staff looked into two additional approaches to offset the added manufacturing fees associated with the production of orange equipment and methods to reimburse actual costs. Both scenarios resulted in identification of additional costs and increased staff time from all parties.

At the same time, a local government modeled the cost of orange equipment implementation and found the scale of the impact to their rate to be less than one-tenth of one percent (.001%), similar in scale to rate impacts documented on page three of the [2020 Cost Analysis memo](#).

Based on the research and stakeholder engagement on this topic, Metro has estimated that the costs of logistics and customization outweigh the benefits of subsidizing implementation of orange equipment at this time. If conditions change, or a compelling reason is brought forward, the topic will be revisited.

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