

**Requirements for Multi-family and Commercial  
Garbage and Recycling Collection and Facilities**

(See also Durham City Code, Chapter 10; Unified Development Ordinance, Articles 7 and 9, etc.)

**All requirements apply regardless of whether collection is public or private. Capacity and collection frequency must prevent illegal disposal or placement of garbage and recyclables.**

**Section 1: Collection - Curbside and Waste Handling Facilities**

**The following receive curbside garbage (roll-out cart) and recycling (bin) collection:**

1. Multi-family developments in which no building contains more than four residential units. (They may instead receive dumpster collection at the same cost (currently no fee) with department approval.)
2. Businesses that generate a maximum of two cubic yards of garbage per week (capacity of four roll-out garbage carts).

SWM must approve business use of roll-out carts. If carts are approved, a site plan must:

- a. Designate a location for a waste handling facility in case it is required in the future. The designated pad must be at least 12' x 24' with an additional 5' x 12' to the side or back for non-cardboard recyclables, and the designated approach must be at least 10' x 24'. Construction will require a site plan amendment.
- b. Include a note stating: "Garbage volume is not expected to exceed the capacity of four 96-gallon carts per week. All recyclables will be separated from garbage and placed in collection bins. A waste handling facility will be constructed at the location designated on the plans in compliance with ordinance and SWM standards should garbage exceed the four-cart per week limit."

SWM may periodically conduct waste audits to determine whether a waste handling facility is required.

Current costs of multi-family and commercial curbside collection (subject to change):

No charge for collection. Currently funded through City's general fund.

Each residence and business receives one cart at no charge. Additional carts must be purchased.

Curbside collection special requirements (see SWM Site Plan Conditions):

- a. Waiver of Liability required for curbside collection on private roads.
- b. **No collection on any dead-end/stub-out without a cul-de-sac or alternate turnaround approved by the SWM Director.**
- c. SWM may modify standard collection in areas that automated collection vehicles have difficulty accessing without causing property damage - e.g. cul-de-sacs, alleys.

**The following must use stationary container (dumpster) garbage and recycling collection (waste handling facilities):**

1. Multi-family developments in which any building contains five or more residential units.
2. Businesses that generate more than two cubic yards of garbage per week (capacity of four roll-out garbage carts).
3. Commercial developments containing four or more businesses.

4. Any location to which access is denied to curbside collection trucks, or where streets risk damage from the trucks, or which the SWM director determines may not be served efficiently due to design or other factors.

## **Section 2: Capacity - Waste Handling Facilities**

Each waste handling facility must contain:

- a. One garbage dumpster;
- b. One cardboard dumpster the same size as the garbage dumpster; and
- c. At least four 90-96-gallon receptacles (bins/carts) for non-cardboard recyclables.

### *Multi-family capacity:*

Multi-family minimum garbage dumpster requirements (collection must occur at least one time per week):

- 5-12 units = 4-cubic-yard dumpster minimum
- 13-16 units = 6-cubic-yard dumpster minimum
- 17-30 units = 8-cubic-yard dumpster minimum

Multi-family developments must provide the appropriate number of waste handling facilities. Examples: 77 units = three waste handling facilities with 8-cubic-yard dumpsters; 285 units = ten waste handling facilities - nine with 8-cubic-yard dumpsters and one with 6-cubic-yard dumpsters.

### *Commercial capacity:*

The number and capacity of dumpsters and bins/carts must be adequate to serve the standard disposal rate(s) for the relevant business category(ies) and square footage(s). See SWM Capacity Calculation Information for sources providing industry standards for waste generation and disposal rates.

### *Compactors:*

A compactor with roll-off container may be used instead of dumpsters if approved by SWM. The ratio of compacted to uncompacted garbage is generally 4:1, but SWM capacity requirements are adjusted to allow for common compactor maintenance issues. Collection of compacted garbage must occur at least one time per week.

To obtain approval for a compactor, the owner must establish:

- a. Convenience of location for residents;
- b. Convenience of transport for residents; and
- c. How service will be provided in the event of compactor failure.

1-300 units requires:

- a. 30-cubic-yard roll-off container minimum;
- b. Two 8-cubic-yard cardboard dumpsters, or one collected two times per week (site plan note required); and
- c. Eight bins/carts for other recyclables, or four collected two times per week (site plan note required).

301-400 units requires:

- a. 40-cubic-yard roll-off container minimum;
- b. Three 8-cubic-yard cardboard dumpsters, or one collected three times per week (site plan note required); and
- c. Twelve bins/carts for other recyclables, or four collected three times per week (site plan note required.)

More than 400 units requires more than one compactor facility. Please contact SWM for information.

## **Section 3: Standards - Waste Handling Facilities (also see Ordinances)**

- 14-foot-wide access to each dumpster for the truck.
- 4-foot clearance at each side of each dumpster.
- 4-foot clearance at the rear of each dumpster.

- 2-foot clearance between the front of each dumpster and the rear of the approach.
- 5 feet x 12 feet additional to the side or rear of dumpster pad for bins/carts for non-cardboard recyclables.
- 10-foot-deep approach - width can vary.
- Curbs or bumpers to the rear of each dumpster.
- Screening for the entire facility, including bins/carts for non-cardboard recyclables. Recommend pedestrian access in addition to gates.

Example: For a facility with 8-cubic-yard dumpsters, which are approx. 6 ft. square, the basic pad should be 12 feet deep. The approach should be 10 feet deep. The following pad and approach widths assume side gate posts are off the edges of the pad. Basic pad and approach should each be 24 feet wide if no center gate posts or other obstructions exist. Basic pad and approach should each be 28 feet wide if center gate posts or other obstructions exist. Finished pad with space for bins/carts should be 17 feet deep, 29 feet wide, or 33 feet wide depending on configuration. Separate pedestrian access into facility is recommended.

- 8"-thick concrete, reinforced with rebar, for pad and approach. 30-ton load-bearing capacity.
- Access area, approach, and pad must be level.
- Access must accommodate a 40-foot-long truck, with a 45-foot turning radius. **Circular through-movement for the vehicles is highly recommended.**
- A roll-off container must have 65 feet of straight access in front.
- No more than 40 feet of backing.
- No backing into or across a public right-of-way.
- No overhead obstructions at waste handling facility or access area.
- Label each dumpster (garbage, cardboard) and bins/carts for recyclables.

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**Owners are responsible for maintaining access areas and waste handling facilities and for preventing illegal disposal of garbage or target (banned) recyclables. Gates must be secured open on scheduled collection day until after collection.**

**Please see SWM Capacity Calculation Information for container dimensions and other information.**

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