



MULTI-FAMILY TRASH & RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS

Multi-family buildings such as apartments, condominiums, and cooperatives must fulfill the District's trash and recycling requirements. Understanding what is required of your building is important to make sure that you are compliant.

Inspectors periodically visit buildings to ensure compliance. Buildings that are not in compliance with trash and recycling requirements may receive warnings and/or violations with fines from Department of Public Works (DPW) inspectors. Fines range from \$75 to \$300 for a first instance of non-compliance to \$500 to \$2,000 for a third instance of non-compliance, depending on the requirement. For more information on each requirement, check out the Multi-Family Zero Waste Guide, as well as additional tools and resources available at zerowaste.dc.gov.



HAULING

- All trash and recycling must be hauled by a company that is licensed as a solid waste collector with the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) and is also registered with DPW's Office of Waste Diversion (OWD).
- Trash and recycling must each be picked up a minimum of twice per week.



CONTAINERS

- A sufficient size and number of containers are necessary to collect all trash and recycling so that there is no overflowing material and that all lids can close properly.
- Trash and recycling containers cannot be damaged, including having holes or missing lids.
- No trash or recycling can be littered around containers. Only broken down cardboard may be stacked neatly next to recycling containers.
- Containers must be labeled with the hauler's name, phone number, and the size of the container.



BAGS

- All trash must be bagged.
- It is strongly preferred that no bags are used to collect recycling, but if bags are used they must be clear and transparent. Even though the District tolerates clear, transparent bags, your hauler may require that recycling is un-bagged.



COMMUNICATION

- Signage explaining what can and can't be recycled, as well as what must be placed in the trash, must be posted at each location where trash and recycling are collected.
- Buildings must communicate to residents upon move-in and at least once a year about what can and can't be recycled, where recycling is hauled to, and the name and contact information for a building representative they can reach out to with questions.
- Janitorial staff in buildings must receive annual training on the building's trash and recycling program.



SORTING

- All materials in the Mayor's List of Recyclables and Compostables must be recycled.
- Trash cannot contaminate recycling and recycling cannot be in trash.

Tools and resources are available to help you comply at zerowaste.dc.gov and you can reach out to zerowaste@dc.gov with questions.



[@dczerowaste](https://twitter.com/dczerowaste)

