

RETHINK WASTE

RECYCLING TIPS

for Multifamily Communities

Improve Garbage Enclosures

Make sure your residents have enough space to recycle right. The recommended ratio is 1 yard per 10 units. (Hint: Two of the 95-gallon commingled recycling bins equal one yard).

- ❑ Add a cardboard dumpster – it's free with a garbage plan!
- ❑ Add enough commingled recycling bins to achieve the recommended ratio – and place garbage and recycling containers together for easy access.
- ❑ Post a descriptive sign with example images for each separate bin: Landfill, Commingled Recycling, Glass and Cardboard.
- ❑ Place a commingled recycling guide in your garbage enclosure. You can download our sign at RethinkWasteProject.org/propertymanager.
- ❑ To cut down on illegal dumping, consider locking the garbage for resident use only.

If your garbage is overflowing each week, residents may be putting excess garbage in the recycling bins. Monitor your enclosure and make sure you're giving residents ACCESS to both recycling and garbage.

Often kids have a hard time reaching the bins when they take out the trash or recycling, create a space where they can leave trash and maintenance can help put the trash in the dumpster.



Education/Outreach

- ❑ Rethink Waste can provide free recycling training to teach your maintenance staff to recycle right, redirect trash traffic and keep garbage enclosures clean. Contact us!
- ❑ Provide a commingled recycling guide when new residents move in – available on our website.
- ❑ Provide each apartment unit a commingled recycling bin or bag with recycling guidelines. You can use our sticker design!

- Include a statement about recycling and sorting recyclables correctly in your lease language.
Example: *(Insert landlord or property management co here) supports the right of all residents to recycle as long as residents do so correctly. (Insert landlord or property management co here) will provide recycling collection services to tenants. Tenants are responsible for becoming familiar with and following local guidelines for which materials are (and are not) recyclable in (Insert County). Tenants agree to correctly sort and handle recyclable materials based on the provided recycling resources.*
- Create recycling displays for your community room – these are especially useful for new residents moving into the community.
- Provide kids who live in the community with recycling education. Consult our Youth Ed team for some fun recycling ideas, like the great garbage game!

Not everyone can make it to the landfill due to transportation, hours of operation or distance. Below are two systems to save your property money, save maintenance time and effectively manage waste:

Bulky Waste*

- If you have an empty garage on site, use it to dedicate a space so residents can bring items that don't fit in the dumpster to donate, recycle or dispose of waste correctly. This will save maintenance time and avoid overage charges on your garbage bill.
- Connect with local donation agencies to arrange pick-ups.
- Connect with residents when they are moving in or moving out to help them dispose of bulky items correctly.

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)*

What is Household Hazardous Waste? If you wouldn't drink it, it probably counts as HHW. HHW needs to be disposed of separately and can't be put in your recycling (even washing out toxic containers to be recycled puts these toxic materials in our waterways). Here are two ways to help residents dispose of HHW correctly:

- Provide information for new residents on HHW and how to properly dispose of it at Knott Landfill.
- Organize an occasional onsite HHW collection time for residents so that maintenance can make one trip to the Hazardous Waste Facility at Deschutes County's Knott Landfill – a free service!

* These two systems are still being piloted. Contact us to learn more.



Download all our signage and resources at rethinkwasteproject.org/propertymanager