



City of Auburn

Multifamily Collection Guide | 2026

wmnorthwest.com/auburn | 253-939-9792



SERVICE TIPS & RESOURCES



This guide includes tips and resources to improve your garbage, recycle and yard+food waste collection services at your multifamily complex. Others have found it easy to achieve success using these resources. Remember, we're here to help!

Service Highlights

CONTAINER COLORS & SIZES

- Garbage containers are grey. Yard+food waste containers are green. Recycle containers are blue.
- Please contact us if you need to change sizes or service frequency.

RECYCLING REMINDER

- Paper cartons (milk or juice), shredded paper and plastic bags should all go in the garbage. See page 3 for a complete recycling guide. Contact us for additional recycling flyers.

Recognition

Sign up for the Envirostars™ program to become a certified green multifamily complex and get ideas to become more sustainable.

For more info, visit: envirostars.greenbiztracker.org

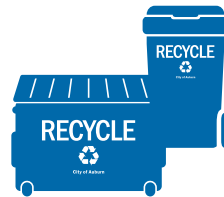


Keep Enclosures Clean

- Ensure adequate garbage and recycling service so material doesn't get left on the ground.
- Area around containers must be clear of materials (extra bags or bulky items) for collection.
- Close container lids to deter pests and keep rainwater from entering your container.
- Request free replacement of damaged WM containers.
- Encourage residents to flatten boxes.

Unlimited Recycling Service

- Each multifamily complex is allowed unlimited, weekly recycle collection in carts, and up to three times per week in dumpsters (1-8yd sizes).



Solid Waste Rates

- Please visit wmnorthwest.com/auburn for garbage, yard+food waste and recycle container options and rates.

Blocked Containers or Contaminated Recycling

- WM maintains a "Haul or Call" policy for collection.
- We ask customers to keep containers unblocked (parked cars, overflow material, locked gates, etc.) so that we can empty and replace them in a timely fashion.
- If a driver finds the container blocked or contains contamination, dispatch will be notified.
- Driver will wait up to 4 minutes for container access before moving on with the route.
- If Dispatch reaches the customer, they will ask the customer to clear access or remove the contamination and arrange for later collection if necessary. Extra service charges may apply.
- If Dispatch is unable to contact the customer, they will leave a message explaining the circumstances, and ask the customer to call Customer Service to schedule another collection. Extra service charges may apply.

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RECYCLING



Place only clean, dry, and loose items (as listed below) in your **blue** recycling container. Collected every week.

Metal

ALUMINUM & TIN CANS

Place lids in can, crimp the can shut. Labels ok.

SCRAP METAL

Small, non-working metal appliances, pots, tools, etc. Limit 2' x 2' x 2', 35lbs; no wood, plastic, or rubber attachments; no sharp metal.

Glass

BOTTLES & JARS

Only bottles and jars (no other types or shapes). All colors. Labels OK.

Paper and Cardboard

CLEAN & DRY

INCLUDES: paperback books, catalogs, magazines, paper cups, dry food boxes (remove plastic liner), non-foil wrapping paper. Flatten all boxes (do not tie up); Maximum size 3'x3'.

Plastic

BOTTLES, JUGS, CUPS & TUBS

Ignore the numbers, recycle plastics by shape!



No colored party cups

Free Recycling Assistance

WM WANTS TO HELP YOUR COMMUNITY RECYCLE RIGHT

For free educational resources for your residents including recycling fliers, e-blast content and recycling 101 webinars, contact the outreach team at recyclenw@wm.com.

RECYCLING TIPS

No plastic bags, garbage bags or "recycling" bags allowed.



Paper cartons (milk or juice) are not accepted and should be placed in the garbage.



Empty and rinse out all food residue. Labels do not need to be removed.



Ignore the number on plastics—Look at the SHAPE. Recycle plastic only if it is a bottle, jug or tub.



Extra recycling: If you often generate extra recycle, please call WM to increase your container to the next size. Recycling needs to be kept in a container and dry.



Your materials are being recycled! All the recyclable items collected will be made into something new.

Recycling All Stars

Win a pizza party for your community!

Has WM contacted you about contamination in your multifamily complex recycling? WM will recognize 1-2 multifamily complexes each year that demonstrate improved recycling by keeping materials clean, loose, and only recycling items accepted in Auburn's program. Winners will receive a pizza party celebration by WM that includes games and prizes for staff.

Never received a contamination notice from WM? Multifamily complexes can also qualify by making an online pledge to continue to recycle right at wmnorthwest.com/auburn.

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YARD+FOOD WASTE



These go in your **green** yard+food waste container.
Collected weekly.

Yard Waste & Plants

INCLUDES: Plants, grass clippings and weeds.
(Remove plastic pots, twine, gardening tape and twist ties).

Leaves, tree branches and roots.
(4' or shorter & less than
4" in diameter).

All debris must fit in cart
with lid closed.



Food Waste & Leftovers

All food including, meat, bones, fish and cheese.



No utensils,
cups, or dishes—
even if labeled
"compostable" or
"biodegradable".

YARD+FOOD TIPS

Gather food scraps
from your kitchen in:

- Paper grocery bag
- Reusable container
- Newspaper
- Certified compostable bag
(Look for this symbol) →



Empty contents of reusable
container into the yard+food
waste cart frequently and rinse out.

**NO SHREDDED PAPER,
TO-GO CONTAINERS,
MILK CARTONS,
OR PET WASTE.**



Remove candles
from Jack-o-lanterns



Christmas Tree Collection Event:

Visit wmnorthwest.com/auburn for dates and
guidelines.

Extra Yard Waste



(collected for a charge)

If you often generate extra yard
waste, additional yard waste carts
are offered at a discounted rate.
For occasional extra yard waste,
place next to yard+food waste
cart in any of the following:

- Heavy brown paper yard bags
(available at hardware stores)
- 32-gallon cans labeled
"Yard Waste" (65 lb. limit)
- Bundles tied with natural
twine (4'x2' limit)

**NO FOOD WASTE IN EXTRA
YARD WASTE CONTAINERS**

**NO EXTRA YARD WASTE IN
PLASTIC BAGS.**

Paper

Must be uncoated (not shiny or plastic-lined).
Greasy food soiled paper is ok.



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