



County of Fairfax, Virginia

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY

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Recycling Services and Collection Fees at Commercial Properties

Fairfax County's solid waste management ordinance, Chapter 109.1, requires that everybody, *at work and at home*, have access to recycling. This Solid Waste Advisory is intended to clarify selected mandatory recycling requirements that apply to commercial property owners and their waste collectors.

1. The purpose of Chapter 109.1 is the furtherance of effective solid waste management, which includes the proper storage, collection, and processing or disposal of the solid waste stream generated within Fairfax County. Refuse and recyclables (as defined by Chapter 109.1) are each fractions of the solid waste stream, and as such each must be managed and collected properly, in accordance with the law.
2. Commercial property owners (e.g., office buildings, apartment complexes) are required to provide a recycling system to their tenants, occupants, employees, and/or customers. This system must include adequate storage of recyclables until they can be collected.
3. Recyclables that are stored outside must be stored in an appropriate container. Appropriate container designs include 50-100 gallon carts, 1-2 yard trash containers, and 6-8 yard dumpsters. Other designs and capacities can be used as space and needs dictate. Section 109.1-5-6 provides further detail on required container design features.
4. Recyclables containers must be serviced weekly, unless the property has registered w/ the County's Reduced Collection Frequency pilot program (RCF).
5. Where recyclables have been set out properly in an appropriate container (as specified by Code and the relevant collection contract), Section 109.1-5-3(d)(2) requires the waste collector to collect those recyclables weekly as part of the base price for refuse collection. Practically, this means that a waste collection contract may include the cost to rent a recyclables container, but a waste collection contract must also include a minimum level of service for collection of recyclable materials *as a part of the base price*. Where the property owner sets out recyclables in a container that it owns and that meets the collector's set-out specifications, the collector cannot charge extra for weekly removal of those recyclables under Section 109.1-5-3(d)(2).

The responsibility to provide an adequate recycling system (including appropriate containers) rests with the property owner. The waste collector may charge customers a fee to provide the necessary containers, but it cannot charge an additional fee for providing the minimum level of service that is mandated by the Code.

For more information on this Advisory, and on how to obtain a RCF registration form, please contact the SWMP at 703.324.5230, TTY 711.