



# Construction & Demolition Debris Management Q&A for Contractors

## ► **Should I recycle?**

Yes. There are many good reasons to recycle, including reducing your costs. You can also earn LEED and Built Green points, conserve materials, protect the environment, create local jobs and businesses (your future clients), and make the world a better place. In Snohomish County, you are not legally required to recycle, but it is a smart thing to do.

## ► **If I recycle, am I required to have a container for garbage?**

Yes. All projects generate non-recyclable materials that must go into a properly marked solid waste container for disposal.

## ► **Does the container for garbage have to be as big as the container for recyclables?**

No. Many construction materials generated are recyclable. However, the non-recyclable container should be proportional to the project's size and amount of waste generated. The majority of new construction materials are recyclable if properly managed.

## ► **Do I need to have separate containers for each kind of recyclable, like metal and wood?**

County code does not require recyclables to be separated at the job site. It can be mixed if the service you have hired allows this.

However, some services require you to separate materials and there can be financial benefits to do so. Shop around to determine which arrangement and service works best for you.

## ► **Can I have one company haul my garbage and have a different company haul my recyclables?**

Yes, absolutely.

## ► **Are there haulers who can handle both "recycle" and "waste" containers?**

Yes and no. It depends . . .

Only "G-certificated" or municipal-contracted haulers can haul solid waste for disposal. They have their garbage rates and services reviewed and set by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) or are contracted with a local municipality. Solid waste containers must be hauled by a G-certificated hauler or garbage collection company under contract with a city or town if you don't haul it yourself. These haulers can also transport recyclables, and may offer a recycling service. The rates for the recycling services are not set by the WUTC but may be set by city contract.

If your G-certificated or municipal-contracted hauler is also hired to haul recyclables, then yes, your

"recycler" can also haul the garbage container. But if you hire a recycler who is not one of these, your "recycler" cannot also haul the garbage container. Other transporters that are not allowed to haul solid waste may be allowed to haul recyclables. You can hire any transporter registered as a "common carrier" with the WUTC to haul recyclables to a reclamation facility/processor to recycle them.

## ► **Can I haul the garbage myself?**

Yes. You can take your garbage directly to a Snohomish County transfer station yourself.

## ► **Can I haul the recycling container myself?**

Yes. You can take recyclables to a reclamation/processing facility or recycler yourself. Be sure to check what materials are accepted for recycling at the facility and that you don't have more than 10 percent incidental waste by volume.

## ► **Do I have more than one option for who can haul my solid waste for disposal?**

No, there is only one WUTC G-certificated or municipal-contracted hauler in a given area unless you haul it yourself. To find your disposal service, refer to the Garbage Service Provider list under Additional Resources at [www.snohomishcountywa.gov/CDwaste](http://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/CDwaste).

► **Do I have more than one option for who can haul my recyclables for recycling?**

Yes, there is open competition for hauling of clean recyclables which many businesses provide. You can research recycling services in a variety of ways, including visiting <http://1800recycle.wa.gov>.

► **How do I know what is recyclable?**

The recycling hauler or the facility that you haul to should provide a list of accepted materials. Not all transporters and facilities have the same list of accepted materials. Just because a material can be recycled doesn't make it a recyclable. Only materials actually recycled (sold to be made into new products) are considered recyclables in Snohomish County.

► **What if workers put non-recyclables in the recycling container?**

You will need to clean out the non-recyclable materials before the container is hauled. Containers must have no more than 10 percent incidental waste by volume. Please work with employees/subcontractors to ensure that the problem doesn't persist.

► **If the recycling container has been contaminated with garbage, can't it just be hauled to the transfer station as solid waste?**

No. Marked recycling containers are not allowed at disposal facilities. Such containers should be free of non-recyclable materials before the container is transported to a recycling processor.

► **Is incineration or the combustion of materials considered recycling?**

No. Per the Snohomish County Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan and SCC 7.35, incineration or combustion of material is not considered "recycling." Additionally, reclamation of material does not include combustion of solid waste or the preparation of a fuel from solid waste (other than hog fuel).

► **What if there is no longer a market for a material that was previously considered "recyclable"? How should that be handled?**

Per the Snohomish County Solid Waste Comprehensive Plan, the designation of "recyclable" only applies to those materials that have actual markets and that are actually recycled. For instance, not all plastics or roofing may qualify as recyclable. If not recycled, designated materials and other wastes must be managed as solid waste for disposal.

► **How am I supposed to get my workers and contractors to put the right stuff in the right box?**

The recycling service should provide signage and instructions on the container showing what can be recycled and what must be put in garbage containers. If they don't provide this information, shop around. Using this information, make sure that the waste/recycling handling is done correctly.

► **What happens if I don't separate the non-recyclables from the recyclables? Can I be fined?**

You are not required to recycle. If you don't want to separate the materials, it can all be disposed of as garbage.

If you choose to recycle, it is required to separate the garbage from recyclables and place each in the properly marked container. You can be fined if you do not have a separate garbage container.

If your recycling container has more than 10 percent waste, your recycling service provider cannot haul it to a recycling facility. You will need to clean it up before it can be hauled. Your hauler can be fined if it exceeds the limit and they transport the box. If the problem persists, your recycling service provider may withdraw their service, and all of your materials will then have to be sent to landfill. Recycling saves you money, so you will want to avoid this situation.

► **Can I get help from the county?**

Yes. If you already have a solid waste and/or recycling hauler, please seek assistance and information from them first. If you still need to contact the Snohomish County Public Works Solid Waste Division, you can call 425-388-3425 or email [solid.waste@snoco.org](mailto:solid.waste@snoco.org).

