



# City of Auburn

Commercial Collection Guide | 2025

[wmnorthwest.com/auburn](http://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 business. 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.
- Contact us if you need to change sizes or service frequency. Container sizes range from 35-, 64-, 96-gallon carts to steel containers 1 cubic yard to 8 cubic yards and large drop-boxes 20 cubic yards and more.

### 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. Please contact us for additional recycling flyers.

## Recognition

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

For more info, visit: [envirostars.greenbiztracker.org](http://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.
- Flatten boxes.
- Request replacement of damaged WM containers.

## Unlimited Recycling Service

- Auburn businesses may receive unlimited, weekly recycle collection in carts and/or containers (1 cubic yard to 8 cubic yard sizes).



## Solid Waste Rates

- Please visit [wmnorthwest.com/auburn](http://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 manner.
- 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 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, dry food boxes (remove plastic liner), non-foil wrapping paper. Flatten all boxes (do not tie up); Maximum size 3'x3'.

## Plastic

### BOTTLES, JUGS & TUBS

Ignore the numbers, recycle plastics by shape!



## 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. No containers that held hazardous material.



**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 team!

Has WM contacted you about contamination in your business recycling? WM will recognize 1-2 businesses each year that demonstrate improved recycling by keeping materials clean, dry and 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? Businesses can also qualify by making an online pledge to continue to recycle right at [wmnorthwest.com/auburn](http://wmnorthwest.com/auburn).

## Free Recycling Assistance

### WM WANTS TO HELP YOUR BUSINESS RECYCLE RIGHT

For free educational resources for your business including recycling fliers, e-blast content, and recycling 101 webinars, contact the outreach team at [recyclenw@wm.com](mailto:recyclenw@wm.com).

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# YARD+FOOD WASTE



These go in your **green** yard+food waste container. Collected weekly. (Also offered twice-weekly for interested customers.)

## 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/ container with lid closed.



## Food Waste & Leftovers

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



Remove candles from Jack-o-lanterns



### Christmas Tree Collection Event:

For businesses who have yard+food waste services.

Visit [wmnorthwest.com/auburn](http://wmnorthwest.com/auburn) for dates and guidelines.

## Compostable Service Ware

### ONLY APPROVED COMPOSTABLE ITEMS

Not all products labeled "compostable" break down in our local facility. For a list of approved compostable products, visit [compostmanufacturingalliance.com](http://compostmanufacturingalliance.com).



## 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/container frequently and rinse out.

- No Shredded Paper
- No Milk Cartons
- No Treated/Painted Wood

## Extra Yard Waste

(collected for a charge)

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.**

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# GARBAGE



Bag these and put them in your **grey** garbage container.  
Collected weekly.


## Non-Recyclable Plastic


INCLUDES: Styrofoam™ products, plastic plates and cups, caps and lids, plastic utensils, empty prescription vials, diapers, chip bags and candy wrappers.




Bag plastic bags & bring them to the grocery store.

## GARBAGE TIPS

**Numbers do not matter.**   
If a plastic item is not a bottle, jug or tub, it belongs in the garbage.

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

**Double bag** pet waste, vacuum dust, sawdust and cold ashes. 

**DO NOT** put liquids, yard waste, hazardous waste or recycling in the garbage.



## Non-Recyclable Glass

INCLUDES: Incandescent light bulbs  
(Fluorescent light bulbs & tubes need special disposable)



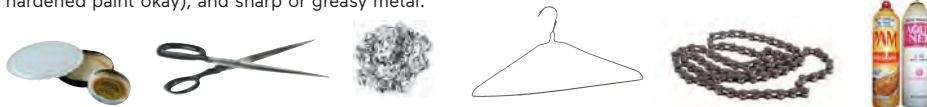
## Non-Recyclable Paper

INCLUDES: Disposable wipes, hardcover books, foil wrapping paper, coated (shiny) paper plates, facial tissue, shredded paper.



## Non-Recyclable Metal

INCLUDES: Caps, lids, empty latex paint cans (dry out paint, remove lids, hardened paint okay), and sharp or greasy metal.



## Other Garbage

INCLUDES: Bagged cold ashes, vacuum bag and dust; bagged pet waste and cat litter; broken household items, office supplies, toys, plastic packaging for food and other products.



**Recycle Appliances**  
Visit [1800recycle.wa.gov](http://1800recycle.wa.gov)

**Recycle Plastic Bags**  
Take back to a participating grocery store.

**Thrift Stores**  
See page 7.

## Extra Garbage

*(collected for a charge)*

If you often generate extra garbage, consider increasing to the next size garbage container.

Any extra garbage (including lid open or anything outside of the container) will incur an extra charge.



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