

## Impact of New Requirements on Certain Multi-Family Dwellings and Businesses

### Multi-Family Dwellings:

Trash Chutes – If your property has trash chutes, recycling containers must also be provided:

- If possible, designate one of the chutes for recycling and place the mandatory recycling label on the chute door or above it and on the chute room door where applicable.
- If you can not designate a chute for recycling, place recycling container(s) next to or as close to each trash chute as possible.

### Businesses:

Hotels and Motels – Recycling containers are required adjacent to trash containers in all areas where recyclable materials are likely to be disposed, such as near vending machines, lobby, elevators, pool/spa, breakfast room, business room, and in each guest room.

Fast Food and Fast Casual Restaurants – Recycling containers must be provided adjacent to each trash container provided for customers' use.

### Helpful Tips for Implementation:

- If possible, choose recycling containers that are a different color than trash cans or label clearly.
- If purchasing new recycling containers is not feasible, re-purpose some existing trash cans by labeling as recycling containers.
- Consider removing an existing trash can to avoid the requirement to provide an adjacent recycling container.
- Label recycling containers to indicate which recyclable materials are acceptable.

## Mandatory Educational Requirements

Employees and tenants must know about your recycling program in order to participate effectively. Educate tenants, employees, and users about the recycling program by providing written or electronic instructions within 14 days of occupancy and at least once per year thereafter.

Educational information should include the following:

- What materials to recycle;
- How to prepare and sort materials;
- Where to bring recyclables;
- When recyclables are collected; and
- Who to contact for more information.

Use any of the following methods to educate:

- Lease addenda;
- Move-in packets;
- Recycling guide;
- Website;
- Door-hangers;
- Newsletters; and
- Signage.

## Penalty

Failure to comply with the recycling requirements can result in a fine of up to \$300 per day for each day a violation continues. However, it is the DES, Solid Waste Bureau's goal to achieve compliance through education and technical assistance before initiating enforcement efforts.

For more information on Arlington County's recycling requirements or to request a visit from a County Recycling Specialist, please contact us at [ArlRecycles@arlingtonva.us](mailto:ArlRecycles@arlingtonva.us) or call 703-228-6570.

For additional resources, access the Multi-Family & Commercial Toolkit at: [recycling.arlingtonva.us/recycling-system-toolkit](http://recycling.arlingtonva.us/recycling-system-toolkit).

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# Arlington County Multi-Family & Commercial Recycling Requirements



  
ARLINGTON  
VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

# Mandatory Recycling Requirements for Multi-Family Dwellings & Commercial Establishments

Over the years, Arlington County has promoted and expanded recycling opportunities for its residents through the curbside collection program. However, in order for the County to meet its recycling goals, participation by the multi-family and commercial sectors in waste diversion efforts is critically important. Property owners in these sectors have been required by law (Arlington County Code, Chapter 10 Article IV) to have a comprehensive recycling program in place for residents, employees and tenants since January 2011. The purpose of this brochure is to describe in brief, Arlington County's requirements for recycling at multi-family and commercial properties.

On January 24, 2015, the Arlington County Board approved revisions to Chapter 10 of the Arlington County Code that expanded the existing recycling requirements for multi-family dwellings and commercial establishments. These additional recycling regulations, effective January 1, 2016, require that recycling opportunities in multi-family dwellings and commercial establishments be expanded to all interior and exterior areas where recyclable materials are likely to be disposed. Multi-family and commercial properties that provide trash cans for use by tenants, visitors, employees or customers are impacted by these regulations.

## Materials That Must be Recycled

County regulations require that the following materials be separated from trash for recycling:

- Mixed paper;
- Cardboard;
- Metal and aluminum cans;
- Plastic beverage and food containers; and
- Glass bottles and jars.

Mixing all of the above materials into one container is called **single-stream** recycling. Your collection company can provide a single-stream recycling dumpster in which all the required recyclable materials can be mixed together.

Note: **Trash AND recyclable materials** may not be collected together in the same container, either on the interior or exterior of the property. So-called "one box" service where trash and recycling are collected together is not allowed. If a collection company says that you do not need to separate recyclables from trash, this is not correct. Additionally, if a collection company provides only a cardboard/paper recycling dumpster, this is not correct. **All** the materials in the list above must be collected for recycling.

## Other Recycling Requirements

Multi-family dwellings and commercial establishments are also required to register and submit a trash and recycling plan on the County's online management tool at: [connect.re-trac.com/registration/Arlington-county](http://connect.re-trac.com/registration/Arlington-county).

**Each multi-family dwelling and commercial establishment is required to pay a recycling compliance inspection fee of \$66 per year. (CODE SECTION - §10-39)**

## Exemptions

Limited exemptions from the recycling requirements may be granted. For further information, contact the DES, Solid Waste Bureau.

### RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS

#### Effective January 1, 2011

1. Multi-family Dwellings must provide a recycling system that includes a sufficient number of recycling containers for residents to separate recyclable materials from trash.
2. Commercial Establishments must provide a recycling system that includes a sufficient number of recycling containers for employees and tenants to separate recyclable materials from trash.
3. Properly label all recycling containers to clearly distinguish them from trash cans.
4. Maintain all containers in a sanitary and serviceable condition, and place containers on a concrete, asphalt, or other impervious surface.
5. Arrange for the collection and transportation of recyclable materials at least once per week by contracting with a permitted collection company or provide proof of self-hauling to a recycling facility. A list of permitted collection companies can be obtained from the Solid Waste Bureau.
6. Educate residents, employees, and tenants about the recycling system upon occupancy and at least annually thereafter.

#### Effective January 1, 2016

1. Multi-family Dwellings - IF there is a trash container provided for use by tenants, visitors and employees AND it is reasonably expected that recyclable materials would be disposed at that trash container location, then a recycling container must also be provided adjacent to the trash container. *This requirement will apply to locations both on the interior and the exterior of the property such as club rooms, laundry rooms, gyms, mailrooms, lobbies, business rooms, roof decks, pools, and green spaces.*
2. Commercial Establishments - IF there is a trash container provided for use by tenants, customers, and employees AND it is reasonably expected that recyclable materials would be disposed at that trash container location, then a recycling container must also be provided adjacent to the trash container. *This requirement will apply to areas both on the interior and the exterior of the property such as dining rooms, front-of-store, waiting rooms, lobbies, hallways, walkways, and entrances.*
3. Ensure that all recyclable materials collected and stored on site are not mixed with or disposed as trash.