Planning for Solid Waste & Recycling

Reasons to Plan for Solid Waste and Recycling

Although often overlooked, planning for solid waste and recycling needs is just as important as planning for utilities like water and sewer. In the long run, planning for your solid waste needs makes your project more attractive and saves both money and time. If solid waste issues are not considered in the initial site design, delays in plan approval and costly trash enclosure reconstruction may be required.

Assistance with planning your solid waste needs can be obtained by calling Boise’s Public Works Department at 384-3901.

The Purpose of Boise’s Solid Waste Ordinance

- Promote the health, safety, and general welfare of Boise’s citizens; and enhance/preserve the quality and value of the City of Boise’s resources by properly managing solid waste.
- Protect the environment from pollutants by establishing a system for storing, handling, collecting and processing solid waste.
- Encourage and improve recycling opportunities.
- Equitably distribute the cost of the solid waste management system.

Ordinance Highlights

- Regular trash service is required for all commercial & residential addresses in the City of Boise. The only alternative for a business is to self-haul solid waste to the landfill.
- The service provider (City of Boise) has final approval of commercial container locations to ensure proper height and width clearances.
- Site plans approved by the Environmental Division of the Public Works Department are required for all new construction and remodeling of commercial and multi-family premises.
- Solid waste containers must be shielded from public view by walls, fences or landscaping.
- Site plans must clearly show the location of solid waste containers and enclosures or other shielding.
- A detailed drawing of the enclosures with all dimensions is required.
- The trash enclosure must be placed to allow the truck a straight line approach to the enclosure for servicing. (50’ minimum in front of the enclosure).
- A paved turn around is required for collection vehicles if forward access to a public street is not provided.
- A minimum turning radius of 45’ shall be maintained on the approach to and exit from the enclosure.
- Roofs are not permitted on enclosures and 20 feet of vertical clearance is required.
Example of an Enclosure for 3, 4, 6, or 8 Yard Trash Containers

**Note:**
- **For two trash containers:** Increase the enclosure width & gate opening to 18’.
- **For one trash container with 95 gallon recycling carts:** increase the enclosure width & gate opening to 15’.

Large “Roll-off” & Compactor Containers (20 yd, 40 yd)

- These containers require 60’ of access in front of the container and 25’ of overhead clearance in order to be serviced.
- Other considerations are required; please contact Public Works at 384-3901 for assistance if compactors are to be used in a project.

Recommended Practices and Helpful Hints

- Commercial solid waste may be collected 24 hours a day, and is often collected early in the morning. Locate solid waste containers away from nearby residential development to avoid noise complaints.
- Remember that the collection trucks are very large (38’ long, 11’ wide and 15’ tall) give them the space they need to provide efficient service.
- Provide pedestrian access to your solid waste enclosure. This will keep the enclosure clean and reduce your costs of cleaning the enclosure.
- Plan for expansion. Don’t get stuck paying for a new or remodeled enclosure when your development expands. Plan ahead and be ready for an increase in solid waste services.
- Plan for solid waste early. Don’t have your plans held up because you haven’t provided proper solid waste collection for your development.
- Give as much information as possible about your solid waste plans on applications and construction documents, this will speed up the approval process.
- Don’t block collection with canopies or carports; make sure the trucks have 15’ vertical clearance.
- Allow space for enclosure gates to open 120°. Don’t block gates with curbs, parking or shrubs.
- Recycle! Recycling will lower your trash bill, impress your tenants, and it’s the right thing to do.
- Your solid waste enclosure doesn’t have to be an eyesore; get creative and make it look good.
- Get help early. Call Boise’s Public Works Department (384-3901) for assistance with your solid waste planning.

Violations of the Ordinance May Result In:

- Refusal of trash service
- Reconstruction of trash enclosure at owners cost
- Fines of up to $300 per day or six month imprisonment, or both

More Information

- This pamphlet is a guide and does not include all solid waste requirements.
- Contact Public Works at 384-3901 or go online at www.cityofboise.org/Departments/Public_Works/NewDevelopmentPermitApps for a full list of requirements.