

Recycling requirements for multifamily properties



Multifamily properties in Hennepin County are required to provide recycling service.

Multifamily means an apartment building, condominium, townhouse, cooperative housing unit, or any other property where a property manager or association coordinates waste collection service for residents of the housing. Multifamily is generally five or more units.



How to comply

1. Have adequate recycling hauling service

Multifamily properties must provide single-sort (all recyclables are mixed) recycling service. The recycling service must be adequate for the amount of recyclables being generated on-site. If recycling collection containers are consistently overflowing, and result in recyclables being placed in the trash instead, properties are required to increase service levels.

Recycling service should be equal in capacity to trash service to capture all recyclable material generated by residents. We recommend recycling containers have a capacity of at least 0.1 cubic yard per week for each unit.

Right-sizing your recycling service could help save money. It generally costs less to dispose of recycling than trash, and you can avoid fees for overflowing or inaccessible carts/dumpsters.

2. Provide recycling education annually

Waste management information in print or electronic form must include:

- Reasons to properly manage recycling and organics and adopt practices that reduce waste
- A list of materials that are recyclable and not recyclable, and preparation instructions (such as flattening cardboard)
- Location of trash and recycling collection containers on-site
- Disposal options for bulky items, such as mattresses and furniture, and hazardous wastes
- Contact information for the city or Hennepin County for more information

Residents must receive this information at move-in and at least once per year thereafter. Property managers must provide documentation of their education if asked.

Recycling guides and additional waste disposal information can be ordered or downloaded from the county at no cost. hennepin.us/apartment-resources



3. Pair recycling bins with trash bins

Wherever there is a trash container in a common area, place a recycling bin nearby. Common areas include, but are not limited to, lobbies, laundry rooms, mail rooms, and community rooms. This makes the trash and recycling equally convenient, allowing residents to sort their waste. The recycling bin must be large enough to collect all recyclables so it doesn't overflow and result in recyclables being placed in the trash.

The county has grants for multifamily properties to buy recycling containers for common areas. hennepin.us/apartmentrecycling

4. Label bins and chutes

Label each bin and chute access with the waste type collected (e.g., trash, recycling, cardboard). Labels must meet county label requirements:

- Include relevant terminology: Trash, Recycling, Organics
- Be color-coded (blue for recycling, green for organics if applicable, and red, gray, or black for trash)
- Include images and icons of acceptable materials that go in recycling and organics recycling bins
- Include preparation instructions where applicable (e.g., flatten cardboard, empty liquids)

Property managers and owners must label containers in common areas. Replace labels if they become unreadable or show items that are no longer accepted in that waste stream. Your waste hauler is responsible for labeling the recycling and trash containers provided to the property for waste collection. All accessible sides of a container should be labeled. Contact your hauler if you are missing proper collection container labels.

Labels that meet these requirements are available from the county for free. If creating your own labels, it is recommended that you get labels approved prior to printing. E-mail proposed labels to apartmentrecycling@hennepin.us

Enforcement

Recycling at multifamily properties is required by city code and county ordinance. The county has the authority to inspect properties. Properties will first be given a chance to comply before warnings or citations are issued.

Hennepin County cities require properties to offer recycling service to their residents. For more information, check with your city recycling coordinator.

hennepin.us/recycling

Free resources are available

Educational materials

Recycling guides, posters, labels, and reusable tote bags for in-unit recycling collection are available at no cost to help you educate your residents on how and what to recycle.



Presentations

County staff can come to your property and educate residents about waste reduction and recycling. Webinar and remote learning options are also available.

Site visits

Free technical assistance is available to help ensure your recycling set-up is easily accessible and properly labeled. Staff can also conduct door-to-door outreach by request.

Grants

Grants are available to start or improve recycling or organics recycling, reduce contamination, prevent waste, and educate residents on recycling and waste prevention. Funds can be used for recycling bins or to improve on-site recycling infrastructure.

Learn more

More information about the requirements and free resources to help you comply are available at hennepin.us/apartmentrecycling