

Revisions to Snohomish County Code 7.35 & 7.41 SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLABLES



Snohomish County Code was recently revised to provide greater clarity on how waste and recyclables are handled within the county, including recyclable and non-recyclable construction and demolition debris.

The purpose of the changes is:

- to provide transparency about which materials are being recycled and which materials are being disposed at a landfill,
- to promote recycling, and
- to ensure that landfill-disposed materials are properly handled and are disposed in the Snohomish County solid waste system.

Disposal fees for waste generated in Snohomish County pay for the ongoing monitoring of nine closed landfills, operation of five disposal facilities, illegal dumping cleanup, recycling and program planning, and operation of a household hazardous waste drop-off station. The County's solid waste system benefits all residents and businesses in Snohomish County and receives no local taxes or general fund revenues. It is important to keep disposal fees for waste generated in Snohomish County in the local solid waste system ("flow control") to cover the cost of these community programs and services.

Key highlights of the clarifications in the code include:

- Commercially provided containers for hauling non-recyclable waste for landfill disposal must be marked with the words "solid waste for disposal," "landfill," or "garbage." These containers can ONLY be transported to a Snohomish County Transfer Station. (Note that state law restricts who can commercially haul waste for landfill disposal to WUTC-certificated waste haulers, city contracted haulers, and demolition companies hauling waste from their own demolition projects.

Others can "self-haul" their own waste, including contractors, who can "self-haul" construction waste for landfill disposal. In all cases, the waste must go to Snohomish County disposal facilities.)

- Commercially provided containers for hauling recyclables for recycling must be marked with the words "recyclables" or "recycling" or display the universal recycling symbol (three chasing arrows that form an unending loop). These containers can ONLY be transported to a reclamation site/processor to be recycled. They can be transported to a recycling facility in or outside of Snohomish County at whatever rate is offered by the hauler/processing facility. (Note that state law allows materials that will be recycled to be commercially hauled by a wider range of businesses, including properly licensed common carriers, such as construction and demolition material haulers. Materials can also be "self-hauled.")
- Any site utilizing recycling services must also have a properly marked container for non-recyclable waste for landfill disposal.
- Only recyclables that are actually going to be recycled should be put in the recycling containers. If the recycling containers have more than 10 percent accidental and incidental non-recyclable waste (by volume), they need to be "cleaned up" on site before they can be hauled to a recycling facility.
- Intermodal containers for hauling waste for landfill disposal directly to rail facilities are not allowed on construction/demolition job sites, except for as otherwise approved by Snohomish County Solid Waste for the hauling of friable and non-friable asbestos containing material.
- Construction and demolition waste hauled to Snohomish County transfer stations are charged at the rate of \$105/ton.
- Non-recycled residuals from reclamation facilities processing recyclables in Snohomish County must be disposed as solid waste.



Snohomish County

March 29, 2011