



Seattle Public Utilities
Public Place Litter and Recycling Program
Can Placement Criteria

Litter and recycling containers are provided to support public litter collection within business areas that have a demonstrated need as determined by SPU program management. Litter and recycling can configurations vary by location. Placement shall take into account whether privately provided litter cans are currently in service. Cans are located in commercial districts with a high pedestrian presence that conform to program goals.

Approved Location Criteria

- Within mixed use business areas that have a frequent pedestrian presence
 - Mixed use business areas may include a combination of retail, commercial, residential, and civic space.
 - Frequent pedestrian presence may be distinguished by the number of pedestrians to pass a particular location depending upon the type of street or adjacent businesses.
- On public sidewalk right-of-ways adjacent to businesses
 - Can locations must always remain in the public right-of-way and are intended to be positioned in business areas and mixed-use business areas.
- On or near street corners and at mid-block determined by block length
 - Cans provide service to more pedestrians when located on corners.
 - A can may be placed at mid-block as necessary to provide adequate service.
- Permits easy service access
 - All cans must be placed in locations where there is easy access for service vehicles and for personnel to service the container safely.
- Permits easy inspection access
 - All cans must be placed in locations where cans can be easily inspected.
- Permits unimpeded pedestrian traffic flow
 - All cans must be placed in locations where pedestrian traffic flows will not be impeded. Often the cans are positioned near the curb, within the right of way that is normally occupied by utility poles and street sign posts.
- Permits unimpeded vehicular parking and/or traffic flow.
 - All cans must be placed in locations where vehicular traffic flows and parking will not be impeded.

Unapproved Location Criteria

- In business areas already served by private cans.
 - Many businesses place privately owned cans adjacent to their business within the pedestrian right of way to collection litter from their patrons and to maintain a litter free store front.
- Within park areas served by Seattle Parks Department.
 - Seattle Parks litter can requests should be forwarded to the Parks Department.
- At Metro bus stops.
 - Metro bus stop can requests should be forwarded to King County Metro.
- Within residential neighborhoods.
 - Cans are only provided within business and mixed use business areas.

- For the sole use of adjacent businesses.
 - Businesses that require litter cans for their patrons must provide their own cans and service.
- On narrow sidewalks (less than 5-ft wide) with grassy planting strips.
 - Cans cannot be placed directly in the pedestrian right-of-way. They must be placed near the street curb on sidewalks that are wider than 5-ft.
- On sidewalks adjacent to protected bicycle lanes.
 - It is difficult and dangerous for SPU's contracted haulers to access PPLR's cans when they must cross bicycle lanes.

Removal and Relocation Criteria

- If found to be used for illegal dumping.
 - Depositing personal trash from one's home or business trash into a city receptacle is prohibited by law.
- If found to be the subject of repeated instances of overflowing trash.
 - Cans in locations that are subject to repeated trash overflow may be relocated or removed from service.
- If found to be the subject of repeated vandalism, including fires or graffiti.
 - Cans in locations that are subject to repeated vandalism may be relocated or removed from service.
- If found to be used for personal business or residential use.
 - Litter can use by personal business or residential use is prohibited by law.
- If found to be located at Metro bus stops.
 - In rare circumstances, placement of SPU litter cans at Metro bus stops is provided at the sole discretion of SPU.
 - Metro bus stop can requests should be forwarded to King County / Metro.

Self-Serve Approved Location Criteria

- Within mixed use business areas that have a frequent pedestrian presence.
- On public sidewalk right-of-ways adjacent to businesses.
- At locations near street corners and at mid-block determined by block length (preferred).
- Permits unimpeded pedestrian traffic flow.
- Permits unimpeded vehicular parking and/or traffic flow.
- Commitment of volunteer party to continue to maintain can(s) as outlined in a MOA.

Self-Serve Unapproved Location Criteria

- Within park areas served by Seattle Parks Department.
- Within residential neighborhoods.