



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

This document details the criteria program staff use to place litter and recycling cans across the City of Seattle.

Approved Placement Criteria

A litter or recycling receptacle can be placed at the discretion of SPU if **all** of the following conditions are met:

- the location is within a mixed use business area that has frequent pedestrian presence
 - mixed use business areas refers to some combination of retail, commercial, residential, and civic spaces
 - frequent pedestrian presence refers to the relative number of pedestrians using the street depending on the type of street or adjacent businesses
 - rationale: these resources are intended for reducing the accumulation of waste in public congested areas
- the location is within a public sidewalk right-of-way
 - rationale: receptacles cannot be placed on private or some City properties, including roads
- the location is on or near a street corner
 - rationale: receptacles provide service to more pedestrians when located on corners, although they may be placed mid-block as necessary to provide adequate service
- the location permits easy service access
 - rationale: receptacles must be easy to access for service vehicles, and safe to access for service personnel
- the location permits easy inspection access
 - rationale: receptacles must be inspected for service quality and use compliance
- the location does not impede pedestrian traffic flow
 - rationale: receptacles should not impede pedestrian access to City or private resources such as crosswalk ramps, parklets, or businesses; often receptacles are placed near the curb and within the right of way that is normally occupied by utility poles and sign posts
- the location does not impede vehicular parking and/or traffic flow
 - rationale: receptacles must not impede public parking, Seattle Department of Transportation operations, or contribute to the damage of private property, including vehicles

Unapproved Location Criteria

A litter or recycling receptacle will not be placed if **any** of the following conditions are met:

- the location is within the vicinity of a business already servicing a private can
 - rationale: City resources could be spread more widely
- the location is within a park area serviced by the Seattle Parks Department
 - rationale: requests for receptacles can be forwarded to the Parks Department
- the location is within the vicinity of a public transportation stop
 - rationale: public transportation entities provide their own receptacles; requests should be forwarded to the appropriate agency
- the location is within a residential neighborhood
 - rationale: these resources are intended for reducing the accumulation of waste in public congested areas
- if the location is intended for the sole use of adjacent businesses
 - rationale: businesses that require receptacles for their patrons must provide their own services

Removal Criteria

A litter or recycling receptacle may be removed or relocated if **any** of the following conditions are met:

- the receptacle is found to be used for illegal dumping
 - rationale: depositing personal trash from one's home or business into a City receptacle is prohibited by law
- the receptacle is found to be the subject of repeated vandalism
 - rationale: unnecessary upkeep of cans drains City resources and taxpayer dollars
- the receptacle is found to be located at a public transportation stop
 - public transportation stop refers to King County bus stops, Sound Transit stations, ferry stations, and train stations
 - rationale: transportation entities provide their own receptacles; requests should be forwarded to the appropriate agency