

Administrative Rule 3.01.24

SUBJECT: VALET TRASH COLLECTION	EFFECTIVE DATE: November 15, 2024
REFERENCES: 2021 Seattle Fire Code	SUPERSEDES: FCAB REVIEW DATE:
NOTICE: Administrative Rules are established per Seattle Fire Code Section 104.1, and they are subject to the Administrative Sections 104.8 Alternate Materials and Equipment, Section 104.9 Modifications, and Section 111.1 Appeals.	APPROVED: TIMOTHY J. MUNNIS, FIRE MARSHAL/FIRE CODE OFFICIAL

Section 1. SCOPE

This rule specifies requirements for valet trash collection which is a new section in the 2021 Seattle Fire Code (304.1.1).

Section 2. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this rule the following words and terms have the meanings indicated below:

DWELLING UNIT. A single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation.

Residential Group R-2. Residential Group R-2 occupancies containing *sleeping units* or more than two *dwelling units* where the occupants are primarily permanent in nature, including:

Apartment houses

Assisted living facilities licensed by Washington State under Chapter 388-78A WAC

Congregate living facilities (nontransient) with more than 16 occupants

Boarding houses (nontransient)

Convents

Dormitories

Fraternities and sororities

Monasteries

Hotels (nontransient)

Buildings that contain three or more live/work units

Motels (nontransient)

Residential treatment facilities licensed by Washington State under Chapter 246-337 WAC

Vacation timeshare properties

RUBBISH (TRASH). Combustible and noncombustible waste materials, including residue from the burning of coal, wood, coke or other combustible material, paper, rags, cartons, tin cans, metals, mineral matter, glass crockery, dust and discarded refrigerators, and heating, cooking or incinerator-type appliances.

SLEEPING UNIT. A single unit providing rooms or spaces for one or more persons that includes permanent provisions for sleeping and can include provisions for living, eating and either sanitation or kitchen facilities but not both. Such rooms and spaces that are also part of a dwelling unit are not sleeping units.

VALET TRASH COLLECTION. An intermediary service that removes trash or recycling materials placed outside of dwelling units or sleeping units for final collection.

Section 3. GENERAL

Prior to the 2021 Seattle Fire Code, there were no provisions in the Seattle Fire Code specifically prohibiting or regulating the placement of combustible trash or recyclables in an exit access corridor, provided that such materials were not placed within the minimum required width of the means of egress. The 2021 Seattle Fire Code has a new section 304.1.1, Valet trash collection, which now permits this service if the provider complies with rules established by the AHJ. Section 304.1.1 was developed for the 2024 International Fire Code, and it corresponds with a new Appendix O which is also in the 2024 IFC. This rule utilizes the language in the 2024 IFC Appendix O for Valet trash collection in Group R-2 Occupancies and provides additional requirements specific to the City of Seattle.

Section 4. CONTAINERS AND LOCATION

Valet trash or recycling materials shall be stored in containers that are of liquid-tight construction and equipped with lids. Lids shall be in the fully closed position. Containers shall not exceed 30 inches (762 mm) in height. Individual containers shall not exceed 2.0 cubic feet (15 gallons; 56.8 L) in capacity. Only one trash or recycling container per dwelling unit or sleeping unit shall be permitted to be placed outside the dwelling unit or sleeping unit at one time. Trash and recycling containers shall not be placed outside a dwelling unit or sleeping unit at the same time. Containers and lids used for valet trash collections shall be constructed entirely of noncombustible materials or of materials that meet a peak rate of heat release not exceeding 300 kW/m² when tested in accordance with ASTM E1354 at an incident heat flux of 50 kW/m² in the horizontal orientation. Containers used for valet trash collection shall not obstruct the minimum required egress width. The minimum required egress width shall be determined from the approved building plans approved by Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections. This Valet trash collection provider shall furnish this information to the Fire Code Official when requested. Containers used for valet trash collection shall not be placed on stair risers, within minimum required stairway landing dimensions or anywhere in an interior or exterior exit stairway or fire escape.

Section 5. COLLECTION RULES

Filled containers used for valet trash or recycling services shall not be placed outside a dwelling unit for more than 6 hours within any 24-hour period. Empty approved containers used for valet trash or recycling services shall not remain in a corridor for more than 12 continuous hours in a 24-hour period.

The property owner or manager shall have written valet service rules, hours and penalties provided to all tenants and occupants. The property owner or manager shall be responsible for implementing, monitoring and enforcing all valet trash collection rules. A copy of the rules shall be provided to the Fire Code Official upon request.

Section 6. Penalty

The Fire Code Official has the authority to order the suspension of valet trash collection that is not in compliance with this rule.

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