



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

# TRASH AND RECYCLING ENCLOSURE DESIGN GUIDE

The information in this guide will help you design a trash and recycling enclosure(s) that complies with City standards, is space-efficient, and has sufficient capacity, screening, and access for your development. This guide is referenced in Santa Barbara Municipal Code 30.140.240 "*Waste, Recycling, and Outdoor Storage.*"

Revised May 2025 By:

Daniela Rosales, *Environmental Services Specialist II*

## FAQs

- What are the dimensions of containers available for trash, recycle, greenwaste, and foodscrap?
  - *See Page 17*
- How do I calculate how much waste my development will generate?
  - *See Page 9 and 22*
- Why is an enclosure upgrade required?
  - *See Page 2 and 3*
- Is there a submission checklist available?
  - *See Page 26*
- *Where can I find full code language?*
  - *See Page 27*



**City of Santa Barbara**  
**Clean Community Division**

[SantaBarbaraCA.gov/EnclosureGuide](https://SantaBarbaraCA.gov/EnclosureGuide)

## Contents

Definitions .....	1
When Screening is Required.....	2
When Enclosure Upgrades Are Required .....	3
Special Considerations for Large Businesses .....	3
Where to Site the Enclosure .....	5
In Relation to the Buildings .....	5
In Relation to the Truck Access Point (TAP).....	6
Siting Considerations for Driveways and Parking Lots.....	7
Requirements for Parking Garages and Indoor Locations.....	8
Design Considerations .....	9
Calculate Waste Generation.....	9
Determine Size And Number Of Containers.....	9
Floors, Walls, And Interior Curbs .....	10
Gates .....	12
Roof and Drainage .....	13
Container Layout in the Enclosure .....	13
Appendix A: Container Specifications .....	18
Appendix B: Santa Barbara Waste Profiles for Businesstypes.....	19
Appendix C: Business Type Definitions.....	21
Appendix D: Sizing Trash and Recycling Containers.....	23
Appendix E: Plan Submission Checklist .....	27
Appendix F: Santa Barbara Municipal Code .....	27

## Definitions

**Certified Recycling Facility:** A recycling facility that has been issued an Operating Certificate from CalRecycle, and maintains a diversion rate greater or equal to 75%.

**Container:** Bin, Can, Cart, Dumpster, or Barrel.

**Comprehensive Site Improvement:** Alterations to the land that enhance the utility of any structure placed on the site.

**Degraded Surface:** A surface that has experienced substantial erosion, cracks, divots, and other trip hazards.

**Enclosure:** A walled or landscaped structure for the storage of trash and recycling containers, with one or more gates for access.

**Hauler:** The trash and recycling company that empties waste containers, i.e. MarBorg Industries.

**Large Generator:** An entity generating greater or equal to 4 cubic yards per week of refuse.

**License Agreement:** An agreement to utilize enclosure(s) on City Property, which is not recorded and outlines the terms and conditions for the use of the license area.

**Material:** Trash, Recycle, Yard Waste, and Foodscrap are considered a material, respectively, and collected in a separate color-coded bin: gray trash, blue bin recycle, green bin yard waste, and yellow bin foodscrap.

**Off-Site Trash/Recycle Easement:** An easement to utilize enclosure(s) on an adjacent parcel, which is recorded and outlines the terms and conditions for the use of the enclosure area.

**Project Valuation:** The estimated total cost of design and construction.

**Recycling:** Any material that is diverted from the landfill including, blue bin recycle, green bin yard waste, and yellow bin foodscrap.

**Blue Bin Recycle:** Clean and dry plastics, paper, cardboard, glass, metal.

**Green Bin Yard Waste:** Grass, branches, and plant material.

**Yellow Bin Foodscrap:** Vegetable trimmings, plate scrapings, raw and cooked food, meat, bones, fish waste, and soiled paper products.

**Refuse or Waste:** Any combination of trash, recycle, yard waste, and foodscrap.

**Trash:** Material that is landfilled.

**Screening:** A visual barrier between the public and trash and recycling containers. Screening includes fences, walls, vegetated barriers, and enclosures.

**Truck Access Point (TAP):** The place where the trash truck stops and picks up the dumpster or cart. This may or may not be in front of the enclosure.

**Weekend Loading:** Waste production is higher on weekends than weekdays.

**Yd<sup>3</sup>:** Cubic yards.

## When Screening is Required

Per Santa Barbara Municipal Code (SBMC) Sections 30.15.120, 30.140.240.A.2, 28.87.190, and 7.16.060 trash and recycling receptacles are prohibited in certain locations (e.g., front yard, setback, open yard, front porch, parking spaces) and when in a position exposed to public view from streets, alleys, walkways, public parking lots, or adjoining residential properties, all refuse, bins, containers or bundles must be within an enclosure or screened from public view designed to blend into the surrounding architecture or landscape so that the object or land use is not apparent to the casual observer. See Figure 1 below.

**Note:** Access Municipal Code Online <http://qcode.us/codes/santabarbara/>

The screening may take different forms including fences, vegetated barriers, and enclosures. The term “Public Parking Lot” refers to any parking lot that is provided for the public as clients, guests, or employees. It is not solely defined as a City-owned or municipal parking lot.

All waste containers in nonresidential or multi-unit lots require design review approval, and the Design Review bodies (ABR/HLC/SFDB) will determine if screening is sufficient.

**Note:** The Design Review bodies may approve exceptions to the location and enclosure requirements or require additional improvements to enhance the level of screening and overall appearance. Contact City Planning and Zoning, located at 630 Garden Street (805) 564-5578, for more information on Design Review.

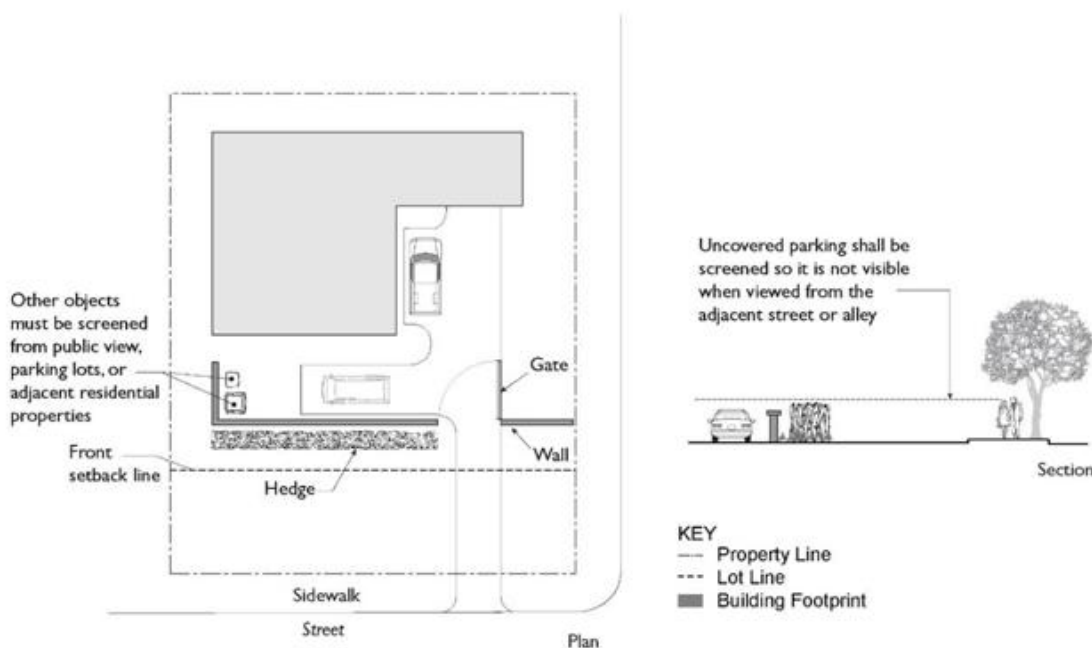


Figure 1: Screening, SBMC 30.15.120

## When Enclosure Upgrades Are Required

Many city applications, both discretionary and ministerial, require upgrading the trash and recycling enclosure. Upgrades can be required for both building shell and tenant improvement permits. Only minor improvements, with a project valuation of less than \$25,000.00, can be exempted from an enclosure upgrade. Enclosure upgrades may also be required if a complaint is received by the City for unscreened, overflowing, or inappropriately sited waste containers. The requirement for screening can only be reduced or waived by the appropriate design review body (ABR/HLC/SFDB).

**Note: Design review approval and a building permit is required for all new nonresidential and multi-unit trash and recycling enclosures, even those that result from enforcement cases.**

Enclosure upgrades will be required for the following types of improvements:

- Building shell and site improvements.
- Any new development or comprehensive site improvement plan that includes some or all of the following components: building upgrades, parking, landscaping, and other site infrastructure.
- Alterations to existing outdoor areas or parking areas, such as: reconfiguring a parking lot, adding or removing parking spaces (not including a like-for-like restripe or ADA upgrades), and significant alterations to the site configuration and yard areas.
- Any change to an existing trash enclosure, construction of a new trash enclosure, or a change in enclosure location.
- Food establishments, especially if new or increasing outdoor seating.
- Change to building use, type, size, or occupancy space.
- If an unpermitted trash and recycling area is sited in a prohibited location such as front yard, setback, open yard, front porch, a parking space or vehicle maneuvering area.

## Special Considerations for Large Businesses

Supermarkets, shopping malls, large hotels, and chain stores may have special considerations. If designing for a large business, **contact City Trash & Recycling at 805-564-5631 as early in the process as possible.**

Large generators in existing older buildings may be utilizing an enclosure located on City owned property. These are usually located in downtown parking lots and waterfront operation areas. Utilizing an enclosure on City owned property requires the execution of a License Agreement prior to permit approval. Some large generators utilize an enclosure located on an adjacent parcel. Utilizing an enclosure on an adjacent parcel requires the execution of an Off-Site Trash/Recycle Easement prior to permit approval.

**Note: Balers may be used for large cardboard generators, but stored bales are subject to the same storage restrictions (not within sight of street, alley, or parking lot) as other waste. Compactors will only be allowed for trash if there is also a separate compactor for blue bin recycling. Supermarkets require storage of pallets and reusable crates that**

must be kept out of site. Show this area on site plans in addition to a dumpster enclosure. Operations with permanent on-site personnel may maintain their landscaping instead of hiring a company that hauls the trimmings away. If landscaping waste is not hauled offsite, provide yard waste containers within the development.

## Where to Site the Enclosure

### In Relation to the Buildings

The path between the building and the enclosure will be used by those that empty the waste containers in the building. Consider the hours of operation, type of business, and how waste will be brought to the enclosure. Make sure that the path of travel works for the building occupants. If the enclosure must be accessible, an accessible route of travel from the building will be required.

**Note:** All new structures are required to be accessible. Contact City Building and Safety, located at 630 Garden Street (805) 564-5485, for more information on accessibility.

### Minimum Distance from Building

Dumpsters cannot be placed within 5 feet of combustible walls, openings, or combustible roof eave lines unless the enclosure is protected by an approved automatic fire sprinkler system. This restriction does not apply to carts or cans.

Containers cannot be placed under stairways unless the stairway is fire rated for 1 hour or protected by automatic fire sprinklers.

**Note:** Contact City Fire, at (805) 564-5721, for more information on fire sprinkler requirements.

**Maximum Distance from Building Served** Commercial waste enclosures must be located a maximum of 250' from the nearest point of the building served. For residential complexes where occupants empty their own trash and recycling, 150' is the maximum.

### Setbacks

Trash and recycling enclosures may not be located within any required zoning setback, the front yard, or required open yard areas for lots developed with residential uses.

**Note:** Contact City Planning and Zoning, located at 630 Garden Street (805) 564-5578, for more information on setbacks, open yard, or the standards for a Minor Zoning Exception pursuant to Chapter 30.245.

## **In Relation to the Truck Access Point (TAP)**

The TAP is where the hauler truck stops and lifts the trash and recycling containers into the truck. Ideally, the truck access point is the concrete apron in front of the enclosure, but this is not always possible. Dumpsters and carts can be pushed by the truck driver to the TAP. The access point must be engineered to withstand up to 20,000 lbs. of direct force from a single truck axle, multiple times per week. The path between the enclosure and the truck access point will be traveled by the waste haulers, moving the trash and recycling containers. Design this route for heavy dumpsters.

## **Maximum Distance from the TAP**

The enclosure should be located no more than 25' from the TAP with a maximum distance of 50'. For distances between 26'-50', additional charges apply for servicing.

## **Maximum Slope**

Slope from the enclosure to the TAP must not exceed 2% when dumpsters are used. If dumpster must be pushed down (and up) a curb cut to the TAP, maximum dumpster size is 3yd<sup>3</sup>. There is no restriction for carts.

## **Surface**

The entire path of travel must be paved with asphalt, concrete, or smooth pavers, free of detectable warnings, and have curb cuts to the TAP. Degraded surfaces must be repaved.

## **Overhead Clearance**

Allow for overhead clearance of 20' where bin is serviced. The driver will typically move the container about 8' away from the enclosure before dumping.

## **Public or Customer areas**

Trash and recycling cannot be transported through public or customers areas by the hauler to the TAP. Hauler may need to collect waste during business hours and waste collection may result in litter or liquid waste (trash juice) on the path of travel.

## **Small Residential (1-4 Units) Carts**

Carts not brought to the curb on collection day are subject to a flat "In-Place" additional charge, equal to \$34.68. Review our published rate sheet for current rates on our website [www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Recycle](http://www.SantaBarbaraCA.gov/Recycle)

## **Large Residential (5+ Units) Carts**

Carts not brought to the curb on collection day are subject to "In-Place" additional charges, equal to 30% of the cost of each cart serviced In-Place.

**Note:** Trash and recycling should not be transported through public or customer areas by the hauler or employees to the TAP. Hauler may need to collect waste during business hours and waste collection may result in litter or liquid waste (trash juice) on the path of travel.



## Siting Considerations for Driveways and Parking Lots

The driveway must be paved with asphalt, concrete, or pavers and be able to withstand trucks weighing up to 62,000 lbs. The driveway must be free of storm drain grills. Curves must be designed with a turning radius and driveway width as shown in Figure 2. The approach must be designed to minimize backing situations since hauler trucks cannot back around curves. Hauler truck access should not conflict with parked cars or delivery trucks. The driveway must have an overhead clearance of 16' that is free from obstructions or overhanging tree branches.

If dumpsters will be pushed to a pickup point in the roadway, the roadway will endure 20,000 lbs. of direct force each time the dumpster is emptied, and it may be several times per week. For new construction, the roadway must be designed to accommodate this. Sharp turns will grind and weaken roadways due to the truck weight and frequency of servicing. When dumpsters are used, do not site the enclosure on a hill. Dumpsters are heavy and easily turn into runaways on a slope.

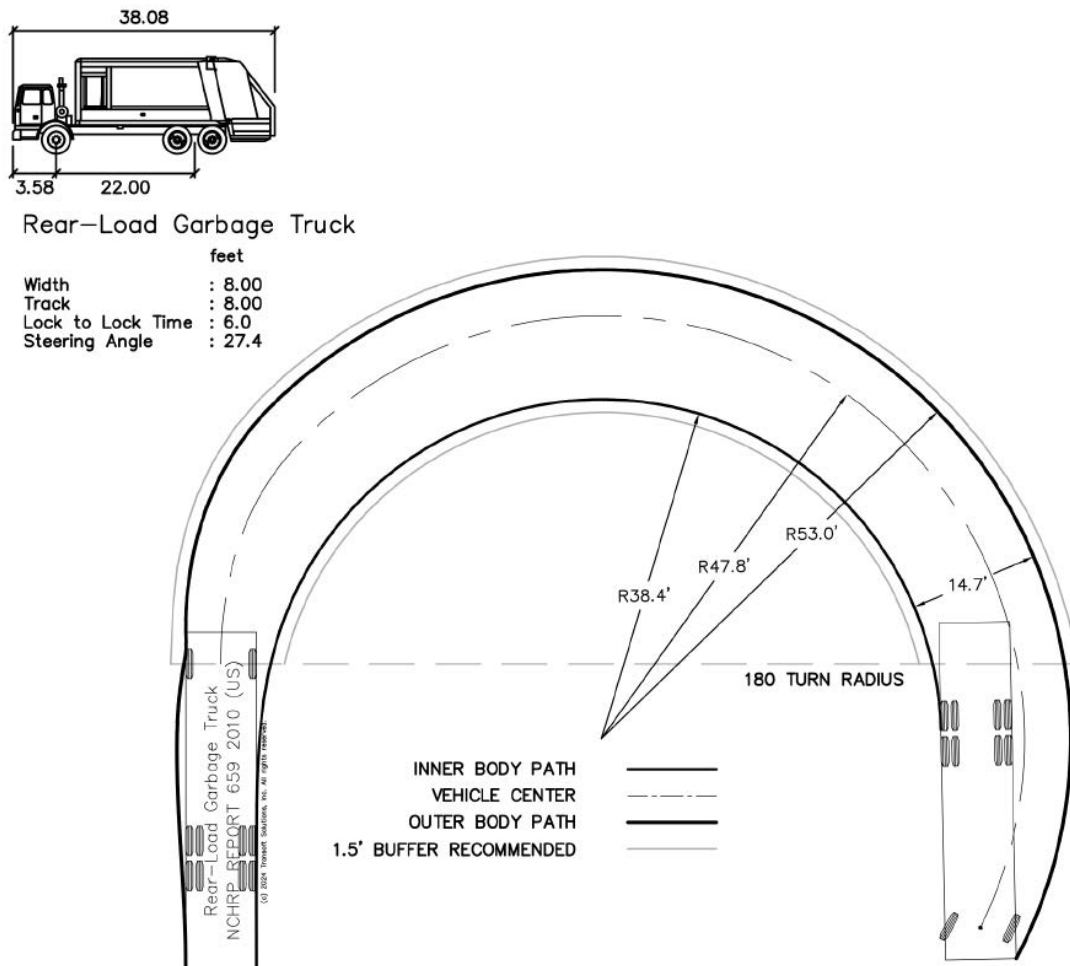


Figure 2: Truck Turning Radius

## Requirements for Parking Garages and Indoor Locations

The waste hauler will not be able to empty dumpsters in parking garages unless ceiling height exceeds 20'. They must be pulled to the street by hand and are subject to the limits on slope and distance for path of travel from enclosure to TAP. If dumpsters must be pushed on narrow paths adjacent to cars, 8" concrete curbs must be used to prevent collisions.

**Note:** Haulers must have access to parking garages or locked gates without restriction or prior notification. The building occupants may bring out containers for collection, but they must stay within the development or on a back street or alley. Building occupants may not bring out dumpsters and leave them out on public streets on collection day.

For indoor locations where there will be food in the trash or foodscraps bins, the trash/recycling area requires these additional features for sanitation:

- Fully enclosed room (including ceiling) within the parking garage/building
- Walls and floor constructed with a smooth finish that can be easily cleaned
- Mechanical ventilation, or with screened vent openings to the outdoors
- Floor drain with proper drainage slope connected to the sanitary sewer
- Spigot with hose for cleaning

An indoor trash/recycling area that serves any of the following occupancies will require the additional features:

- Caterer or food production facility
- Coffee shop or restaurant
- Day care, preschool, and/or K-12 school
- Grocery store or market with perishable items
- Homeless shelter
- Small Residential (1-4 Units)
- Large Residential (5+ Units)
- Nursing care facility
- Any facility with a commercial kitchen
- Any similar facility that has the same potential for odor and/or nuisance

**Note:** Trash chutes are highly discouraged because they do not encourage diversion, and lead to operational issues. If trash chutes are necessary, project approval requires a separate chute, door, and signage for each required waste stream. Details must be provided showing the chute output on the ground floor, and cross sections showing the chutes vertically in the building structure.

## Design Considerations

### Calculate Waste Generation

The enclosure must have adequate capacity for all required waste streams including trash, recycle, yard waste, and foodscraps.

Note: All developments that include food/beverage producing or serving elements must accommodate foodscrap containers, or provide evidence of participation in another equivalent organics recycling program as determined by City Environmental Services Manager. Restaurants or grease generating businesses must also include a grease barrel in the enclosure. Businesses or large residential complexes with their own maintenance staff or gardeners may require yard waste containers if material is not hauled away to a certified recycling facility.

### Determine Size And Number Of Containers

Design for the largest container possible. Businesses come and go, and the enclosure should be flexible enough to service most tenants barring a change of use. The *Santa Barbara Waste Profiles in Appendix B* provides information that can be used to calculate how much waste will be produced by the development. The figures provided for calculating waste are based on averages, but variation can be accommodated by increasing or decreasing collection frequency. To determine which containers are required, first calculate the total volume of each material that will be produced, then figure out optimal container size and collection frequency. This process has been automated by the downloadable [Waste Generation Calculator](#) that can be used on computers with Microsoft Excel. Example calculations are available in Appendix D.

Note: Calculations are only a prediction of the amount of waste that will be generated. Waste generation is affected by where the business is located and their throughput. When evaluating waste enclosure capacity, the City may look at the records for other stores or restaurants if the proposed business is part of a chain and modify the capacity requirements accordingly. Some unique business types are not in the *Santa Barbara Waste Profiles in Appendix B* due to insufficient sample size.

## Floors, Walls, And Interior Curbs

The **floor** of the enclosure must be a flat, level concrete surface, or slightly sloped one when floor drains are used. A concrete apron is recommended and required for all new dumpster enclosures that measures the width of the enclosure and extending out 8' from the front will join the enclosure pad to the surrounding pavement. The apron surface must be the same elevation as the enclosure pad threshold and the surrounding surfaces, with a slope of 1/8 inch per foot away from the enclosure pad.

**Note:** The concrete apron must be engineered to withstand up to 20,000 lbs of direct force from a single truck axle. If the concrete apron transitions to asphalt, sufficient subsurface preparation is required to prevent dimpling or breakdown of the asphalt over time.

**Walls** must generally be constructed of masonry or wood, with finishes and colors that are compatible with the adjacent architecture. Minimum wall height is 7' for dumpsters, and 5' for carts only.

**Note:** Chain link fencing is generally not allowed without additional screening enhancements, such as vines or other landscape. For enclosures that are highly visible, or located on a lot with a historic resource or within a historic or landmark district (e.g., El Pueblo Viejo Landmark District), the architectural style of details may require enhancement of materials or finishes. Contact City Planning and Zoning, located at 630 Garden Street (805) 564-5578, for more information on design review.

**Interior curbs** that are 8" high and 6" wide along each wall will prevent damage to the interior walls as shown in Figure 3. The curb must be high enough to stop the body of the dumpster, not the wheels.

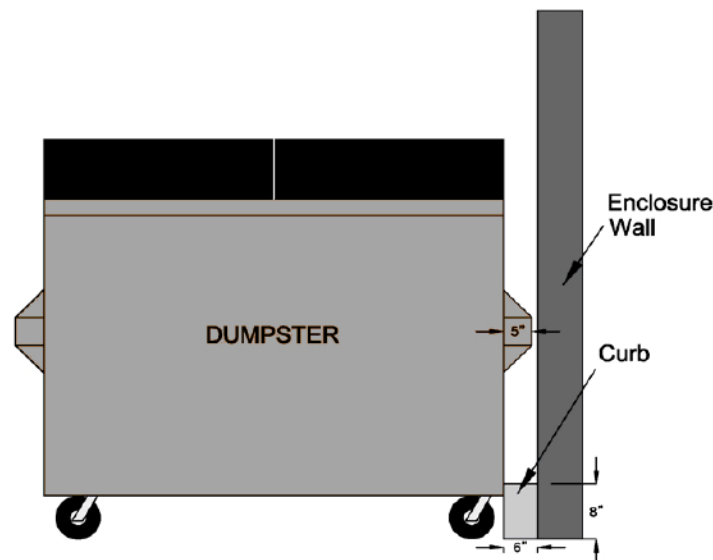
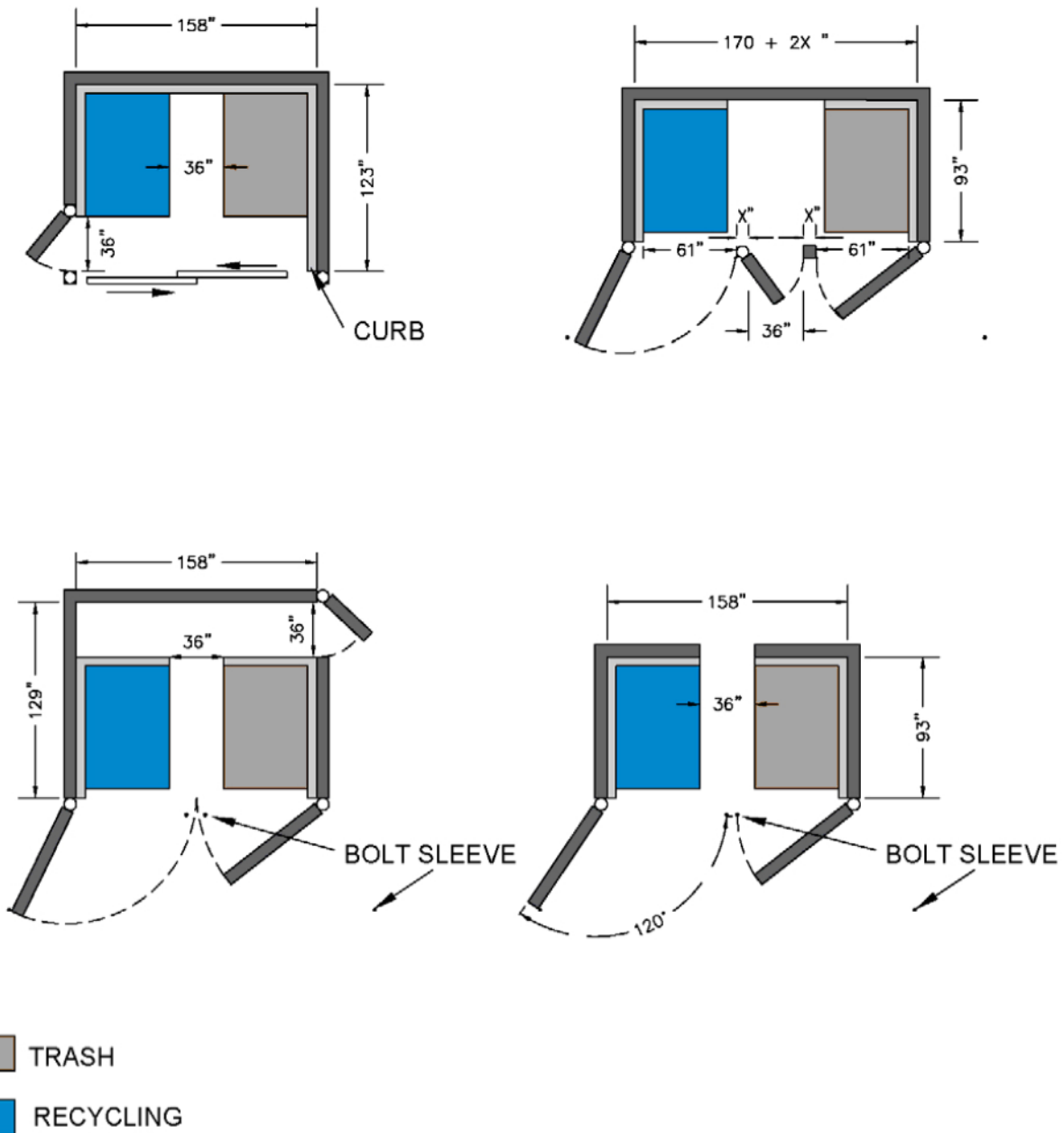


Figure 3: Curb Detail

# TRASH & RECYCLING ENCLOSURE DESIGN GUIDE



ALL FIGURES SHOWN WITH 4 CUBIC YARD DUMPSTERS.  
DIMENSIONS TO INSIDE WALLS.

*Figure 4: Curbs and Gates*

## Gates

Gates are required to provide access and screening of enclosure areas. Dumpster enclosures require two gates, an accessible one for the building occupants to use, and a large, industrial gate for the haulers to bring out the containers. Enclosures for carts can have one gate. Place gate posts between containers so that they can be easily removed. If a gate is on or near the line of any street or alley, the gate must swing inward from any street or alley so as to not obstruct the street, alley, or sidewalk. Such gate shall be provided with a spring, or other arrangement, so as to make such gate self-closing, and so that the same shall not obstruct, or be liable to obstruct, the free use in the customary manner of any such street or alley, nor be, or liable to become inconvenient, injurious or dangerous to a person walking along any such street or alley, or the sidewalk.

### **Pedestrian/Accessible Entrance**

There must be an accessible latch on the gate. If there is no gate, the opening must not be visible from a street, alley, or parking lot. The pedestrian gate must be 36' wide, with a 32" clearance of all hardware.

**Note:** All new enclosures are required to be accessible. Contact City Building and Safety, located at 630 Garden Street (805) 564-5485, for more information on accessibility.

### **Hauler/Industrial Gate**

Hinged doors that swing outward, or sliding doors that move side to side are acceptable. Gates may not open onto sidewalks or the public right of way. Sliding gates may be more appropriate for enclosures facing the public right of way. When using sliding gates, the guide cannot sit above the floor because the dumpster will not be able to roll over it. Either use a recessed guide, or a top mounted guide. Hauler gates must lead to the driveway, not to parking spaces or the accessible safety zone.

**Note:** When using sliding gates, the guide cannot sit above the floor because the dumpster will not be able to roll over it. Either use a recessed guide, or a top mounted guide.

Doors can be made of metal or wood. Hardware must be of sufficient strength to accommodate repetitive swinging, and individuals with gloves must be able to open them. Provide means to secure gate doors both opened and closed, e.g. cane bolt w/sleeve and slide latch between doors and sleeve in pavement. The bolts should be a minimum ½ inch in diameter and the sleeves for both should be a minimum of 1 inch or double the size of the bolt to allow flexibility. Be sure to have bolt drop in the ground a minimum of 4 inches into the ground. Use bolts, not screws, to secure gate to the poles or walls.

Gates must be of sufficient size and quantity so that it is not necessary to remove one dumpster to service another (trash, blue bin recycling, food, and yard waste dumpsters are emptied on different schedules). Gates must be 2" off the ground and hung on the

outside. Gates must open to at least 120° as shown in Figure 4. Opening dimensions must be clear of doors edges, hinges, or other obstructions. Openings must be sized for the largest dumpster in the enclosure.

Gate openings are as follows:

### **3 - 4 cubic yard dumpsters**

Dumpsters pulled out sideways: 79"

Dumpsters pulled out straight: 105"

### **1.5 - 2 cubic yard dumpsters**

Dumpsters pulled out sideways: 64"

Dumpsters pulled out straight: 105"

Dumpsters are not very maneuverable. It is difficult to remove them from a restricted opening, and difficult to replace them so that the aisle between dumpsters is maintained. Do not block removal of dumpsters by putting pillars or gate posts in the middle of the hauler gates. Design gates for the full width of the opening.

### **Roof and Drainage**

The enclosure must drain to landscaping, vegetated swales, permeable pavement, or bio retention basins, which must be sized to capture and treat the volume of runoff generated by one inch of rainfall every 24 hours. The enclosure may not drain into storm drains. The enclosure must be protected from run-on water with slopes or diversions. If fully roofed and protected from rainfall, the enclosure may have a drain to the sanitary sewer. Water connections in or adjacent to the enclosure will only be allowed if the enclosure is plumbed to the sanitary sewer or if the drainage area is sufficient to retain the wash water. The minimum clearance inside a roofed or partially roofed enclosure is 7'-6" with a 6'-8" high entryway for pedestrian access.

**Note:** Floor drains are only recommended for roofed or interior enclosures, and they must drain to the sanitary sewer.

### **Container Layout in the Enclosure**

The users must be able to access all of the containers with a full trash bag in hand without moving containers or brushing against them. Trash, blue bin recycling, foodscraps, and yard waste containers are picked up by different trucks on different days. The hauler should not be required to remove a blue recycling bin from the enclosure to get the trash bin out. When designing the layout, don't rely on perfect placement of dumpsters. The haulers will put them back, but are not responsible for maintaining aisle widths. Use interior curbs if you need to place the dumpster precisely in the center of an enclosure. Allow 6" width for curbs in the layout, and allow for 6" between containers or between containers and gates.

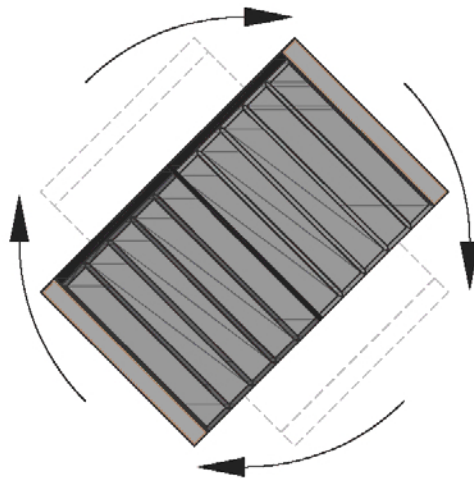
### **Dumpsters**

Dumpsters must be accessed by users from the long side. Designs that block or partially block access from the long side will not be approved since the dumpster will



not be fully loaded on the blocked portion. There must be a minimum 36" aisle along the long side of the dumpsters. Square enclosures work well for two dumpsters, but where multiple containers are used, it is better to place containers in rows with aisles. See Figure 6 on page 14 for details on dumpster layouts.

Keep in mind that dumpsters do not easily rotate on a fixed point. Unless the enclosure is large, dumpsters cannot turn 90° to get out of the gate. The clearances needed to rotate a dumpster 90° are shown in Figure 5. Values for the rotation clearance radius (r) are found in Appendix A.



*Figure 5: Dumpster Rotation Clearance*

The gates must span the full width of the enclosure so that dumpsters can be pulled straight out. Provide an aisle that is at least 12" wider than the dumpster for removal. The aisle must be free and clear of gate hardware, so do not minimize this dimension. This aisle must be maintained along the entire path of travel from the daily location to the truck access point, so ensure that each gate or restriction meets these requirements.

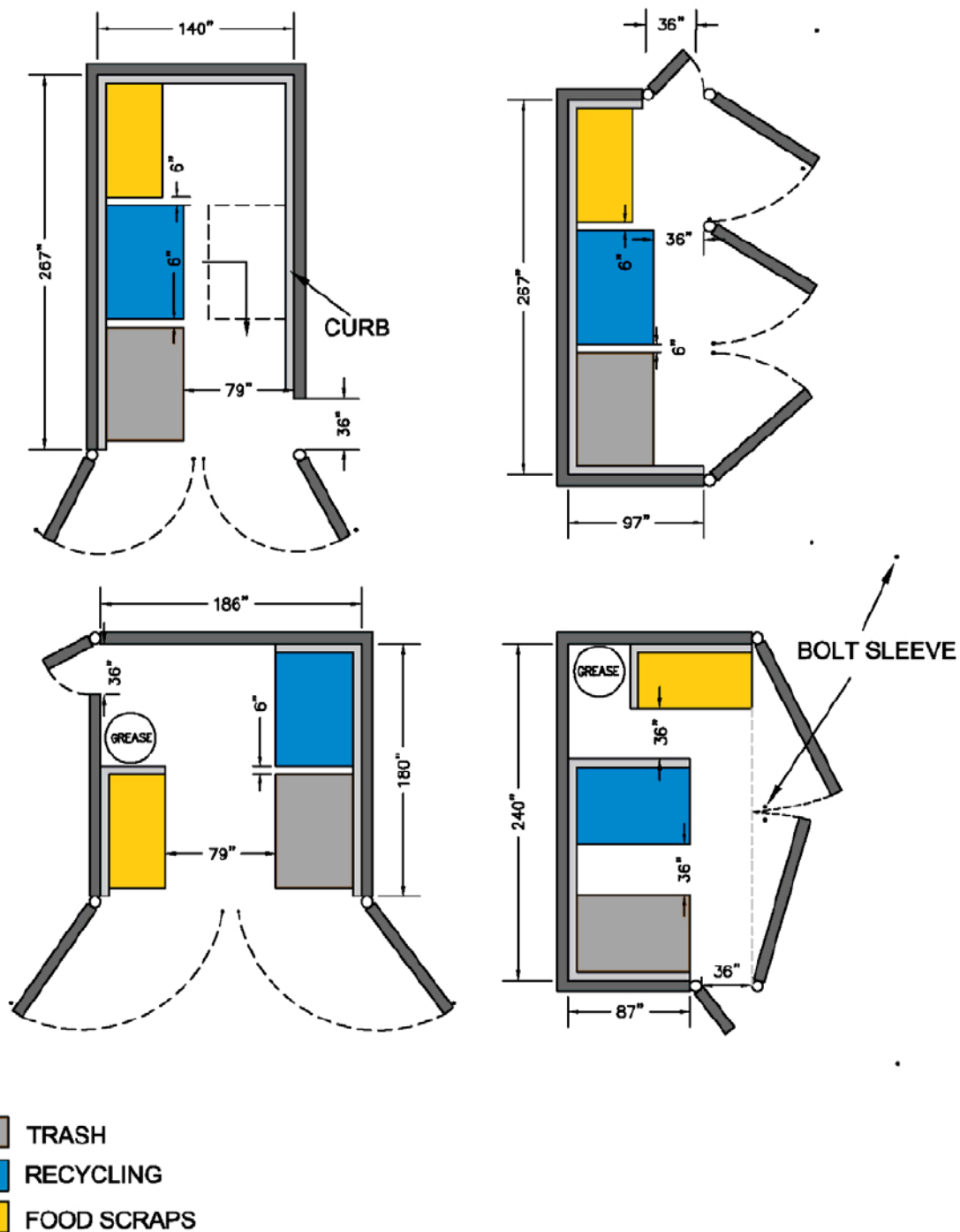
### **Grease Containers**

Grease containers are required for restaurants that deep fry food or separate grease. Some grease containers have wheels, others don't, so design for immovable containers. They are emptied via a suction hose, so the truck must be able to drive up to enclosure and put a hose in the container. Maximum distance from the truck access point to the grease container is 45'.

**Note:** Contact City Fats, Oils, and Grease Program (FOG), (805) 568-1005, for more information on grease containers.



## TRASH & RECYCLING ENCLOSURE DESIGN GUIDE



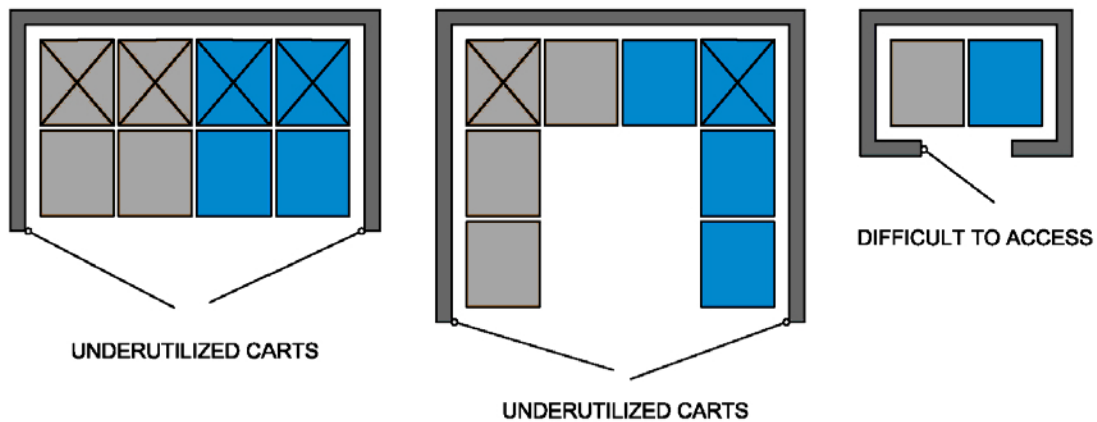
ALL FIGURES INCLUDE TWO 4 CUBIC YARD DUMPSTERS AND ONE 2 CUBIC YARD DUMPSTER. GREASE BARREL MEASURES 36" IN DIAMETER. DIMENSIONS TO INSIDE WALLS.

Figure 6: Multiple Dumpster Layouts

## Carts

All of the carts must be accessible to a user with a trash bag in hand without moving the carts. Don't put carts in corners or behind other carts. See Figure 7 for effective and ineffective cart layouts.

### POOR DESIGN



### GOOD DESIGN

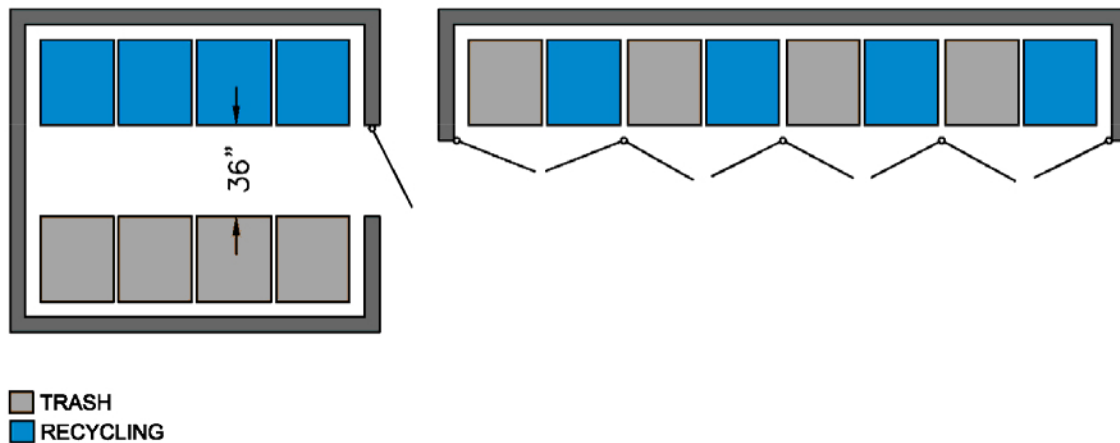


Figure 7: Cart Layouts

In witness whereof, the parties have approved this guide as of the date and year written below.

Approved As To Content: May 2025



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## Appendix A: Container Specifications

Container	Width	Depth	Height	Rotation Clearance Radius (r)	Cubic Yards	Equivalent Container(s)	Note
35 gal cart	21"	23"	40"		0.16		
65 gal cart	27"	29"	41"		0.32	2-35 gal carts	
95 gallon cart	29"	34"	46"		0.47	3-35 gal carts	Not available for foodscraps <sup>1</sup>
1.5 yd <sup>3</sup> dumpster	81"	34"	46"	56"	1.5	3-95 gal carts	
2 yd <sup>3</sup> dumpster	81"	40"	52"	57"	2	4-95 gal carts	
3 yd <sup>3</sup> dumpster	81"	48"	60"	59"	3	6-95 gal carts	Not available for foodscraps <sup>1</sup>
4 yd <sup>3</sup> dumpster	81"	55"	67"	61"	4	8-95 gal carts	Not available for foodscraps <sup>1</sup>



Figure 8: Container Sizes

<sup>1</sup> Foodscraps are too heavy in large containers.

# TRASH & RECYCLING ENCLOSURE DESIGN GUIDE

## Appendix B: Santa Barbara Waste Profiles for Business types

Business Type	Waste Generation (yd <sup>3</sup> /unit)	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Food	Yard	Blue Recycle	Trash	Weekend Loading <sup>3</sup>
Auto Repair	0.0010	ft <sup>2</sup>			50%	50%	
Bank	0.0006	ft <sup>2</sup>			50%	50%	-
Bar	0.0018	ft <sup>2</sup>			50%	50%	+
Beauty & Spa	0.0006	ft <sup>2</sup>			50%	50%	
Building Materials	0.0017	ft <sup>2</sup>			50%	50%	
Cannabis	0.0012	ft <sup>2</sup>	10%		50%	40%	
Car Wash	7.5	flat rate <sup>2</sup>			50%	50%	
Caterer	0.0024	ft <sup>2</sup>	20%		60%	20%	
Coffee Shop	0.0076	ft <sup>2</sup>	10%		50%	40%	
Construction & Landscaping	0.0017	ft <sup>2</sup>		20%	30%	50%	
Convenience Store or Gas Station	0.0029	ft <sup>2</sup>			50%	50%	
Day Care/Preschool	0.08	student	30%		35%	35%	-
Drugstore	0.0010	ft <sup>2</sup>			50%	50%	
Equipment Rental	0.0004	ft <sup>2</sup>			65%	35%	
Fast Food	0.0078	ft <sup>2</sup>	15%		45%	40%	
Food Production	0.0043	ft <sup>2</sup>	30%		35%	35%	-
Grocery Store	0.0023	ft <sup>2</sup>	20%		30%	50%	
Gym & Fitness	0.0006	ft <sup>2</sup>			60%	40%	
Homeless Shelter	0.24	beds	20%		30%	50%	
Hotel	0.22	rooms		10%	40%	50%	+
Industrial Manufacturing	8.6	flat rate			50%	50%	-
Industrial Supplies	3.4	flat rate			50%	50%	

<sup>2</sup> When flat rate is the unit, the waste generation is a set amount, regardless of business size. This data may not be applicable for businesses outside the City of Santa Barbara.

<sup>3</sup> Business will have higher waste production on weekends if (+) is shown, lower than weekdays if (-) is shown.

# TRASH & RECYCLING ENCLOSURE DESIGN GUIDE

Business Type	Waste Generation (yd <sup>3</sup> /unit)	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Food	Yard	Blue Recycle	Trash	Weekend Loading <sup>3</sup>
Laundromat	0.0025	ft <sup>2</sup>			50%	50%	
Medical	0.0008	ft <sup>2</sup>			60%	40%	-
Large Residential (5+ Units)	0.30	bedrooms		10%	50%	40%	
Nursing Care Facility	0.31	beds	20%		30%	50%	
Office & Education	0.0005	ft <sup>2</sup>			50%	50%	-
Residential with Dining	0.23	beds	10%	10%	30%	50%	
Restaurant, full service	0.0036	ft <sup>2</sup>	20%		40%	40%	+
Retail	0.0012	ft <sup>2</sup>			50%	50%	
Schools: K-12	0.04	student	25%	15%	25%	35%	-
Self-Storage	6.1	flat rate			50%	50%	
Services	0.0010	ft <sup>2</sup>			50%	50%	
Social Club	4.4	flat rate			50%	50%	
Theater: movie	22	flat rate			50%	50%	+
Vehicle Dealers	0.0010	ft <sup>2</sup>			50%	50%	
Veterinary	3.4	flat rate			50%	50%	
Wholesalers / distributors	0.0007	ft <sup>2</sup>			50%	50%	
Winery or Tasting <sup>4</sup>	0.0006	ft <sup>2</sup>			50%	50%	+

<sup>4</sup> If grapes will be crushed onsite seasonally only, designate a space for one or more foodscrap dumpsters that will be staged temporarily. As long as the placement is temporary, screening is not required.

# TRASH & RECYCLING ENCLOSURE DESIGN GUIDE

## Appendix C: Business Type Definitions

Business Type	Definition
Auto Repair	Auto repair, painting, smog, oil change, tires, car stereo
Bank	Savings and lending institutions
Bar	Primarily serving alcohol, does not serve meals. Bars that serve meals are classified as <i>Restaurants, full service</i> .
Beauty & Spa	Hair styling, barbers, tanning, manicurists, health spas, skin treatments
Building Materials	Sellers of bulk material often with installation component: carpet, glass, tile, lumber, air conditioners, stone, doors, windows, hardware, window coverings, canvas.
Cannabis	The retail sale of recreational and/or medical cannabis product.
Car Wash	Primarily a car wash, does not include gas stations with car washes. Gas stations with mini marts are classified as <i>Convenience Stores</i> regardless of any other amenities onsite.
Caterer	Preparing food onsite and delivering it offsite.
Coffee Shop	Primarily serving coffee and tea, including some food and retail sale.
Construction & Landscaping	Service yards of construction companies: landscaping and construction contractors, fencing, pool contractors, roofers, electricians, plumbers, painters, aggregate yards.
Convenience Store or Gas Station	Mini marts with drinks and snacks, including those at gas stations.
Day Care/Preschool	Facilities for pre-kindergarten children.
Drugstore	Pharmacies, plus other goods. CVS, Rite Aid, etc.
Equipment Rental	Vehicle, bicycle, party & event, equipment, limo rental
Fast Food	Food with disposal packaging and wrappings and no table service. ie: to-go, ice cream, smoothies, burgers, etc.
Food Production	Fish market, butchers, produce suppliers, wholesale food and juice production.
Grocery Store	Primarily selling food, with some perishable: Vons, Albertsons, Whole Foods, Lazy Acres, Trader Joes, smaller and specialty markets.
Gym & Fitness	Gyms, dance studios, martial arts
Homeless Shelter	Sleeping and eating facilities.
Hotel	Hotels, bed and breakfast, inns, with or without a breakfast bar. Area of restaurant within hotel must be calculated separately as a restaurant.
Industrial Manufacturing	Facilities that manufacture equipment or electronics onsite
Industrial Supplies	Selling industrial equipment and supplies or compressed gasses

# TRASH & RECYCLING ENCLOSURE DESIGN GUIDE

Business Type	Definition
Laundromat	Self-service coin-operated laundries. Commercial laundries are under Services.
Medical	All medical outpatient offices, including acupuncture. No hospitals, no overnight stays.
Large Residential	Five or more dwellings sharing refuse service.
Nursing Care Facility	Residential medical care facility that serves meals and has a commercial kitchen. Assisted living, memory care facilities.
Office & Education	Primarily dealing with information and paperwork: real estate, accounting, government, counseling, investing, radio stations, design, travel, service organizations, foundations, non-profits, newspaper/publication offices, professional services, business colleges, adult education, and any other education related business <i>except</i> K-12.
Residential with Dining	Dorms, senior housing facilities that are primarily residential, a residential facility with a commercial kitchen.
Restaurant, full service	Primarily sit down service, washable tableware, little to no packaging on table, bakeries that serve meals, bars that also serve food.
Retail	Selling products with little to no service component: clothing, household goods, jewelry, cosmetics, appliances, equipment, department stores, electronics, furniture, sporting goods, auto parts, pet supplies, showrooms, lighting.
Schools: K-12	Primary, middle, and high schools, both public and private.
Self-Storage	Rented storage units.
Services	Primarily offering a service rather than material goods: post office and mailing companies, art, showroom, pest control, dry cleaners, interiors, photography studio, video & film, tailoring, interior design, woodworking, software, transportation.
Social Club	Odd Fellows, boys/girls club, Red Cross, Lions, Veterans, Elks, etc.
Theater: movie	Movie theater, not live performance.
Vehicle Dealers	New and used sales for: cars, motorcycles, boats, etc.
Veterinary	Animal medical facilities and hospitals.
Wholesalers/distributors	Moving goods through facilities and transportation networks with no direct sales to public.
Winery or Tasting	May crush grapes and produce organic waste (harvest season only) or simply offer tasting.



## Appendix D: Sizing Trash and Recycling Containers

The enclosure must have equal sized trash and recycling containers. Each material is placed into separate containers and collected by separate trucks. Trash is in a gray container, blue bin recycling in blue, yard waste in green, and foodscrap in yellow. All developments that include food producing or food serving elements must accommodate foodscrap containers. Restaurants or grease generating businesses must also include a grease bin in the enclosure. Businesses or large residential complexes with their own maintenance staff or gardeners may require yard waste containers.



Figure 8: Container Sizes

Dumpsters vs. Carts. If trash is in a dumpster, blue bin recycling must also be in a dumpster. Design for the largest container possible, and do not substitute frequent collection of carts for a dumpster to save space. Carts overflow easily and become jammed with boxes and larger items. When dumpsters are required, design for 4 cubic yard dumpsters if you can afford the space. This makes the enclosure more flexible for the users.

In mixed use developments, residential waste should be separate from commercial. The maximum size for residential dumpsters is 3 cubic yards. The maximum size is 2 cubic yards for senior developments where the seniors, rather than paid staff, bring out their own trash and blue bin recycling. Container dimensions are detailed in Appendix A.

Design for the largest container possible. Businesses come and go, and the enclosure should be flexible enough to service most tenants barring a change of use. The *Santa Barbara Waste Profiles* in Appendix B provides information that can be used to calculate how much waste will be produced by the development. The figures provided for calculating waste are based on averages, but variation can be accommodated by increasing or decreasing frequency. To determine which containers are required, first calculate the total volume of each material that will be produced, then figure out optimal container size and collection frequency. Details are provided below, with a sample calculation at the end. This process has been automated by the downloadable [Waste Generation Calculator](#) that can be used on computers with Microsoft Excel.

## *Step 1: Calculate the total waste for each enclosure*

The total waste is the sum of all trash and recycling for each business that shares the waste containers. It is measured in cubic yards. Look up all businesses that will use the enclosure in the Santa Barbara Waste Profiles in Appendix B, and multiply the units by the Waste per unit conversion factor. For most businesses, “units” is the gross square footage. The business types are defined in Appendix C since the groups are not always intuitive. **Always check the Business Type Definitions in Appendix C before deciding which business types are in the development.**

$$\text{Total Waste (yd}^3\text{)} = \text{yd}^3/\text{unit} \times \text{units}$$

## *Step 2: Calculate the cubic yards of each material*

Calculate the trash, blue bin recycling, yard waste, and foodscraps for each business individually, then add like materials together. For each business in the enclosure, use the total waste calculated in step 1, then multiply it by the percentage of each material as shown in Appendix B.

Blue Bin Recycling (yd <sup>3</sup> )	= Total Waste (yd <sup>3</sup> ) x Blue Bin Recycling %
Yard Waste (yd <sup>3</sup> )	= Total Waste (yd <sup>3</sup> ) x Yard Waste %
Foodscraps (yd <sup>3</sup> )	= Total Waste (yd <sup>3</sup> ) x Foodscraps %
Trash (yd <sup>3</sup> )	= Total Waste (yd <sup>3</sup> ) x Trash %

## *Step 3: Determine the container size for each material type and calculate frequency.*

Use the largest container suitable for each waste type. Divide the cubic yards of each material by the container size (in cubic yards) as shown in Appendix A. The resulting number is the number of times the container must be emptied each week to accommodate the amount of material.

Foodscraps are picked up a minimum of twice per week, so adjust the container size if necessary. The ideal and most cost effective pickup frequency is once per week for trash, blue bin recycling, and yard waste. Maximum pickup frequency for design review is 3 times per week for businesses with weekend loading, and 4 times per week for businesses with heavier week day production. Pickup is not available on Sunday, so this will allow for a 2 day accumulation of waste. Since not every business conforms to the average waste generated, lower frequencies allow for both variation from the norm, change of business, or growth. Small containers can overflow in 1 day if business waste generation varies from day to day. Design for the largest container possible. If frequency exceeds 4 times per week, design for an additional container for the material type.

# TRASH & RECYCLING ENCLOSURE DESIGN GUIDE

## Example 1: Large Mixed Use Development

A mixed use development is proposed with the following businesses: winery 3,194 ft<sup>2</sup>; brewery 3,666 ft<sup>2</sup>; storage 1,358 ft<sup>2</sup>; architecture studio 2,194 ft<sup>2</sup>; computer graphics shop 698 ft<sup>2</sup>; retail 2,011 ft<sup>2</sup>; personal training 523 ft<sup>2</sup>; restaurant 1,965 ft<sup>2</sup>; coffee shop 700 ft<sup>2</sup>; and eight 2-bedroom residential apartments.

### Steps 1 & 2: Calculate the total waste and cubic yards of each material

- Assign a type to each business. According to Appendix C, both the brewery and restaurant are considered *Restaurants, full service* because the brewery serves food; the architecture studio is type *Office and Education*, the computer graphics shop is *Services* because the products are electronic design files, and personal training is *Gym and Fitness*. The storage area will not produce appreciable waste, so it is left out of the calculations. The coffee shop, retail, and residential are their own types.
- Find yd<sup>3</sup>/unit from Appendix B for each Business Type, and use the units to calculate total waste.
- Apply the percentages of blue bin recycling, foodscrap, trash, and yard waste from Appendix B to break down the total Waste into cubic yards for each material type.
- Sum the cubic yards of each material type.

Results are shown below. None of these businesses produce a significant amount of yard waste, so it is not in the table.

Business	Business Type (a)	yd <sup>3</sup> /unit (b)	Units	Total Waste (yd <sup>3</sup> ) (b)	Food or Yard % (c)	Food or Yard (yd <sup>3</sup> ) (c)	Blue Recycle %	Blue Recycle (yd <sup>3</sup> ) (c)	Trash %	Trash (yd <sup>3</sup> ) (c)
Personal Training	Gym and Fitness	0.0006	523	0.31	-	-	20%	0.19	40%	0.13
Computer Graphics	Services	0.0010	698	0.70	-	-	50%	0.35	50%	0.35
Restaurant	Restaurant	0.0036	5631	20.27	20%	4.05	40%	8.11	40%	8.11
Brewery										
Coffee Shop	Coffee Shop	0.0076	700	5.32	10%	0.53	50%	2.66	40%	2.13
Residential Apartment	Large Residential	0.3021	16	4.83	10%	0.48	50%	2.42	40%	1.93
Retail	Retail	0.0012	2011	2.41	-	-	50%	1.21	50%	1.21
Winery	Winery or Tasting	0.0006	3194	1.92	-	-	50%	0.96	50%	0.96
Architecture Studio	Office & Education	0.0005	2194	1.10	-	-	50%	0.55	50%	0.55
<b>Total (yd<sup>3</sup>)</b>				<b>36.8</b>		<b>4.6</b>		<b>16.5</b>		<b>15.9</b>

# TRASH & RECYCLING ENCLOSURE DESIGN GUIDE

## Step 3: Determine the container size for each material type and calculate frequency.

Using the total cubic yards for each material type calculated in Step 2, pick the largest possible container size and calculate the frequency by dividing the total amount of each material by the proposed container size. Frequency must be a whole number. Frequency is rounded up if the decimal is .3 or more, rather than the customary .5 or more.

All Businesses	Food (yd <sup>3</sup> )	Blue Recycle (yd <sup>3</sup> )	Trash (yd <sup>3</sup> )
Total (yd <sup>3</sup> )	4.6	16.5	15.9
Container Size (yd <sup>3</sup> )	2	4	4
Frequency (pickups per week)	3	4	4

The collection frequency of foodscraps is fine, but the frequency is **too high** for blue bin recycling and trash. From Appendix B we can see that the restaurant, brewery, and winery are subject to weekend loading, and they produce a large portion of the total waste. If only one 4 yd<sup>3</sup> dumpster is used for each, the blue bin recycling and trash will overflow on Sunday when there is no collection service. A second dumpster is required for the blue bin recycling and trash. It makes sense to provide two enclosures, but it is not required. If using two enclosures, one is allocated to the food serving businesses, and the second for all other uses. When divided into two enclosures, the waste looks like this:

### Enclosure 1: Food Serving

Business	Food (yd <sup>3</sup> )	Blue Recycle (yd <sup>3</sup> )	Trash (yd <sup>3</sup> )
Restaurant	4.05	8.11	8.11
Brewery			
Coffee Shop	0.53	2.66	2.13
<b>Total (yd<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>10.2</b>
Container Size (yd <sup>3</sup> )	2	4	4
Frequency (pickups per week)	3	3	3

### Enclosure 2: Non Food Serving

Business	Blue Recycle (yd <sup>3</sup> )	Trash (yd <sup>3</sup> )
Personal Training	0.19	0.13
Computer Graphics	0.35	0.35
Residential Apartment	2.42	2.42
Retail	1.21	1.21
Winery	0.96	0.96
Architecture Studio	0.55	0.55
<b>Total (yd<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.6</b>
Container Size (yd <sup>3</sup> )	4	4
Frequency (pickups per week)	2	2

As an alternative to these steps, a [Waste Generation Calculator](#) is available. For help with the steps, call City Trash & Recycling at **805-564-5631**. Please be prepared to provide the business types and gross square footages (or units) when you call or email.

## Appendix E: Plan Submission Checklist

### Information to include on all plans:

- Show all enclosure parts to scale.
- Show and label all enclosures and include gates.
- Show containers to scale inside enclosures and indicate size and waste stream of each, i.e. Trash 2 cubic yard dumpster or Recycle 95 gallon cart.

### Additional Information to include when upgrades are required:

- Indicate height of walls.
- If accessibility is required, show accessible path of travel.
- Show slope and distance from enclosure or refuse area to truck access point (TAP).
- Show curb cuts between enclosure and truck access point.
- Show how enclosure drains to landscaping, vegetated swales, permeable pavement, or bio retention basins.
- For indoor enclosures, show floor drains and connection to sanitary sewer. Show ventilation system.
- For shared enclosures, list all businesses that will share each enclosure, indicate business type and gross square footage of each. Business types are listed in Appendix B. Include offsite businesses that will be sharing the enclosure.
- For large residential complexes, list total bedrooms of units assigned to each enclosure.

## Appendix F: Santa Barbara Municipal Code (SBMC)

Full SBMC language is available online at <http://qcode.us/codes/santabarbara/>

### 30.140.240 Waste, Recycling, and Outdoor Storage

All new and existing waste, recycling, and outdoor storage areas shall comply with the requirements of this section.

A. **Waste and Recycling Storage.** Appropriately screened and located storage areas for solid waste and recycling receptacles that provide sufficient capacity for the development or use shall be provided, as follows:

1. **Compliance with the City Trash and Recycling Enclosure Design Guide.** Waste and recycling storage areas shall comply with the City Trash and Recycling Enclosure Design Guide.
2. **Screening.** Waste and recycling receptacle storage areas shall be hidden from view by a fence or enclosure, compatible with adjacent architecture, with a minimum height of five feet for carts/cans, and seven feet for dumpsters, from any parking lot, right-of-way, or adjoining residential property. This requirement may be reduced or waived by the appropriate Design Review body if the waste and recycling receptacle storage area is determined to be adequately screened pursuant to Section 30.15.120, Screening.
3. **Access.** Adequate access to and from the waste and recycling receptacle storage areas shall be provided including to the waste hauler access point.
4. **Visibility.** Waste and recycling receptacle storage areas shall comply with all height limitations pursuant to Section 30.140. 230, Visibility and Driveways and Intersections.
5. **Maintenance.** Waste and recycling receptacle storage areas shall be maintained in good condition, free of visible debris, and shall not be used for anything other than storing waste and recycling receptacles. Waste and Recycling receptacle storage areas shall not create a nuisance, hazard, or other objectionable condition, pursuant to Chapter 30.180, Performance Standards.
6. **Location.** No portion of any front yard, setback, open yard, or front porch shall be used to store waste, recycling or similar receptacles. However, waste, recycling, or similar receptacles provided by the City's contracted local waste hauler may encroach into an interior setback, front yard, or front setback, if located in an enclosure, and located no closer than 10 feet to the front lot line; under the following conditions:
  - a. A Minor Zoning Exception pursuant to Chapter 30.245, Minor Zoning Exceptions, the Minor Zoning Exception may only be granted where the Design Review body finds that the waste and recycling enclosure is not anticipated to create a nuisance, hazard, or other objectionable condition, pursuant to Chapter 30.180, Performance Standards.
  - b. The setback encroachments is for existing development only. The encroachment is not available for new structures, additions, or substantial redevelopment to existing structures where the

proposed project can provide a conforming location.

- c. When located within a setback or front yard, required open yard, or front porch shall be used for the storage or parking of motor vehicles, trailers, airplanes, boats, parts of any of the foregoing, appliances, loose rubbish or garbage, junk, tents, building materials, compost pile, or any similar item, for a period of 48 or more consecutive hours, except as provided below.

B. **Outdoor Storage.** No portion of any front yard or any setback, required open yard, or front porch shall be used for the storage or parking of motor vehicles, trailers, airplanes, boats, parts of the foregoing, appliances, loose rubbish or garbage, junk, tents, building materials, compost pile, or any similar item, for a period of 48 or more consecutive hours, except as provided below.

1. Storage established as a permitted use with a permit or approval, as provided in this Title.
2. Construction materials for use on the same premises may be stored during the time that a valid permit is in effect for construction on the premises.

## 30.15.120 Screening

When required by this Title, screening shall minimize the visual impact of an object or land use to the extent appropriate, through means of placement, barrier, or camouflage. Screening shall be designed to blend into the surrounding architecture or landscape so that the object or land use is not apparent to the casual observer. Screening shall be measured as follows:

- A. **Uncovered Parking.** Uncovered parking shall be screened when viewed from the adjacent street or alley.
- B. **Other Objects.** Other than uncovered parking, the object or land use shall be screened from any public view, including public parking lots, or adjacent residential properties.
- C. **Design Review Required.** All screening shall be reviewed and approved by the appropriate Design Review Body.
- D. **Exceptions.** Where an applicant can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the appropriate Design Review body that variations in the requirements of this section are warranted in order to provide relief for existing site constraints, or to achieve a superior aesthetic or environmental design, screening may be reduced or waived by the Design Review body.

## 30.140.230 Visibility and Driveways and Intersections

- A. **Applicability.** Visibility at driveways and intersections shall be maintained in accordance with this section, unless the Public Works Director grants a Minor Zoning Exception, pursuant to Chapter 30.245, Minor Zoning Exceptions, upon finding that the granting of such exception will not create or exacerbate an obstruction of the necessary sightlines for safe operation of motor vehicles.
- B. **Driveways.** Visibility at a driveway that crosses a front property line shall not be blocked above a height of 42 inches within the triangle areas described below:
  1. **Street with Sidewalk and Parkway.** When a driveway directly abuts a portion of a street without a sidewalk and parkway, the triangle is measured on two sides by a distance of 10 feet from the side of a driveway and 10 feet back from the front lot line.



2. **Street without Sidewalk and Parkway.** When a driveway directly abuts a portion of a street without a sidewalk and parkway, the minimum required site distance is established based on legal vehicle speed and the position of the driver's eye in relation to the intersection as determined by the Public Works Director. The Public Works Director may require additional site distance due to site-specific conditions.
- C. **Street Intersections.** The required site distance is established based on legal vehicle speed and the position of the driver's eye in relation to the intersection as determined by the Public Works Director. Structures and landscape located adjacent to intersections controlled by an all-way stop are not subject to additional height restrictions pursuant to this subsection. The Public Works Director may require additional site distance due to site-specific conditions.
- D. **Required Reduction for Safety.** If the height of any landscaping or structure obstructs the sightlines required for the safe operation of motor vehicles, the Public Works Director may declare the obstruction to be a public nuisance and require the removal, relocation or reduction of the obstruction in order to provide for the safe operation of motor vehicles.

### **30.245 Minor Zoning Exceptions**

Full SBMC language is available online at <http://qcode.us/codes/santabarbara/>

### **30.180 Performance Standards**

Full SBMC language is available online at <http://qcode.us/codes/santabarbara/>

### **28.87.190 Storage**

Full SBMC language is available online at <http://qcode.us/codes/santabarbara/>

### **7.16 Garbage and Refuse Collection and Disposal**

Full SBMC language is available online at <http://qcode.us/codes/santabarbara/>

*Other SBMC Sections To Review:*

### **9.150 Single-Use Carryout Bags**

Full SBMC language is available online at <http://qcode.us/codes/santabarbara/>

### **9.160 Regulating Expanded Polystyrene Food Containers and Products**

Full SBMC language is available online at <http://qcode.us/codes/santabarbara/>

### **9.165 Restrictions On The Provision Of Plastic Beverage Straws, Stirrers, and Cutlery**

Full SBMC language is available online at <http://qcode.us/codes/santabarbara/>