

Recycling Collection in Alleys

Who does this change affect?

This change will affect any resident currently receiving alley trash collection service by the City. If you do not place your trash container in an alley for collection, this change will not affect you at all.

What will I have to do differently?

Residents must now set out their blue or yellow recycling container (35/65 gallon cart or 18 gallon bin) in the alley beside their green trash container (or personal trash container if not provided by the City (Old Town residents only)). Recycling will no longer be collected at curbside (in front) for customers who receive trash collection in alleys.

When will the change to alley collection for recycling take effect?

This change will go into effect for all collections beginning the week of Monday, November 28, 2011.

Why is the City now collecting recycling from alleys?

Alley collection of recycling is one of the most common requests we receive from our recycling customers. This service will provide residents the convenience of setting both their trash and recycling containers in the same location and allow residents the opportunity to exchange an older 18 gallon bin for one of our new, larger wheeled carts with lids that provide added recycling capacity. The second consideration is critical for the City in that it will encourage residents to recycle more, thus saving the City money over the long term.

What if I do not want to set my recycling in the alley?

The City of Alexandria Solid Waste Division is dedicated to operating in an efficient and cost effective manner. This service improvement is being implemented in order to encourage more recycling which is both a cost saving measure and a critical component of the Eco-City Alexandria initiative. If you have alley collection for trash, you must place your recycling in the alley for collection starting the week of November 28, 2011.

What if it appears that there is not enough room in my alley for both trash and recycling?

Many of the City's alleys were designed and built many years ago when trash/recycling collection was done very differently. A few alleys in the City are simply too narrow and some are in very poor condition, which makes both trash and recycling collections impractical. In these cases, the Solid Waste Division will work with residents to establish a mutually beneficial collection location. Although the City conducts annual alley cleanups and regular removal of illegal dumping, residents are encouraged to help ensure that alleys are properly maintained. All debris should be removed and vegetation – particularly overhead tree limbs – should be trimmed from the right of way to allow for service. Your carts should be kept in a secure area when not out for collection. Carts that are left in public alleyways are often stolen or contaminated with other people's garbage which then becomes the responsibility of the resident.

I'm concerned that placing recycling in the alley will create a litter problem or potentially contaminate the recycling stream.

Changing to a lidded recycling cart will significantly diminish windblown litter and prevent vermin from rummaging through recyclables. The possibility of contamination or misuse of the recycling carts will be limited if the containers are set out properly for collection and then returned to the resident's property.

What if I have a question about alley collection or exchanging recycling containers?

You can call the Solid Waste Division at (703) 746-4410, or you can visit our website at www.alexandriava.gov/recycling