



To reduce the prevalence of litter on our streets and sidewalks, Seattle Public Utilities places public litter and recycling cans in high pedestrian-traffic areas. These areas tend to be in neighborhood business districts where there are quick serve food/drink or retail business clusters. The following criteria help us ensure that public litter and recycle cans are placed equitably in areas with the highest need and address past programmatic inequities in terms of placement and service levels. Please note that Program staff may use discretion to place cans in special situations that deviate from the below criteria.

Approved Location Criteria



Within mixed-use commercial areas that have a frequent pedestrian presence

Mixed-use business areas include any combination of retail, commercial, residential, and civic space. Business areas located within the City's [Race and Social Equity Index boundaries](#) will be prioritized.



On public sidewalks adjacent to businesses in the public right-of-way.

Cans must be placed on cement or bricks/grout. We will not place cans on grass, dirt, or gravel.



Allows for easy service, inspection, vehicle, pedestrian, and ADA access

We place cans on or near street corners that do not have utility boxes, and/or bike racks. Placed cans must not block vehicular traffic, parking, or load and unload zones or be adjacent to protected bicycle lanes. Pedestrians must be able to use 5-ft of the sidewalk after the can is placed, per the Seattle sidewalk design policy and Americans with Disabilities Act: 8 ft minimum sidewalk width minus 3 ft for can diameter

Unapproved Can Locations



Within residential neighborhoods.

This includes high density areas that are primarily residential and single family residential.



In business areas already served by private cans.

We strongly encourage businesses to place cans in the pedestrian right of way to collect litter from their patrons and can support these efforts through our Self-Service Program.



Within park areas or nearby sidewalks that are serviced by Seattle Parks Department.

Litter can requests within parks should be directed to the [Seattle Parks & Recreation Department](#), as they manage the public trash needs within Seattle's parks.



At Metro bus stops without shelters outside of business districts.

Metro bus stop can requests should be directed to [King County Metro](#) only if there is a shelter.



For the sole use of a stand-alone business.

Businesses outside of business districts that require outdoor litter cans for their patrons must provide their own cans and service.

Questions? Please Contact:

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