

Portland Composts!

Businesses Dig It

Finding a Food-Scrap Collection Company

When it comes to selecting a garbage and recycling company to collect your food scraps, you have the freedom to choose among a variety of companies and customize your service to meet your budget and your needs. Portland has an open, competitive market for these services; here are some tips for selecting the company that's right for you.

Know who manages the garbage and recycling services for your business

If you are a tenant in a building with other businesses, the building owner or property management company probably negotiates service with the garbage and recycling company. You'll need to contact the appropriate management staff to inquire about getting food-scrap collection added to the service.

You have choices

All commercially permitted garbage and recycling companies are required to offer food-scrap collection service. Check local listings for names of businesses that provide service to commercial accounts. With a variety of companies offering the service, it's worth shopping around to find the right match for your business. We encourage you to contact your current garbage and recycling company(s) first. To retain your business, they may be willing to offer you a better price and bundle of services. You're not required to use this company, however. You can consider hiring a different company for food-scrap collection.

Research your options

Not all companies offer the same set of service options. Some may only pick-up food scraps a few days a week while others offer everyday collection if you need it. Check with several companies to find out what options they can make available to you.

Questions to ask:

- Size of service container and frequency of pickups (to prevent containers from overflowing)
- Hours during which pickups can occur (no collection is allowed between 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. in the downtown corridor)
- List of items your hauler will provide, including such items as containers, dumpsters and signage for the containers
- Standards for cleanliness for the containers collection areas and container cleaning service (if applicable)
- Point person at the garbage and recycling company who will handle any problems that arise with service
- Price of service
- Any other options that are important to you

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DAN SALTZMAN, COMMISSIONER
SUSAN ANDERSON, DIRECTOR



Be prepared

Before contacting your garbage and recycling company you should know....

- Type and amount of food scraps you generate
- Days when food scraps generation is heaviest
- What percentage of your trash could be diverted to the compost bin
- If your company is currently in a contract with a garbage and recycling company
- What space is available for additional containers in your trash area and in the kitchen

(Revised 07/09)