Seattle Public Utilities

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CITY CLERK

Director's Rule

Title	Number	Rev. no.
Temporary Container and Bag Placement and Removal at Curbs and Public Alleys	SW-406.1	0
Responsibility	**Supersedes**	**Pages**
Solid Waste Division	SW-505.1	4
SPU Director's Approval	**Effective Date**	
Ray Hoff	May 1, 2014	

1. PURPOSE

Seattle Municipal Code 15.04.010 requires a street use permit for anyone to make long-term "use" of a public place as an alley, planting strip or sidewalk. However, "use" of public places allows the temporary placement by a customer of garbage and recyclables for curbside/alley collection that are in compliance with SMC 21.36.080. SMC Section 21.36.080 B allows containers to be placed on the sidewalk or in the alley or planting strip as long as they are placed a "reasonable time prior to collection" and removed "within a reasonable amount of time thereafter".

Containers can include bundles of yard waste: 12, 20, and 32 gallon garbage cans, wheeled 32 to 96 gallon carts, and 1 to 20 yard detachable containers or dumpsters used for collection of garbage, recyclable materials or organic waste (yard and food waste) by residents or businesses. The reasonable amount of time prior to and after collection set forth in this rule pertains not only to all City contracted collection services for garbage, recyclable materials and compostables (yard and food waste) but also non-contracted, private collection services as well. It does not apply to placement of containers in a public place where a street use permit has been obtained from the City.

2. RULE

A. Placement and Removal of Residential and Commercial Cans, Wheeled Carts and Detachable Containers at the Curb and Public Alleys

Residential and commercial cans wheeled carts and detachable containers (or dumpsters) with garbage, recyclables or compostables may be placed temporarily at the curb, on the planting strip or in the public alley up to 24 hours before their scheduled collection by the City-contracted hauler. They should be removed by the customer and returned to their property within 24 hours of being collected. Bundles of yard waste may also be placed up to 24 hours before their scheduled collection. However, additional bagged waste outside of cans, wheeled carts or detachable containers for pickup as garbage can only be put out for collection at the curb, on the planting strip or in the alley 3 hours prior to collection if the bag contains putrescible waste. It may be put out the night before collection if the bag contains non-putrescible waste.

There should be no permanent storage of cans, wheeled carts or detachable containers on public sidewalks, planting strips or in alleys unless the property owner has no space to store containers on their property or inside their building. Then containers may be left only along the side of public alleys as long as they are kept lidded, the area around them is kept clean and they do not interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic access and use. The SPU Director designee may verify lack of off-right-of-way storage space.

B. Clear Alleys Program

Many public alleys in Downtown and Neighborhood Business Districts have permanent solid waste dumpsters which provide cover for uncivil and illegal behaviors, impede pedestrian and vehicular traffic use, and attract illegal dumping. As replacement for such dumpsters in public alleys, a prepaid bag system will be used by businesses, apartments and condominiums in Designated Business Districts through the City's two contracted haulers for garbage unless they have storage space for containers on private property or choose to self-haul garbage to the City's transfer stations.

The City's contractors and private recycling companies are to offer prepaid bags for recyclables if there is no on-site storage for containers on a customer's property though carts may be used for certain materials subject to the requirements of section G of this rule.

C. Designated Business Districts for the Clear Alleys Program

The following are the Designated Business Districts approved by the SPU Director for inclusion in the Clear Alleys Program:

1) *Downtown (including Belltown, the Denny Triangle, and the Commercial Core)*
The boundaries of the Downtown Designated Business District are Elliot Bay to the west, Bay Street to Denny Way to the north (south side of those respective streets), Interstate 5 to the east (west side of the highway) and Yesler Way to the south (north side of the roadway). Private streets, alleys, and piers are not covered under this rule.

2) *Pioneer Square*
The boundaries of the Pioneer Square Designated Business District are Elliot Bay to the west, Yesler Way to the north (south side of the street), Fourth Avenue South to the east (west side of roadway) to South King Street to the south and then west along South King Street to Occidental Avenue South (west side of roadway). The eastern boundary then becomes Occidental Avenue South (west side of the roadway) south to South Royal Brougham Way (north side of roadway). From the southern boundary of South Royal Brougham Way, the western boundary follows First Avenue South north to Railroad Way South and then to Alaska Way South north to South King Street. Private streets, alleys, and piers are not covered under this rule.

3) *International District*
The boundaries of the International District Designated Business District are Yesler Way to the north (south side of street), Fourth Avenue South to the west (east side of street) to South Dearborn Street to the south (north side of street) to Interstate 5 to the east (west side of interstate).

4) *Columbia City*
The boundaries of the Columbia City Designated Business District are South Dawson Street to the south (north side of street), South Alaska Street to the north (south side of street), 37th Avenue South to the west (east side of street), and 39th Avenue South to the east (west side of street).

5) Other Designated Business Districts that have expressed interest in the Clear Alleys Program and may be included in the future are:

- East Olive/East Union/Capitol Hill
- South Lake Union
- Uptown/Lower Queen Anne
- Fremont
- University District
- North of the University of Washington Campus
- West Seattle Junction

D. Placement and Removal of Residential and Commercial Cans, Wheeled Carts and Detachable Containers on Public Sidewalks and Alleys within Designated Business Districts

Residential and commercial cans, wheeled carts or detachable containers with garbage, recyclables or compostables may be placed at the curb or along the side of public alleyways during the hours of 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. or up to 3 hours before their scheduled collection by a City-contracted or private collector if no storage space is available on private property. They must be removed and returned to the customer's property within 3 hours of being collected. Bundles of yard waste may also be placed up to 3 hours before their scheduled collection. The SPU Director's designee may deny the overnight storage locations or the daytime collection of containers.

There should be no permanent storage of cans, wheeled carts and detachable containers on public sidewalks and planting strips or in public alleys.

E. Prepaid Color Coded Bag Alternative to Detachable Container Use

Residential and commercial customers, choosing this City-contracted service for garbage, will be provided with prepaid color coded bags and a collection schedule by their City-contracted hauler. Prepaid bags may be used for recyclables subject to the requirements of section G of this rule. Customers will set out prepaid bags for collection no more than three hours before the scheduled pickup time.

The bags will be color coded according to the type of material being collected. Private recycling collectors may choose to offer customers a similar bag service and must provide customers with a collection time schedule. Customers) will set out bags for collection no more than three hours before the scheduled pickup time.

F. Removal of Dumpsters in Clear Alleys Designated Business Districts

1) In the Downtown, Pioneer Square and International District Designated Business Districts containers may no longer be stored in the right-of-way and customers who do not have off right-of-way storage for their carts or dumpsters must use prepaid bags.

2) In the Columbia City Designated Business District, containers that cannot be stored off the right of way will be removed between June 1, 2014 and June 30, 2014. Customers who do not have off-right–of-way storage for their carts or dumpsters in this core area will need to use prepaid bags as of July 1, 2014.

G. Exemptions within Clear Alleys Designated Business Districts

The following types of containers and materials are exempt from this rule with specific conditions:

1) Collection containers for used cooking oil that meet public and environmental health requirements are categorically exempt.

2) Labeled Carts (32, 60 or 96 gallon) with tight fitting lids for source separated food scraps/food soiled paper and yard trimmings if no on-site storage on private property is available as verified by the City.

3) Labeled Carts (32, 60 or 96 gallon) for glass if no on-site storage on private property is available as verified by the City.

4) Labeled Carts (32, 60 or 96 gallon) for animal waste if no on-site storage on private property is available as verified by the City.

All customers interested in obtaining an exemption for cart containment of organic waste, glass and animal waste and long-term storage in the public alleys must contact Seattle Public Utilities to have the lack of on-site cart storage space on private property verified.

3. AUTHORITY/REFERENCES

- SMC 21.36.080B Placement of Containers
- SMC 15.04.010 Street Use Permit Required
- Frequently Asked Questions for Clear Alleys Program
  www.seattle.gov/util/clearalleys