


# THE CHICAGO RECYCLING ORDINANCE


CHAPTER 11-5 OF THE CHICAGO MUNICIPAL CODE

## A Guide to Commercial, Retail, and Multi-Unit Residential Recycling in the City of Chicago

### CHICAGO RECYCLES


Under the ordinance, property owners of multi-unit or high-density residential buildings, office and commercial establishments will now be mandated to provide source-separated, single-stream recycling. Property owners will also be responsible for implementing an ongoing educational program that includes posting signage, providing adequate carts and sending written notice to tenants about the changes.

 **TIP:** Source-separated recycling requires all persons citywide to place recyclable material in designated recycling containers and to keep recyclable material separate from waste until such time that the recyclable material is collected for delivery to a properly permitted facility.

 **TIP:** Residents may call 311 to report non-compliance (ie/lack of recycling receptacles or educational materials).

### COMPLIANCE

The Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation (DSS) handles enforcement of the ordinance that includes a 30-day warning period and graduated penalties for non-compliance after an inspection. These penalties include: \$500 to \$1,000 (first offense); \$1,000 to \$2,500 (second offense within 12-month period); and \$2,500 to \$5,000 (third and each subsequent violation occurring within 12 months of the most recent violation).

 **TIP:** Property owners or building managers can contact (312) 744-2413 for assistance with understanding the Recycling Ordinance.



### SUMMARY

#### ■ All commercial establishments and multi-unit dwellings are required to:

- Contract with a private hauler, for the provision of source-separated recycling services;
- Maintain an ongoing education program to communicate to residents, tenants, and employees about which materials the program accepts and how to prepare the materials for recycling; and
- Post signs in common areas identifying the materials to be recycled and the location of the material collection points.

#### ■ Before you contract for your recycling program, here are a few questions you should ask:

1. What does your current service include?
2. Do they provide single-stream recycling collection?
3. What is the schedule for collection?
4. Will they provide educational material for distribution?
5. What size container can they provide?
6. Do you require the recyclables to be loose, not bagged in the recycling container?



For more information on recycling, visit:  
[www.chicagorecycles.org](http://www.chicagorecycles.org) or [www.recyclebycity.com/Chicago](http://www.recyclebycity.com/Chicago)