

# Expanding, Renovating or Building a New Business? Save Space for Recyclables

## *Background*

The aim of the state's waste reduction and recycling law, 1989 Wisconsin Act 335, is to reduce the amount of solid waste sent to Wisconsin landfills and incinerators. To achieve this, the law bans the landfilling and burning of various recyclable items and encourages the development of markets that can make use of these materials.

The recycling law requires the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations (DILHR) to set rules for the separation and temporary storage of recyclable materials in all public buildings. This includes any commercial building from retail stores and industrial plants, to schools and apartment houses for three or more families. An overview of these rules follows.

## *Types of buildings*

The DILHR recycling rule (s. 101.126, Wis. Stats., ILHR 51-52, WI Admin. Code) pertains to:

- all newly constructed public buildings;
- additions that increase the size of a public building by 50% or more; and,
- alterations of 50% or more of a public building that is 10,000 sq. ft. or larger.

## *Definitions of recyclables*

A "recyclable material" is any item banned from landfills and incinerators that is separated, collected and temporarily stored. As of January, 1995, these items include, but are not limited to:

- corrugate paper and container board;
- magazines, newspapers and office paper;
- aluminum containers;
- glass containers;
- plastic containers; and
- steel containers.

Check with your local waste hauler or municipal solid waste and recycling coordinator for more detailed information about banned items in your area.



## *Plot plans and floor plans*

Before construction may begin, building owners must submit for approval to DILHR or a designed local governmental office, plans that include an aerial view or plot plan of the building site.

If there is no outside space designated for recyclables, building owners must submit floor plans that show adequate space within a building for recyclables collection, separation and temporary storage.

## *Room Dimensions*

If the size of space provided for temporary recyclable storage is not based on guidelines set by DILHR 51-52 rule, then documentation must be submitted to show adequate space is available. (see chart below)

## *Recycling space exceptions*

Space for separation, collection and temporary storage of recyclables must be provided within or adjacent to all buildings, except where there is a separate trash collection room. In that case, such rooms must have space set aside for recyclables.

### ***Maintenance of recyclables***

Recyclables must be stacked in a secure manner to protect against sliding or collapse and may not be stored in furnace rooms, or near other operating ventilation equipment. Containers for collected recyclables may not be located in any place, such as exit hallways, that obstructs employees' normal movement.

If there is an automatic fire sprinkler system in the recycling space, recyclables may not be placed closer than 3 feet below the sprinkler nozzles.

<b>Guidelines for Recommended Space Allocation by Type of Building Use</b>		
<b>Types of Use</b>	<b>Space Allocation (cu.ft/1000 sq. ft. floor area)</b>	
	<b>Weekly Pick-Up</b>	<b>Monthly Pick-Up</b>
Assembly Hall, Theater	2.2	10
Child Day Care with meals served	4.5	20
without meals served	3	12
Detention and Correctional	13.5	60
Garage Storage Repair	0 *	0 *
Hospital	13.5	60
Clinic, without meals served	8	36
Nursing/Rest Home	4.5	20
Hotel, Motel without meals served	3.5	15
Industrial	*	*
Library	2.2	10
Department Store, Shopping Mall	9	40
Grocery	18	80
Museum, Art Gallery	2.2	10
Office	7	30
Residential, multi/family dwelling	9	40
Restaurant or Food Service	**	**
School	3	12
Warehouse	*	*
* Varies with type of activity ** Varies with number of meals served and type of meal service This information is to be used only as a guide. Space Allocation may differ from the listed value when using verified amounts of previously generated recyclable materials.		

## ***Where to go for more information***

For more information about separation, collection and storage of recyclables in public buildings, call the Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations at 608/266-308.

For other information about waste reduction and recycling, call the Department of Natural Resources at 608/267-7566, or contact your local DNR district headquarters at the number listed below and ask for the recycling specialists.

- Lake Michigan District.....414/492-5800
- North Central District.....715/362-7616
- Northwest District.....715/635-2101
- Southeast District.....414/961-2727
- Southern District.....608/275-3266
- Western District.....715/839-3700

