

PROTECT YOURSELF AND GARBAGE AND RECYCLING WORKERS FROM COVID-19

Solid waste collection companies are providing an essential service necessary to maintain the health and safety of Oregon communities, and they can only do so if they can stay healthy. It is vital that customers take precautions to protect themselves, and to protect those workers who are on the frontlines of collecting solid waste and recycling.

Solid waste collection employees are educated in best practices to avoid transmission, including good hygiene, wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) such as gloves, and maintaining social distance of six feet from others. Customers should also practice similar protective practices, including:

GARBAGE

- ✓ Bag and tie garbage bags and place in cart or dumpster
- ✓ Don't open or remove bagged garbage after placing in cart or dumpster



RECYCLING

At this time, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) all agree that if handled with caution, using correct personal protective equipment and following safe hygiene practices, recycling materials are not a pathway to COVID19 infection (source: [National Waste & Recycling Association](#)).



- ✓ Place loose recyclables in carts and bins—DO NOT bag recycling
- ✓ Make sure all recycling is clean, empty, and dry
- ✓ Place only program recyclables in recycling carts and bins
- ✓ No plastic bags in recycling

CUSTOMERS

- ✓ Before and after collection, wipe down carts and bins with disinfectant, especially the handles and lids
- ✓ Leave 5 ft. of clearance between each cart or bin whenever possible for automated collection
- ✓ Wash hands after returning carts and bins to storage locations and continue to maintain social distance from others

