

University of Illinois at Chicago's Recycling Bin Standards Guidelines for Offices' and Classrooms' Common Areas and Hallways

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to provide a standard of recycling bin usage at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). These standards have been created by the Office of Sustainability to aid UIC in achieving its goal of becoming a Zero Waste campus. To date, the campus has been able to reach a diversion waste rate of about 40%, but with conscious effort to follow the bin guidelines, this rate can be even higher.

Guidelines:

1. Color Coding

- a. Bins' coloring reflects specific streams:
Bottles and Cans- Blue
Paper- Green
Landfill- Grey
- b. Specific CMYK/ RGB colors are not specified. Please contact the Office of Sustainability for further instructions.

2. Bin openings

- a. Each bin top shall have its own shape for the opening

Bottles and Cans- Circular



Paper- Slit



Landfill- Square



- b. The size of each opening shall be no larger than either of the other two openings and shall be at minimum 28 inches in total area. For example, the area of the square opening of the landfill cannot exceed the of the circular opening of the bottles and cans.
- c. Plain English words (as indicated in the color coding guide in item 1. a.) must be printed near each opening to indicate the particular waste stream.

3. Order of bins

- a. A three-bin system is used with the order of Bottles and Cans, Landfill, and Paper from left to right
- b. Bins must be physically attached to one another to ensure this order.

4. Sizing

- a. Each bin shall be no larger than 35 gallons and no smaller than 23 gallons

4. Signage

- a. Each bin must have an area to physically accommodate signage at or above the height of the bin. It is not acceptable to place signage below the top of the bin.
- b. Contact the Office of Sustainability for Artwork for signage.

5. Bin Materials

- a. Bins should contain at minimum 25% post-consumer recycled content
- b. Bins must be manufactured, distributed, and/or purchased within 100 miles of the University.

Summary Points:

- Bins on campus should follow the guidelines listed above.
- The use of solitary garbage bins must be eliminated.
- The same type of bins and configurations should be purchased for all new spaces to ensure consistency.
- Retrofit existing bins as much as possible to meet the standards.
- Artwork for signage will be provided by the Office of Sustainability.
- Payment for signage will be paid for by unit purchasing the bins.



Figure 1 Example of three-bin system