

JHU WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE STANDARDS

Purpose

This document aims to provide designers, project managers, sustainability practitioners, and facilities teams with the necessary guidance for establishing uniformity in the physical waste infrastructure in all JHU owned buildings to support our institutional sustainability goals and comply with JHU's High Performance and Healthy Building Requirements.

Waste Infrastructure

Infrastructure for waste collection should be determined by the type of use, how much material is expected to be generated, and how frequently the receptacles will be serviced. Except in limited areas like copy rooms and restrooms, all waste stations should include compost, recycling, and trash receptacles.

Placement of interior waste stations will be design-dependent but should be located, at a minimum, within line of sight of interior building or floor entrances, on every floor along accessible and convenient paths of travel for building occupants, and in areas where food is prepared and/or consumed. The stations should not impede circulation or access to adjoining rooms and functions. Where applicable, exterior waste stations should be located at the entrance to a building and in areas where people gather and/or food is consumed. Receptacles should be placed in the following order (left to right) compost, recycle, incinerate. Divisions may deviate as long as the order is consistent throughout the building and/or campus. For divisions with dual stream recycling (paper & cardboard collected separately from bottles/cans), both blue recycling bins should be placed next to each other.

To further improve waste diversion, individual waste receptacles should not be provided for desks, classrooms, or conference rooms with an occupancy of less than ten people in new construction or major renovation projects and a transition to this standard is recommended for existing buildings. Shared waste stations, where all waste streams are provided in strategically placed common areas in lieu of deskside trash bins, has been shown to increase waste diversion. Additionally, this system reduces cost, plastic liner waste, and pests, as well as supports wellness goals. Communication and proactive engagement with building occupants prior to implementation is critical to the success of this program. See the [Shared Waste Station Guidelines](#) and coordinate with the Office of Climate & Sustainability.

JHU Standard Waste Receptacles and Requirements

The following free-standing interior receptacle styles are recommended and have university negotiated pricing. Contact the Office of Climate and Sustainability (OCS) for vendor information.

Busch Systems – [Waste Watchers Series](#)



Busch Systems – [Spectrum Series](#) (cube style)



Discretion is allowed per building aesthetics for free-standing receptacles or millwork; however, the following standard criteria must be adhered to:

Color

The following waste stream colors must be used for receptacles, signage, or both:

- Recycling (single stream, paper, and bottles and cans) – Blue
- Compost – Green
- Trash – Grey

Signage

All waste receptacles must include standard university signage and should be attached above the bin. If millwork is used, signage should be mounted on the wall above the opening. If receptacles are accessible on both sides, labels must be placed around the opening to indicate the waste stream and standard signage must be displayed on both sides. Standard signs are portrait 8 ½ x 11. Contact [OCS](#) for signage files and custom signage requests.

Receptacle Openings

Restrictive openings should be used with free-standing waste receptacles to reduce contamination as follows:

- Single stream recycling: “Mixed” shape opening that accommodates paper and bottle/cans
- Paper recycling: “Slot” shape opening that accommodates only paper
- Bottles and cans recycling: “Circle” shape opening that accommodates bottles and cans only
- Compost: “Full” rectangular opening with a minimum size of 6”x10”
- Trash: “Full” rectangular opening with a minimum size of 6”x10”

The same restrictive openings are preferred for millwork but are not required and must be a minimum size of 6”x10”. Waste receptacles inside millwork should be “slim jim” style (20” x 11” x 30”) and match the waste stream colors. Additionally, waste receptacles need to be able to slide in and out easily; therefore, toe kicks should be eliminated or attached to the door.

Icons

If icons are used on waste receptacles or millwork, the following images should be used:

Waste Stream	Icon
Recycling: chasing arrows	
Compost: apple core	
Incinerate: trash bin	

Exceptions

Exceptions to the infrastructure standards can be made for receptacles used to collect specialty materials including electronics, laboratory supplies, confidential

paper for shredding, etc. Clear signage should be used and should align with waste sign design standards where possible. There are no recommended exterior waste receptacle styles. Limitations may exist for exterior waste receptacles and all effort should be made to comply with the indoor waste infrastructure standards. Exceptions should be approved by OCS.

Waste Receptacle Liners

To ensure waste streams remain properly separated from the point of collection to final consolidation, waste receptacle liners should be color coded to designate waste streams. The following colors are recommended:

- Recycling – Clear
- Compost – Green (BPI Certified is required)
- Trash – Black

Custodial Staff Engagement

It is important that custodial staff responsible for maintaining and servicing the waste receptacles have the opportunity to provide feedback on the selection and placement of waste receptacles. Their expertise and the impact on their work should be integrated into the final design. Design teams should consult with the appropriate staff at each design phase or as appropriate before finalizing the design, placement, and purchase of receptacles. Additionally, staff should receive training on the new waste infrastructure standards and receptacles once installed. Contact OCS for zero waste training modules.

Waste Consolidation & Removal

Each building should have space designated with appropriately sized containers (compactor, dumpster, or totes) for consolidating building waste or a staging area that is safely accessible by waste handling personnel to transport waste for consolidation. Adequate access and clearance must be provided for vehicles to collect and transport waste to a centralized container. Divisions should strive for waste consolidation that allows 3rd party waste haulers to weigh materials for tracking and reporting where feasible, e.g. compactors that can be weighed offsite or dumpsters with built in scales.

Communicating Changes

Divisions should communicate waste infrastructure changes to the campus community. The OCS team can provide support in developing messaging and materials that convey changes in the context of achieving university goals.