Beginning May 2, 2022, vehicles measuring 25 feet or more will no longer be allowed at King County’s Algona, Renton, and Houghton transfer stations.

Effective May 2, 2022, vehicles measuring 25 feet or more in length will no longer be allowed to enter King County’s Algona, Renton, Houghton transfer stations. The only exception is commercial hauling companies that have contracts to provide municipal waste pickup services (such as Waste Management, Recology, Republic). Customers with long vehicles can instead use stations at Bow Lake (Tukwila), Factoria, Enumclaw and Shoreline.

These modern stations are larger and offer a number of additional recycling and disposal options. Customers will be charged the lower recycling rate by taking yard waste to Bow Lake (Tukwila), Factoria, Enumclaw and Shoreline, saving them money. Because the facilities are larger, wait times are often shorter. Customers can Check the Line for wait times.

The restrictions on long vehicles are needed because new concrete barriers have been installed to keep people and vehicles safely away from the Fall Hazard Area. These new barriers have reduced the length of the disposal areas. Long vehicles no longer have enough room to safely move around inside the smaller stations, and they increase the risk of accidents and injuries to workers and customers.

Customers who are diverted from the affected stations can expect to drive an additional 8 to 17 miles to alternate stations. Disposal costs for items such as yard debris are also offered at lower prices at these locations.

We understand and regret the inconvenience to customers unaware of the new rule. Those who are diverted to other stations will receive a voucher for a $14 discount off their disposal fee at another King County Transfer Station (Bow Lake, Factoria, Enumclaw, Shoreline).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Why is it necessary for a 25-foot vehicle restriction at King County’s Algona, Renton, and Houghton Transfer Stations?

A. The restrictions are needed for the safety of customers and workers at these older stations. To keep people and vehicles safely outside a designated Fall Hazard Area, staff had to install concrete wheel stops, which reduced the length of the disposal stalls. Trucks and trailers 25 feet and longer don’t have enough room to safely move around inside the stations and they increase the risk of accidents and injuries to workers and customers. The only exceptions are commercial haulers and commercial account holders with hydraulic trucks and trailers, because they can use the commercial disposal stalls that don’t require them to exit their vehicle.
Q. Are vehicle length restrictions new at these stations?
A. No. There is currently a 30-foot restriction for trucks and trailers at these stations. New concrete wheel stops that were installed to keep people out of the fall hazard zone reduced the length of the disposal areas, which is why the restrictions now apply to 25-foot-long vehicles.

Q. Why restrictions now? I’ve been using the station for years and it hasn’t been an issue.
A. This has actually been an issue which is why the new safety restrictions are in place. These older stations are known as “top load” stations, which feature a below-grade trailer where customers drop their waste. Customers were getting too close to the edge of the cement floor above the trailer, risking steep falls and serious injury. In addition to a no-entry Red Zone (fall hazard zone) to keep customers a safe distance from the floor edge, concrete wheel stops were installed to keep vehicles from getting too close. These wheel barriers reduce stall length, and long vehicles can’t maneuver safely in the reduced space.

Q. I’ve been turned away. Where do I go?

The closest stations to Algona are:

- **Bow Lake Recycling & Transfer Station (8 miles)**
  18800 Orillia Rd S [external map link]
  Tukwila, WA 98188
  **Station hours (different from recycle area hours):**
  Mon-Thurs: 24 hours; Fri: 12am – 11:30 p.m.; Sat-Sun: 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
  **Recycle area hours (different from station hours):**
  Mon-Fri 6 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Sat-Sun: 8:30am – 5:30pm.

- **Enumclaw Recycling & Transfer Station (17 miles)**
  1650 Battersby Ave E [external map link]
  Enumclaw, WA 98022
  **Station hours:** Daily 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The closest stations to Renton are:

- **Bow Lake Recycling & Transfer Station (8 miles)**
  18800 Orillia Rd S [external map link]
  Tukwila, WA 98188
  **Station hours (different from recycle area hours):**
  Mon-Thurs: 24 hours; Fri: 12am – 11:30 p.m.; Sat-Sun: 8:30a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
  **Recycle area hours (different from station hours):**
  Mon-Fri 6:00am – 8 p.m. Sat-Sun: 8:30am – 5:30pm.
**Factoria Recycling & Transfer Station (9 miles)**
13800 SE 32nd St (external map link)
Bellevue, WA 98005
Station hours: Mon-Fri: 6:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Sat & Sun: 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

The closest stations to Houghton are:

**Factoria Recycling & Transfer Station (8 miles)**
13800 SE 32nd St (external map link)
Bellevue, WA 98005
Station Hours: Mon-Fri: 6:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Sat & Sun: 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Shoreline Recycling & Transfer Station (16 miles)**
2300 N 165th St. (external map link)
Shoreline, WA 98133
Station Hours: Mon-Fri: 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sat & Sun: 8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Customers can [Check the Line](#) for wait times. Complete list here for all [King County Recycling & Transfer Facilities](#) including hours, days of operation, and accepted materials. All facilities are closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day.

**Q.** The Houghton, Renton, and Algona transfer stations have been in service for 50 years, is anything being done to improve them?

**A.** Yes, two of the stations (Algona and Houghton) are scheduled for replacement in the next few years. Construction on the [South County Recycling and Transfer Station](#) is set to start in 2023, with the new station opening in 2026. It will include a number of new services, including recycling, yard waste drop off, and haz waste disposal, which aren’t offered at Algona. King County is looking for a new site for its [Northeast Recycling and Transfer Station](#), which is scheduled to open in 2028.

**Q.** I had no idea about the new rule. I came to the station and waited in line, only to be turned away. Will King County compensate me?

**A.** We understand and regret the inconvenience to our customers. Those who are turned away will receive a voucher for a $14 discount off their disposal fee at an alternate station. The disposal fee for garbage is $28, the fee for recycling (including yard waste) is $16.