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## **R-2: Residential Storage of Solid Waste and Food Wastes (Garbage)**

Leaking garbage cans, waste containers without lids, and scrap piles can cause polluted runoff, which can harm surface waters and groundwater. Accumulated garbage can attract rodents, rats, mosquitoes, and other pests that are also health hazards.

*Potential pollutants include but are not limited to fecal coliform bacteria, hydrocarbons, metals, nutrients, oil and grease, oxygen demanding substances, PCBs, pH, sediment, and other pollutants.*

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are required by King County Water Quality Code (KCC 9.12). If the BMPs included here are not enough to prevent contamination of stormwater, you will be required to take additional measures.

### **Required BMPs**

- Keep garbage, recyclables, and food wastes in covered or lidded containers.
- Dispose of waste, using a curbside pick-up service or take it to a solid waste transfer station.
- Do not let garbage accumulate to the point that it spills out of the container or prevents people from using the container.

### **Tips**

- Recycle as much as possible. Use the King County “What do I do with...?” website to find businesses that accept materials for recycling, donations and disposal <https://info.kingcounty.gov/services/recycling-garbage/solid-waste/what-do-i-do-with/>
- King County Solid Waste Division waste disposal information <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/index.asp>
- Household hazardous waste disposal: [www.hazwastehelp.org](http://www.hazwastehelp.org), or contact the Household Hazards Line at 206-296-4692. See activity sheet [R-4: Residential Hazardous Waste Use, Storage, and Disposal](#) for more information.
- Composting yard and food waste <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/composting/index.asp>
- Yard waste collection <http://your.kingcounty.gov/solidwaste/garbage-recycling/yardwaste.asp>
- Dispose of pet waste in your garbage, see activity sheet R-8: Residential Animal Waste

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*For more information or assistance contact the King County Stormwater Services at 206-477-4811 and visit [kingcounty.gov/stormwater](http://kingcounty.gov/stormwater).*