

# Waste Management and Recycling in Multi-unit Developments

Better Practice Guide at a glance



# Better Practice Guide for Waste Management and Recycling in Multi-unit Developments

Multi-unit developments (MUDs), mainly in the CBD and inner Melbourne but also in regional Victoria, have seen significant growth in recent years. Emerging waste streams, such as organics and e-waste also creates new management considerations in the design of buildings and how they function.

Sustainability Victoria has developed a new Guide to Better Practice for Waste Management and Recycling in Multi-unit Developments (Guide) to improve waste management practices and increase recycling rates. This is in line with the Better Apartment Design Standards developed by the Department of Environment Land, Water and Planning to improve the liveability of apartments in Victoria.

## What is in the guide?

<b>SECTION A</b> Background Information	▶ Background information and relevant policy guidance applicable to MUDs
<b>SECTION B</b> Essential Requirements	▶ Essential requirements applicable to all types of development regardless of the dwelling type or building size
<b>SECTION C</b> Design Options	▶ Better practice design options for different MUD types
<b>SECTION D</b> Appendices	▶ Better practice guidance, infrastructure requirements and management options

## Multi-unit Development Types



### Two or more Residential Dwellings on a lot

- ▶ This development type has two or more dwellings on the same parcel of land.
- ▶ Elements of this development type may also be relevant to nursing homes, retirement villages and the residential component of caravan and holiday parks.



### Low-Rise Apartments up to 4 Storeys

- ▶ This category includes two to three-storey walk-ups, with generally 4–12 units. They are called walk-ups because they are not required to have a lift, and access to the upper levels is by stairs.



### Medium to High-Rise Development: ≥4 Residential

- ▶ These developments are medium to large blocks of units that are over four storeys high, with one or more dwellings on each storey.
- ▶ Blocks of units with four or more storeys must have lift access to the upper levels.



### Mixed Use Developments

- ▶ Mixed-use developments incorporate both residential and commercial uses.



### Precinct Scale Developments

- ▶ These are generally mixed-use developments incorporating residential and commercial uses across a number of buildings. They can also include urban renewal areas that are well-planned and offer the potential for shared services and precinct-wide alternative waste management solutions.
- ▶ Depending on the scale of the development, volumes of waste and materials may be greater, which presents both challenges and opportunities.





Example of a worm farm - image courtesy of Wormlovers Pty Ltd.

## What waste/material streams are included?

The Guide is intended to be a helpful tool for relevant stakeholders associated with waste and recycling in multi-unit developments. Guidance is provided on how to collect, store and recycle or dispose of all waste streams including:

Waste/material stream				
Organics	Recyclables	E-waste	Hard waste	Residual (garbage)

## Who will use the Guide?

The Guide has been developed to assist:

- › Architects
- › Building designers
- › MUD occupants
- › Developers
- › MUD Managers
- › Statutory planners and
- › Waste management officers

# Online Calculator – waste and recycling generation rates

Complementing the Guide is an online waste and recycling generation calculator for both residential and commercial uses to assist in the preparation of waste management plans and infrastructure planning. This is accessible from the SV website and should be utilised in conjunction with the guide.

## Online Calculator - Multi-unit and Commercial Development Waste and Recycling Generation Rates

### Multi-unit and Commercial Development Waste and Recycling Generation Rates Calculator


The following waste and recycling generation rates are recommended for estimating the number of garbage and recycling bins, and storage areas required for multi-unit developments and mixed use developments. The total number of dwellings, combined floor areas of proposed/likely commercial uses; and for accommodation uses, the likely number of occupants will be required to determine waste and recycling generation.

Get started by entering postcode


#### Dwelling waste and recycling materials

Number of individual dwellings?	<input type="text" value="20"/>
Number of 3 bedroom apartments	<input type="text" value="5"/>
Number of 2 bedroom apartments	<input type="text" value="10"/>
Number of 1 bedroom apartments	<input type="text" value="0"/>


Weekly generation

 Organics 1400L


+

 Non-organics 2600L

=

 Garbage 4000L

+

 Recycling 4000L

Sustainability Victoria conducted the Victorian Statewide Garbage Bin Audit – Food Waste 2016, to analyse the number of items in a garbage bin, including food waste. The audit found that approximately 35% of the garbage bin is made up of food waste. Therefore, this has been factored into the above calculation rates.

#### Commercial food premises

Organics	Non-Organics	Garbage	Recycling
1400L	2600L	4000L	4000L

Commercial food premises	
Garbage	Recycling
0	0

Commercial non-food premises	
Garbage	Recycling
0	0

Other accommodation	
Garbage	Recycling
0	0

Total	
Garbage	Recycling
4000L	4000L

Print results


## For further information

For a copy of the Guide, refer to the Sustainability Victoria website.

[www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/Government/Waste-and-resource-recovery/Waste-management-in-multi-unit-developments](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/Government/Waste-and-resource-recovery/Waste-management-in-multi-unit-developments)

Multi-unit Development Guidance  
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