

City of Albany

Contamination and Overage Monitoring Program

Did you know when you recycle right and avoid overfilling your containers, you are helping your community stay clean and green while also creating a sustainable future for the next generation?

How It Works

1

Monitoring begins May 1, 2024

With the help of mounted cameras, WM Smart Truck™ technology captures footage of containers as they are collected during service. A dedicated team of technicians reviews the footage associated with your address to make sure your materials were thrown into the correct container, carts are not overflowing, and were collected successfully.



2

Contamination and Overage Notifications

If a container associated with your address is overloaded or contamination is found, we'll send you a notification with a photograph explaining what we found along with tips to avoid overage or contamination in the future.



3

Overage Surcharges Begin May 1, 2024 (after two warnings) Contamination Surcharges Begin Aug 1, 2024 (after two warnings)

Our goal is to help customers avoid surcharges and recycle more material. However, after two warnings surcharges will be implemented when contamination and overfilled containers are found. These surcharges help offset costs associated with processing and disposing contaminated materials.

Surcharges Per Incident, Per Container (after two warnings)

Contaminated Recycling/Organics: Carts = \$25.00, Bins = \$75.00
Overfilled Recycling/Organics/Trash: Carts = \$12.00, Bins = \$150.00

How to Avoid Surcharges

Learn more about recycling right and not overfilling your containers so more material is recovered for recycling and composting, saving precious resources and combatting climate change. Multi-family customers may receive free on-site consultations for recycling education and to review service offerings.



510-613-8700
csnorthbay@wm.com
business.wm.com/albany



Do More with My WM

Register or login to set your communication preferences, view service images, track curbside ETA, view service dates and holidays or report missed pickups.

Visit wm.com or scan the QR code to sign up for an account.



WM SMART TRUCK™ TECHNOLOGY

Frequently Asked Questions



IS THIS THE FIRST TIME CAMERAS HAVE BEEN USED ON A WM COLLECTION TRUCK?

No, WM has used cameras on trucks for many years. We use mounted cameras to improve safety by assisting our drivers with rear and side-view perspectives, documenting driving incidents, and detecting overfilled commercial containers.



HOW CAN YOU TELL IF A CONTAINER IS CONTAMINATED OR IS OVERFILLED?

Mounted cameras record the containers serviced.

The pictures (right) show the contaminated contents of a recycling container that was just collected from a service address and placed in our truck. The cameras will also detect overfilled containers at the time of collection.

CONTAMINATED RECYCLING



Plastic Bag

Electric Lamp



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WM SMART TRUCKSM TECHNOLOGY DETECTS A SERVICE ISSUE?

A dedicated team of service consultants reviews the images from each route daily. They look for overfilled and contaminated containers and a customer notification is generated and/or a charge is applied to a service account if contamination or overages are found.

SAMPLE OVERAGE PHOTO



Overfilled Cart



WHAT ABOUT PRIVACY?

WM will not share the images or customer information with third parties for marketing or data mining. The photographs or videos are used to educate and inform customers and to improve collection service, recycling, and divert materials away from the landfills.



WHAT QUALITY CONTROL IS IN PLACE TO ENSURE ACCURACY?

Our service consultants are trained to carefully identify overages and contamination. We have standard protocols for assessing every situation with built-in checks and balances to ensure accuracy.



CAN A CUSTOMER DISPUTE A CHARGE?

Yes, customers can contact customer service. The customer service phone number or email is provided in the customer notification of an overage or contamination incident. Trained staff will review the incident images with the customer. If we made a mistake, the charge will be removed and our records will be updated to avoid the error in the future.

