

SNAPSHOT Pre-Sorted vs. Single-Stream Recycling

Why does SSC use the Stack 3 Recycling Bin “Pre-Sorted” System?

SSC uses a “pre-sorted” recycling system to reduce material contamination and keep rates as low as possible for customers.

We understand from a customer view that *single-stream (commingled)* recycling programs, where recyclables are collected in one large container, are convenient and easy to use. That convenience, though, comes at a higher cost on your recycling and garbage bill.

In single-stream programs, approximately 10-15% of material collected goes straight to landfill. Recyclable materials that are recovered are lower quality from being commingled with other wet and dry materials and fetch a lower price at market - if they can be marketed at all.

Clean, sorted, high quality recyclables, from programs like SSC’s, consistently get the highest prices at market.

Highest market prices = Lowest overall rate for our customers!

In addition to keeping rates as low as possible for customers, pre-sorted systems, where recyclables are sorted into open-style bins at home and work, allow recycling drivers to spot non-recyclables and hazardous items prior to loading. This keeps our drivers and equipment safe and material contamination rates low.

In 1989, when curbside recycling began in our community, the Bellingham and Whatcom County councils listed **access** and **low cost** as their highest priorities. Our program was designed with these values in mind—to **provide the same low cost service to EVERY home in our service area**, which includes Bellingham, Ferndale, Birch Bay, Blaine and most of unincorporated Whatcom County.

For nearly 25 years, we have operated a successful curbside recycling program based on providing the **highest quality service at the lowest cost** to our customers. Today, SSC’s award-winning curbside recycling program accepts more items than virtually all other programs in the Pacific Northwest.

For questions or more information, please visit www.ssc-inc.com or [contact us](#).

Thank you for your business—and for recycling!

About Sanitary Service Company (SSC)

Established in 1929, SSC is Whatcom County's largest recycling and garbage collection service provider, serving 45,000 + customers from Bellingham to Blaine and beyond. SSC was named 2012 *Green Business of the Year* by the Bellingham/Whatcom Chamber and is a sustaining member of Sustainable Connections, Toward Zero Waste Founding Pioneer, 100% Green Power Leader, 5-Star EnviroStar business and Whatcom Smart Trips employer.

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