



Dear Rental Property Owner or Manager:

Western Washington University, the City of Bellingham, Sanitary Service Company (SSC) and local landlords, property managers and neighbors have come together to form the Tenant Waste Task Force. We are working together to keep Bellingham beautiful by reducing abandoned furniture and garbage left on our streets, sidewalks and alleys during the lease turnover season, and we ask for your cooperation and assistance.

As a rental property owner, you have a unique and important role to play in setting clear expectations for your tenants and supporting them in being respectful neighbors. We urge you to anticipate high volumes of trash at move out times and want to help you plan for this in the most economical way. Planning for extra pickups or garbage service in advance will save you money. Paying for bulk pickups is always less expensive than paying to have each couch removed individually.

We share the following resources and tips with you as a friendly reminder and ask for your help with maintaining the high quality of life in our neighborhoods.

- **Maintaining a Litter-Free Property.** Municipal Code 10.60.130 states: “The owner or person in control of any private property shall at all times maintain the premises free of litter.” Please emphasize to your tenants that they should not place old furniture or other discarded items on the lawns or in the alleys. Litter fines are issued to the owner of the property so it is in your best interest to ensure that your tenants keep things tidy. We remind you that it is also illegal to not have regular and adequate garbage collection. If you do not provide garbage collection at your rental, you are responsible to make sure your tenants do so.
- **Scheduling Extra Pickups** – You may contact SSC at 360-734-3490, M-F, 8a-5pm, or via email at ssc@ssc-inc.com . If you have set up online account management, you can order service through the web portal.
- **Ordering Extra Dumpsters** – Please see SSC information immediately above to order temporary extra containers of various sizes for move out weeks.
- **Bulky Item Collection** – SSC offers collection for mattresses, furniture, appliances, etc which cannot be placed in dumpsters for safety reasons. Overloaded dumpsters and material piled next to or blocking dumpsters cannot be emptied and will be left for the landlord to remedy. Please see SSC contact information immediately above to order special pick-up of larger items.
- **Passing litter fines on to tenants** – It is a good idea to have a section in your lease that discusses proper disposal of litter. Give your tenants a heads up that any fines issued to the owner from the City for litter infractions will be passed on to the tenant and that fees will be charged for disposal of any items left on the premises after move out.

- **Move Out Madness** – WWU sponsors a donation collection event every year on the last day of finals. Students can bring any unwanted household items to one of three donation stations for free. Check out the Zero Waste Western website for more details: <https://sustain.wvu.edu/zero-waste-western/>
- **Dumpster Day** – The York Neighborhood Association sponsors a garbage collection day open to all neighborhood residents each year at the beginning of June. Check out their website for more information: <https://www.yorkneighborhood.org/dumpsterday.htm>
- **Off Campus Living Website:** This website gives students information on moving in and out, rental agreements, being a good neighbor and renter rights and responsibilities. Please encourage your student tenants to visit the site at <https://www.wvu.edu/offcampusliving/> (For magnets and other promotional materials, please contact the Campus Community Coalition at 650-6863.)

Attached is a resource sheet you might want to distribute to your renters, that provides information on how to properly dispose of unwanted household items.

Thank you for your support of our neighborhoods and our efforts to keep Bellingham Beautiful.

Sincerely,



Rodd Pemble, Manager
Sanitary Service Company



Corey Schlaitzer, Litter Control
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Julia Burns, Coordinator
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