

House Agreement

Management of PDXC Waste

Responsible: Building & Grounds

Last reviewed 3/17/19

Given the commitment to sustainability is a value of the PDX Commons Community, we will strive to dispose of our waste in a way that is responsible to others in the community and the earth.

RECYCLING: We will recycle in a responsible way, making sure that we check with current instructions posted in the trash room. We understand that putting non-recyclables in the recycling bin will lead to a \$50 fine for our entire community.

COMPOSTING: We recognize that much of our food and plant-based waste can be composted, and this is a superior alternative to either using our sink garbage disposals or throwing it into the landfill. Using compost containers in our kitchens to empty into the large compost bin in the trash room moves our waste into production of organic soil amendments that, in turn, help grow more food.

TRASH: We will attempt to minimize the amount of material that we add to the waste stream by offering what we no longer want for re-use by others or recycling before resorting to disposal into a landfill.

TOILETS: We have learned that PDX Commons has a delicate plumbing system that does not handle any waste beyond toilet paper. In order to prevent destructive sewer back-ups that require high-cost fixes, we understand that no trash should ever be flushed down our toilets, including:

- Wipes of any kind (including those labeled as “flushable”)
- Kleenexes, paper towels, or napkins
- Feminine hygiene products
- Condoms
- Hair
- Dental Floss
- Any amount of kitty litter (even that just stuck to cat poop)
- Any amount of animal waste
- Food (unless it was eaten first)

GARBAGE DISPOSALS: Garbage disposals were not universally installed at PDXC because of the potential for negative impact on our building's sewer lines and on municipal water treatment facilities. While some of us do have garbage disposals, *their use is discouraged* for anything but crumbs. Rather than grinding food scraps and contributing to problems downstream, please take advantage of our more sustainable option of composting by taking your food scraps to the trash room for the compost bins.

Adopted by PDX Commons 3/17/19