Label Standards for Hauler-Supplied Containers

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Dakota County Ordinance 110, Solid Waste Management, was amended in 2019 to implement strategies in the 2018-2030 Solid Waste Master Plan to reduce waste going to landfills, improve the quality of materials recycled, and make progress toward the state's goal to recycle 75 percent of waste by 2030.

New hauler requirements in Ordinance 110 to label containers include:

1. Haulers must provide container labels that follow County waste abatement messaging standards. Specifically, that all recycling, organics, and trash containers (e.g., carts, dumpsters, roll-offs, compactors) must be properly labeled and must:

    -   Indicate the material type collected, and use the term Trash, Recycle or Recycling, and Organics (if collected). Other waste types must be labeled with the materials accepted.
    -   Show images consistent with County standards of materials accepted in recycling and organics (if collected) containers.
    -   Be color-coded (blue for recycling, green for organics, gray or black for trash).
    -   Be visible and legible to users.
    -   Include preparation requirements consistent with County standards, where applicable.

This requirement goes into effect:

-   in 2020 for containers purchased after December 31, 2019, and
-   by 2022 for containers purchased prior to January 1, 2020.

Label Placement: Labels are intended to be an educational tool to help generators properly dispose of waste. Affix labels where they are visible to generators, such as on the lid of a cart, and the front and sides of a dumpster. It is also a best practice that labels be placed on containers in areas that avoid being damaged by truck lift equipment or a mechanical arm.

Dakota County developed the following standardized standards to be used by haulers to meet ordinance requirements for labeling containers. It includes the required label content, terminology and images. For questions or review of messaging, contact Jon Buck at 952-891-7092, jon.buck@co.dakota.mn.us.

HAULER CONTAINER LABEL STANDARDS

RECYCLE LABEL

A. Required Terminology and Content

Haulers must use the following terminology and content on container labels:

Title Term: Recycle or Recycling
Subtitle Terms

- Paper and Cardboard
- Cartons
- Cans
- Glass
- Plastics

Material Preparation Statement: empty and dry
Label Color: Blue (prefer dark blue)

Recycling Container Label

B. Required Images

I. **Icon.** Labels must contain the recycling arrow (mobius).

II. **Required images for what to recycle.** Haulers must use the following required County images on labels (alternative images and icons may be used with County approval*). The Paper and Cardboard images can be grouped (e.g., Paper and Cardboard) or kept separate. Required images and icons are available at www.dakotacounty.us, search *waste industry recycling requirements*.

Paper and Cardboard (flattened)	Cartons	Plastics

Cans	Glass	Recycling Symbol or Icon White or Blue

III. **Required images and content for items not accepted in recycling containers.** Haulers must use the following standardized wording and icons to demonstrate what does not belong in the recycling container for each problem item category:

- Do not bag recyclables
- No plastic bags or plastic wrap
- No tanglers (cord, hoses or chains)
- No food
- No batteries

Not Accepted Icons

Do Not Bag Recyclables   No Plastic Bags or Plastic Wrap   No Tanglers (Cords, Hoses or Chains)   No Food   No Batteries

IV. ***Allowable alternative images and icons.** Alternative images and icons must be approved by the County prior to hauler use in messaging.

    a. **What to recycle.** Alternative images and icons of what to recycle must include the items listed below to demonstrate what belongs in the recycling container for each material category:

Recyclable Item Type	Must Include Images/Icons of Each of These Items:
Paper	• Newspaper • Magazine • Cardboard box (must be flattened)
Cartons	• Juice carton with a cap on, milk or half-n-half carton with a cap on
Cans	• Food can • Beverage can
Glass	• Beverage bottle (recommend brown) • Food jar (recommend clear) with cap on
Plastics	• Water bottle with a cap on • Jug with a cap on (recommend milk jug or laundry detergent jug with a cap on)
Recycling Symbol Icon	• Blue or white recycling symbol

b. **What to keep out of the recycling.** Alternative images and icons must demonstrate what does not belong in the recycling container for each problem item category:
- Do not bag recyclables
- No plastic bags or plastic wrap
- No tanglers (cords, hoses or chains)
- No food
- No batteries

ORGANICS LABEL

A. Required Terminology and Content

Haulers must use the following terminology and content on container labels.

        Title Term: Organics
        Subtitle Term: Food Scraps
        Label Color: Green

B. Required Images

    I. Icon. There is no icon requirement that represents organics, but the County recommends an apple core.

Organics container label.

    II. Required images for accepted organics. Haulers must use the below required County images of items to demonstrate what is accepted in organics containers (alternative images and icons may be used with County approval**).

Bakery and Dry Goods	Meat, Fish and Bones	Vegetables	Fruits
Eggs and Eggshells	Dairy Products	Organics Icon (Optional)	
		(white or green)	

    III. Required images for items not accepted in organics. Haulers must use the following content and corresponding icons to demonstrate what does not belong in the organics container for each problem item category:
- No recyclables
- No yard waste
- No trash

No Recyclables   No Yard Waste   No Trash

Required images and icons are available at www.dakotacounty.us, search *waste industry recycling requirements*.

IV.   **Allowable alternative images and icons.** Alternative images and icons must be approved by the County prior to hauler use on organics labels.

   a. **What belongs in the organics**. Alternative images and icons must include items listed below (must show each category) to demonstrate what belongs in the organics container:

Organics Item Types	Must Include Images/Icons of Each of These Items:
Bakery and Dry Goods	Sandwich (bread) with bite mark
Dairy Products	Cheese
Eggs and Eggshells	Eggshell
Meat, Fish and Bones	Chicken leg with bite mark
Produce: Fruits and Vegetables	Apple core, Vegetable scraps

   b. **What to keep out of the organics.** Alternative images and icons must use the below content and corresponding images or icons to demonstrate what does not belong in the organics container for each problem item category:
   - No recyclables
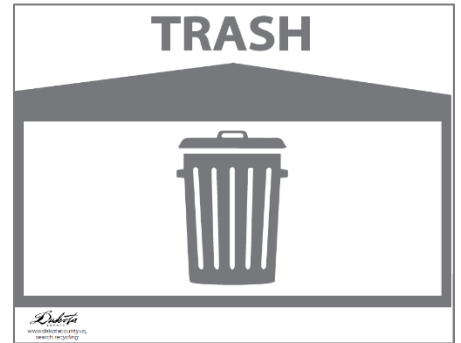   - No yard waste
   - No trash

Trash Label

A. **Required Terminology and Content**
   Haulers must use the following terminology and content on
   container labels:

   Title Term: Trash
   Label Color: Gray or black

B. **Required Images:** N/A -None required but the County
   recommends use of a trash can icon. The trash can icon is available
   at www.dakotacounty.us, search *waste industry recycling
   requirements*.

Trash container label