

Gray Cart FAQs

Question: Why is the color of garbage carts changing?

Answer: Washington state adopted a new law that requires waste collection containers throughout the state, that are less than 101 gallons, be color-coded based on what gets put in the cart. Garbage carts are required to be black or gray; the city of Spokane opted for gray.

Question: What are the gray carts for?

Answer: The gray carts are for residential garbage collection. You use the gray carts the same way you have been using your brown garbage cart for years.

Question: Do I need a gray cart for garbage, or can I still use my brown one?

Answer: You do not need to order a gray cart. The law states that the color-coded carts need to start being distributed by Jan 1, 2028. The city is allowed to continue using the brown carts if they are functional. The brown carts will be phased out as they are deemed unusable.

Question: Can I request a gray cart if mine is functional, but I want the new color?

Answer: No, the city will have customers continue to use their brown carts. Carts will be exchanged for size changes and repairs as deemed necessary by Solid Waste Collection staff. Brown carts will still be delivered and repaired until they are no longer part of the city's inventory.

Question: I started service at a new home, why didn't I receive a new gray cart?

Answer: The city will deliver what is available. Functional brown carts that are returned to the city through size exchanges and cancellations will be power washed and re-issued.

Question: I exchanged my cart for a different size, why didn't I receive a new gray cart?

Answer: The city will deliver what is available. Functional brown carts that are returned to the city through size exchanges and cancellations will be power washed and re-issued.

Question: My cart was broken so I ordered a replacement; why didn't I receive a new gray cart?

Answer: The city will deliver what is available. Functional brown carts that are returned to the city through size exchanges and cancellations will be power washed and re-issued.

Question: Is there anything different about these carts?

Answer: No, they are made by the same contracted manufacturer as the carts for recycling and food and yard waste collection.

Question: Is changing cart colors going to cost the city more?

Answer: No, the city will order carts as inventory requires, which is the same process as before. The carts are the same contracted price that the city has been paying for the brown, blue and green carts. The new law allows the city to continue to use the brown carts until they are deemed unusable.

Question: Are the colors changing for the recycling and food and yard waste carts?

Answer: No, the recycling and food and yard waste carts are already the mandated colors.

Question: Where can I find more information?

Answer: Please click here: [Waste container colors - Washington State Department of Ecology]

