



Universal Zero Waste Ordinance Exemption Descriptions

In limited cases, a business or property owner may apply for an exemption from complying with the requirements of the Universal Zero Waste Ordinance. City staff will review exemption applications and work with the applicants to bring the location into compliance. In order to be granted an exemption, applicants must demonstrate they have considered all reasonable options that would bring their business or property into compliance.

Exemption Descriptions:

- (1) **Home-Based Businesses:** A home-based business must comply with Title 9, Chapter 6-3 (e) Home Occupations and must show that the residential property owner or manager subscribes to trash, recyclables and compostables collection and the home-based business has access to use that service.
- (2) **Self-Haul:** A businesses or property owner that hauls its own trash, recyclables or compostables. Be prepared to demonstrate the location to which and frequency with which the trash recyclables and/or compostables are hauled; as well as a sworn affidavit and a photo copy of a valid state-issued identification.
- (3) **Shared Collection:** Property owners that share collection service with a neighboring property. Be prepared to provide: signatures of both the hosting property owner as well as the sharing property owner, contact information and photo copies of valid state-issued identification for each property owner, subscribed collection service levels and frequencies for any shared services, and the name of the hauling company with whom contract is held for shared collection services.
- (4) **Economic Hardship:** A business or property owner or manager may apply for an exemption based on extreme economic hardship in cases where the applicable property is the subject of a qualified tax lien sale or public auction due to property tax arrearages; the building is controlled by a court appointed receiver; or the building has been acquired by a deed in lieu of foreclosure. Alternatively, a business or property owner may submit three (3) years of federal tax returns and calculate a gross income average based on these tax returns, along with an estimate of the total annual costs to comply with the provisions of this Chapter, including documentation to support these annual costs.
- (5) **Compost On-Site:** A property or business owner that composts on site in compliance with all applicable laws pertaining to Title 6, Chapter 3, Section 6-3-6, "Compost piles permitted if not a nuisance."
- (6) **Space Constraints:** A property or business owner that is applying for an exemption based on a sufficiently space constrained property that precludes compliance with the provisions of these sections.
- (7) **Innovation:** A property or business owner may apply for an innovation exemption if they are reusing or repurposing a significant portion of their waste stream.
- (8) **De Minimis Volume:** Businesses that generate a de minimis volume of trash, recyclables or compostables. A waste audit by the City of Boulder may be conducted before an exemption may be granted. De minimis volume is generally defined as less than 32 gallons of material generated per month; however, the property or business owner will be encouraged to share collection containers with adjacent properties where possible.