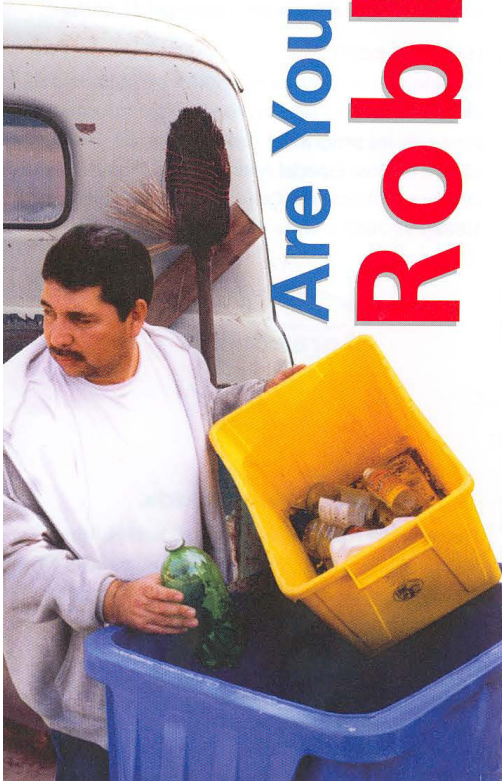


Stop scavengers from stealing your recyclables

Are You Being Robbed?



Scavenging is Illegal!

Scavenging is the theft of recyclable materials and is a misdemeanor punishable by law (South Gate Municipal Code [13.100.240](#)). When recyclables are stolen from your collection bin, it drives up the cost of recycling collection and ultimately costs you, the rate payer, more money. By law, the City is required to recycle 50% of all trash disposed of each year in an effort to prolong the life of local landfills. To prove compliance with this regulation, the City must report the amount of trash it recycles annually to the State. If the City does not meet the 50% requirement, it can be fined up to \$10,000 for each day it does not meet that goal.

The public may not be aware when trash bins are placed on the street, the bin and its contents are considered the property of the trash hauler, Waste Management. When someone removes trash from that bin, he or she is in fact stealing property. Residents should be especially concerned when seeing people filter through trash bins, as these scavengers can obtain personal information that can lead to identity theft.

In the past, scavenging was primarily done by low-income citizens trying to earn a few extra dollars. Today, in many areas, organized crews with trucks descend on neighborhoods, stealing the recyclables from your container.

For safety reasons, we recommend you DO NOT confront a scavenger. However, there are things you can do to help prevent scavenging:

Be Aware

Ask patrol services and neighbors who are out late or up early to be on the lookout for scavengers.

Outsmart Them

Place your recyclables out in the morning instead of the night before collection. Scavenging usually takes place at night

Report the Crime

If you see a scavenging crime being committed, call the South Gate Police Department at (323) 563-5436 and report the following:

1. Accurate location
2. A good description of the person
3. Vehicle description, including license plate number and direction of travel
4. Types of recyclable materials stolen

Do the right thing; don't let scavenging hurt your recycling program.