

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Recycling and Trash Collection at Colorado Rockies Coors Field in Denver, Colorado

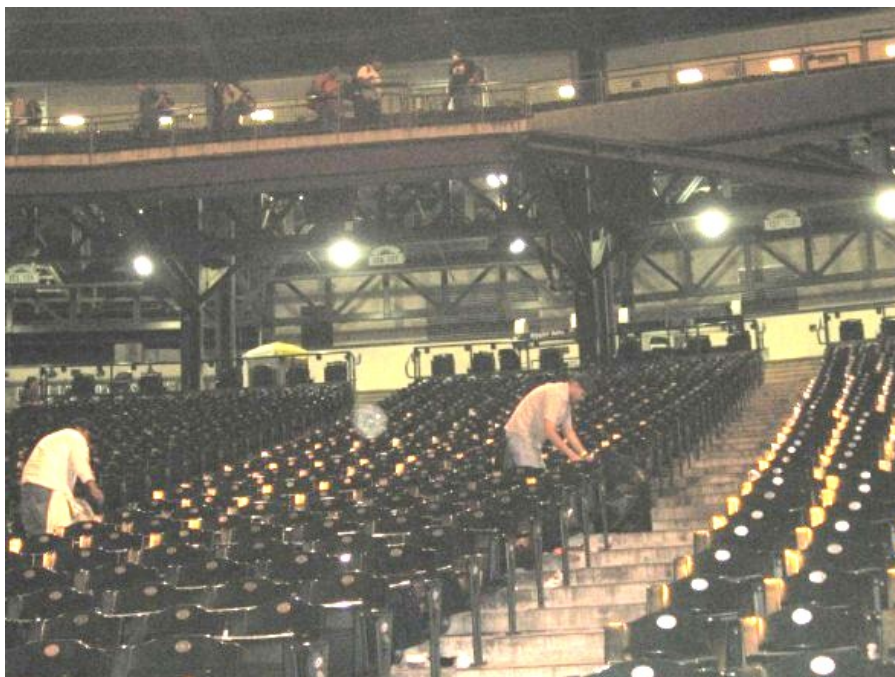
Overview

Coors Field in Denver, Colorado, with a capacity of 50,000 seats, conducts a post-game "bowl pick" to collect the beverage containers left by fans in the stadium.

As soon as fans leave the stadium, facilities services night crews begin cleaning and preparing the stadium for the next event. They empty all concourse public waste containers by removing the black plastic bag liner and replacing it with a clean liner. They tie and set the bags on the concourse for collection by gondola cart and transport to the trash chute. The upper level concourses are served for waste removal by a trash chute, leading directly to the only waste container serving the facility.

Collection of Plastic Bottles and Large Trash – First Crew

Seating areas are cleaned using crews from an hourly labor service, arranged by ARAMARK -- Coors Field's facility services managers. The bowl picking crew generally consists of around a dozen workers. Additional workers also pick up full bags of wastes/recyclables left on the concourse from pickers, vendors, and suites. The pickers begin at the highest row of seats and work their way along the row and down the stadium. They carry a stash of black trash bags and clear bags for recyclables. The pickers hold the clear bag inside the black bag in one hand and pick trash and recyclables with the other.



Caption: workers collecting recyclable bottles and trash

All large trash items are picked by hand including concession trays, cups, and paper/plastic litter. Small trash items are left for the next pass. Workers place recyclable plastic bottles in the inner clear bag and trash items in the outer black bag. As bags are filled, they are tied off and left in the aisle ways for collection by other workers with gondola carts.

Collection of Plastic Bottles and Large Trash – Second Crew

Following the pickers is another crew of workers, typically with leaf blowers, cleaning up small-size litter such as peanut shells and other paper/plastic items. Workers blow this litter down the row to the aisle and down the aisle to the lowest level of the tier where it is placed in piles for collection into trash bags. If weather does not permit the use of leaf blowers, crews must use brooms to sweep small litter items from within the seating area.

At the conclusion of the trash pick, seating will be washed with a fire hose. Water from the hose cleaning drains down the seating tiers and is captured by drainage before reaching the field.

Concession Vendors/Suites

Concession vendors are also targeted for recycling. Premium beverages, originating in glass bottles, are poured into a cup for fan consumption. These glass bottles are captured directly from the concession area in source-separated roll carts. Before and after the game, vendors place cardboard out on the concourse for collection by crews in gondola carts. In addition, vendors bag trash and place it in piles on the concourse. Vendors also place reusables, such as beverage kegs, for collection and return.



Caption: vendors place cardboard and reusables on concourse area

In addition, recyclables are collected directly from fan suites, although limited due to types of beverages available in suites and lack of properly used collection containers.

Collection from Concourse

A crew is assigned to collect bagged trash and recyclables, piled cardboard, carts of glass, and other reusable waste items. These items are scheduled for collection in particular order; trash first, then recyclables, and cardboard last. Glass carts and reusable kegs are collected separately. Since trash is the heaviest material and most likely to create a nuisance, it is collected first, while crews are still fresh.

Gondola carts of black-bagged trash are transported to the trash chute opening at the far end of the concourse. Workers tip the cart into the trash chute room and place bags in one at a time. Bags fall to the single trash compactor in the trash bay of the ground floor service area.

Moving Recyclables to Roll-offs

Bagged plastic bottles for recycling are collected in gondola carts and brought to the far end of the concourse. On the ground level, up against the edge of the building, open top roll offs have been specially placed for recyclables. This area was not originally designed for this purpose but serves it well. Depending on the attendance expected at the game, one or more roll offs are staged. Bags of recyclable plastic bottles are dropped over the side of the concourse wall into the roll-offs.

Glass bottles, collected directly from the vendors in roll carts, are transported to the ground level. Next to the plastic bottle roll-offs an enclosed roll-off with sliding door openings is staged. Roll carts of glass are emptied into this roll-off container.

Cardboard is collected last in the gondola carts and brought to the ground level service area where a cardboard container has been located in one of the service bays.

After each game, the waste hauling contractor pulls both the solid waste compactor and the roll-off with recyclables.