



Are your waste bins the right size?

Monitoring the fullness of all your waste and recycling bins just before pick-up day is part of a practice called “**right sizing**.” You can ensure your businesses or organization is not overpaying for garbage, recycling, and food and yard waste collection service by gauging whether you have the right - number of bins, size of bins and frequency of pick-up, suitable for your needs.

Here are some simple steps to help you determine if your bins are the right size and collected at the right frequency:

Step 1: Find out which day(s) and how often each bin is collected (e.g. once per week, twice per week, monthly). You can call your collection company to get this information if you don't have it readily available.

Step 2: Plan ahead – schedule a time to check on the bins as close to the pick-up time as possible. For example, if your bin is collected every Tuesday morning, take a look in the bin on Monday afternoon or evening. This is an accurate way to estimate the volume of waste and recycling material your business generates.

Step 3: For about a month, keep track of the fullness of the bin before each time it's emptied. If your bin only gets collected once per month, keep track of the bin for at least two or three months before making any decisions.

Step 4: Consider all the material going into the waste and recycling bins. For example, if your garbage bin contains a lot of recyclable and/or compostable material, it's possible you don't have enough recycling or compost service. Make sure your business is properly sorting so that each bin contains only the type of material it is intended for.

Step 5: Analyze the data you've collected and note the following:

- Is the bin usually 100 per cent full (or nearly full) when emptied by the collection company? If so, then you have the right size of bin and collection frequency for that material.
- Is the bin less than 75 per cent full on average? In this case, it may be possible to adjust either the size of your bin or arrange to have it picked-up less often. Call the collection company that services the bin to discuss your options.
- Is the bin overfilled? If you cannot close the lid and/or you have extra material piled beside the bin or inside your building, you may need to increase your collection frequency, the size or number of bins. Call the collection company that services the bin to discuss your options.

Step 6: Complete this process regularly – a good benchmark is every year or two. Keep in mind, seasonality can affect the amount of waste and recycling your business produces throughout the year. You may be able to adjust your service levels a few times per year to keep up with the amount of waste and recycling being produced.

For more information on these steps or assistance with analyzing your data, fill out an [online service request](#) or contact 311 and reference Business Recycling.

Common bin sizes and types

Collection companies offer many different bin sizes and collection frequencies. Some bins have an option for wheels to be installed, to make it easier for you and/or your collection company to move the bins. Here are some examples:

Carts:

120 litre, 240 litre, 360 litre



Front End Load Bins:

2 yard, 3 yard, 4 yard, 6 yard, 8 yard



Roll Off Bins:

10 yard, 15 yard, 20 yard, 30 yard, 40 yard, 80 yard



Compactors:

6 yard, 8 yard, 20 yard, 30 yard, 40 yard

- Common Collection Frequencies:**
- Daily
 - Twice per week
 - Weekly
 - Every other week
 - Monthly
 - On call/as needed