

Streamlining Your Small Business Recycling and Waste Collection

Simple tips to optimize your waste services



Today, embracing eco-friendly practices can mean the difference between growing your business and losing out to competitors who are taking action.

Making changes to your company's recycling and waste reduction practices can seem daunting, so Republic Services has created this guide to help you get started—and help you choose the right partner.

Start by thinking about what your company throws away.

Can it be recycled?

First, determine what you can recycle from your waste.

The first question to ask yourself is “Can it be recycled?” The chart below will help make that determination.

Note: Not all markets offer recycling for the following items.

Paper	Cardboard	Plastic	Metal (Aluminum)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Newspaper✓ Envelopes✓ Junk mail✓ Phone books✓ Brochures✓ Magazines✓ Printed paper/ copier paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ File folders✓ Poster boards✓ Cardboard boxes✓ Food/product packaging	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Water bottles✓ Soda bottles✓ Plastic milk or juice jugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Soda cans✓ Scrap metal✓ Steel cans (canned goods)✓ Aluminum cans

If you are throwing away a lot of these recyclable materials, consider asking your employees to ensure these materials are empty, clean and dry when disposing of them. **One container with contaminated materials can cause an entire truckload to get contaminated and sent to the landfill.**



Do you have items that can be recycled in your trash but not sure how much you throw away?

Contact Republic Services for a FREE waste assessment to help determine a solution that is best for your business.

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Does it need special handling?

Some items don't qualify for traditional recycling but can't or shouldn't be thrown in the trash. Often, there are local, state, or even federal regulations about how these items must be disposed of.

Item type	Why can't it be thrown in the trash?
Batteries	Most batteries contain corrosive materials and heavy metals that can pollute the environment; improper storage or throwing batteries in regular trash could even lead to fires.
Light bulbs	Some light bulbs, such as fluorescent lights, contain hazardous materials.
Medical equipment or supplies	Syringes, needles, and other non-reusable medical items may carry traces of toxic or hazardous chemicals such as mercury. Improper disposal can put employees at risk of injury.
Other chemical waste	From leftover paint to cleaning products, there are a number of products that contain harmful chemicals that require proper disposal to avoid contaminating our environment.
Electronics (computers, small appliances, phones, tablets, etc.)	Electronic components have chemicals that can leak into the soil and groundwater, and some states ban placing electronics in the trash. Tip: Proper disposal of electronics provides additional benefits. The high value of materials leads to a low disposal cost, and your company isn't as exposed to data theft.

Do you have items that need special handling?

Contact Republic Services to help develop a comprehensive waste solution.

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What dumpsters are right for my business?

What's left should be day-to-day waste that can't be recycled and doesn't require special handling. So, now you need to figure out how many dumpsters you need and what sizes. Here is our recommendation based on company size, but your needs may differ depending on your industry, location, etc.

Recommended dumpster size

 Small companies 2-yard dumpster	 Mid-sized companies 4-yard and 6-yard dumpster	 Large companies 8-yard dumpster	 Larger projects/ temporary needs 10-yard to 40-yard dumpster
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Additional questions to ask yourself about your business:

<p>Q Will my dumpster need to be moved for service or disposal?</p> <p> Casters (wheels) may be a great option. These are only available on up to 6-yard dumpsters.</p>	<p>Q Do I have space limitations that affect my dumpster size?</p> <p> Typically, most 2-yard to 8-yard dumpsters are the same width but can vary in depth and height.</p>	<p>Q Are there factors (e.g. odor control) that require more frequent pickup than once a week?</p> <p> There are container and service options to accommodate even the most complex needs.</p>
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Need an option that reduces the volume of your waste?

Compactors are a great option for recycling or trash if you generate over 30 yards of waste weekly and want to reduce the volume of your waste.

Compactors can ...

Cut volume down by up to two-thirds , which means reduced need for pickups	Increase usable space with fewer containers
Improve employee safety and security	Enhance aesthetics , reduce pest problems, and control odor

Get a free waste assessment with Republic Services.

Building a plan for recycling and waste can cost time and money. But with a free waste assessment, our experienced account managers can work through your business needs to offer a solution that's right for your company.

Contact Republic Services at RepublicServices.com/Businesses/Business-Solid-Waste.