

# Are your waste bins the right size?

## Don't over-pay for your waste hauling services

Monitoring the fullness of your waste bins just before pickup day is part of a practice called “right sizing”. Commercial waste and recycling customers can ensure they’re not overpaying for their recycling and garbage pickup services by monitoring how full the bins are at pick up time, to assess whether the bin size and frequency of pickup is suitable for their needs.

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

**Step 1:** Find out which day each bin is picked up and how often (e.g. once per week, twice per week, monthly).

**Step 2:** Plan ahead – schedule a time to check on the bins as close to the pickup time as possible. For example, if your bin is picked up every Tuesday morning around 9 am, take a look in the bin on Monday afternoon.

**Step 3:** For about a month, keep track of the fullness of the bin each time it’s collected. If your bin only gets picked up once per month, keep track of the bin for at least two or three pick-ups before making any decisions.

### Top Tip:

There may be times of the year when you generate more waste than others. For example, during the tourist season or over the holidays. Make sure you can handle increased volumes at these times, or schedule extra pick-ups with your service provider.

**Step 4:** Analyze the data you’ve collected and note the following:

- Is the bin usually 100% full (or nearly full) when picked up? If so, then you have the right size of bin and collection frequency.
- Is the bin less than 75% 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, or the size or number of bins. Call the collection company that services the bin to discuss your options.

**Step 5:** Complete this process regularly – a good benchmark is every year or two.

## 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 or Totes:**  
240 litre, 360 litre



**Front End Load Bins:**  
10 yard, 12 yard, 20 yard,  
30 yard, 40 yard



**Roll Off Bins:**  
2 cubic yards, 3 yard,  
4 yard, 6 yard, 8 yard



### Common Collection Frequencies

- |                  |                    |                        |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| ■ Daily          | ■ Weekly           | ■ Monthly              |
| ■ Twice per week | ■ Every other week | ■ On Call or as needed |