



Nursing Homes

You can use this fill-in threshold estimation guide to identify if your facility may be subject to the Commercial Food Waste Disposal Ban. If you have any questions, please contact RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts by email (info@recyclingworksma.com) or by calling 1-888-254-5525.

	Average Measurement		Material
Meals Served	0.6	lbs/meal	Food waste
Food Served	20	% of food served by weight	Food waste
Beds ¹	1.8	lbs/bed/day	Food waste

	# Meals Served Weekly	Average Food Waste Measurement	TOTAL Estimated Food Waste Disposed Weekly (lbs)
Meals Served		× 0.6 lbs/meal	

	Food Served Weekly (lbs)	Average Food Waste Measurement	TOTAL Estimated Food Waste Disposed Weekly (lbs)
Food Served		× 20% of food served by weight	

	# of Beds	Average Food Waste Measurement	Average Daily Food Waste Disposed (lbs)	1 Week Multiplier	TOTAL Estimated Food Waste Disposed Weekly (lbs)
Beds ¹		× 1.8 lbs/bed/day		× 7	

If the “TOTAL Estimated Food Waste Disposed Weekly” in the final column is greater than 2,000 lbs, then your facility may be subject to the Commercial Food Waste Disposal Ban. If you do not have a food waste diversion program in place, contact RecyclingWorks in Massachusetts [by email](#) or by calling (888) 254-5525, or visit the [RecyclingWorks website](#) to learn how to begin a program today!

If you serve **3,334 meals** in one week, then:

$$0.6 \text{ lbs/meal} * 3,334 \text{ meals served/week} = 2,000 \text{ lbs/week} = 1 \text{ ton of food waste in one week}$$

If you serve **10,000 lbs of food** in one week, then:

$$20\% \text{ of food served} * 10,000 \text{ lbs served/week} = 2,000 \text{ lbs/week} = 1 \text{ ton of food waste in one week}$$

If you have **159 beds**, then:

$$1.8 \text{ lbs/bed/day} * 159 \text{ beds} = 286 \text{ lbs/day}$$

$$286 \text{ lbs/day} * 7 \text{ days/week} = 2,002 \text{ lbs/week} = 1 \text{ ton of food waste per week}$$

¹ *This metric uses beds as a proxy to account for all food waste generated across the nursing home by residents, staff, and visitors.*