



Restaurants

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	0.5	lbs/meal	Food waste
Full-Time Employees	1,500	lbs/employee/year	Food waste
Disposed Waste [Full Service]	66	% of disposed waste by weight	Food waste
Disposed Waste [Fast Food]	51	% of disposed waste by weight	Food waste

	# Meals Served Weekly	Average Food Waste Measurement	TOTAL Estimated Food Waste Disposed Weekly (lbs)
Meals Served		× 0.5 lbs/meal	

	# of Full-Time Employees	Average Food Waste Measurement	Average Annual Food Waste Disposed (lbs)	1 Week Divisor	TOTAL Estimated Food Waste Disposed Weekly (lbs)
Full-Time Employees		× 1,500 lbs/employee/year		÷ 52	

	Amount of Disposed Waste Weekly (yd ³)	Average Weight of 1 yd ³ Disposed Waste (1 yd ³ = ~450 lbs)	Average Amount of Disposed Waste Weekly (lbs)	% Food Waste Disposed Weekly	TOTAL Estimated Food Waste Disposed Weekly (lbs)
Disposed Waste [Full Service]		× 450 lbs		× 66% of disposed waste by weight	
Disposed Waste [Fast Food]		× 450 lbs		× 51% of disposed waste by weight	

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 **4,000 meals** in one week, then:

$$0.5 \text{ lbs/meal} * 4,000 \text{ meals served/week} = 2,000 \text{ lbs/week} = 1 \text{ ton of food waste in one week}$$

If you have **70 full-time employees**, then:

$$1,500 \text{ lbs/employee/year} * 70 \text{ full-time employees} = 105,000 \text{ lbs food waste generated/year}$$

$$105,000 \text{ lbs/year} \div 52 \text{ weeks/year} = 2,019 \text{ lbs/week} = 1 \text{ ton of food waste per week}$$

If you are a full-service restaurant ¹ and fill **1 trash dumpster at 4 cubic yards 2 times per week**, then:

$$450 \text{ lbs} * (1 \text{ trash dumpster} * 4 \text{ yd}^3 * 2 \text{ pickups/week}) = 3,600 \text{ lbs of total disposed waste/week}$$

$$3,600 \text{ lbs} * 66\% \text{ of total waste} = 2,376 \text{ lbs/week} = 1.2 \text{ tons of food waste in one week}$$

If you are a fast-food restaurant ² and fill **1 trash dumpster at 4 cubic yards 3 times per week**, then:

$$450 \text{ lbs} * (1 \text{ trash dumpster} * 4 \text{ yd}^3 * 3 \text{ pickups/week}) = 5,400 \text{ lbs of total disposed waste/week}$$

$$5,400 \text{ lbs} * 51\% \text{ of total waste} = 2,754 \text{ lbs/week} = 1.4 \text{ tons of food waste in one week}$$

Note: The equation based on weight of disposed waste (above) assumes a weight of 450 lbs/yd³ for mixed commercial waste materials. It was derived using the median value of EPA’s standard conversion factor: 1yd³ of commercial-industrial waste = 300 to 600 lbs. You may choose to change this number to best represent your operations.

¹ Full-service restaurants are defined as restaurants in which the customer orders and is served at a table.

² Fast-food restaurants are defined as restaurants in which the customer orders and picks up food at a counter.