



Correctional Facilities

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
Inmates	1	lbs/inmate/day	Food Waste
Disposed Waste¹	30	% of total generated waste by weight	Food Waste

	# of Inmates	Average Food Waste Measurement	Average Food Waste Disposed Daily (lbs)	1 Week Multiplier	TOTAL Estimated Food Waste Disposed Weekly (lbs)
Inmates		x 1 lbs/inmate/day		x 7	

	Amount of Disposed Waste Weekly (yd ³)	Average Weight of 1 yd ³ Disposed Waste (1 yd ³ = ~250 lbs)	Average Amount of Disposed Waste Weekly (lbs)	% of Food Waste Disposed Weekly	TOTAL Estimated Food Waste Disposed Weekly (lbs)
Disposed Waste¹		x 250 lbs		x 30% of disposed waste by weight	

If the “TOTAL Estimated Food Waste Disposed Weekly” in the final column is greater than 1,000 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 house **143** inmates, then:

$$1 \text{ lbs/meal} * 143 \text{ inmates} = 143 \text{ lbs/day}$$

$$143 \text{ lbs/day} * 7 \text{ days/week} = 1,001 \text{ lbs/week} = 0.5 \text{ ton food waste per week}$$

If you fill **1 trash dumpster at 8 cubic yards twice per week**, then:

$$250^1 \text{ lbs/yd}^3 * (1 \text{ trash dumpster} * 8 \text{ yd}^3/\text{trash dumpster} * 2 \text{ pickups/week}) = 4,000 \text{ lbs of total disposed waste/week}$$

$$4,000 \text{ lbs/week} * 30\% \text{ of total waste} = 1,200 \text{ lbs/week} = 0.6 \text{ ton of food waste in one week}$$

¹ The equation based on weight of disposed waste assumes a weight of 250 lbs/yd³ waste. It is the lower range of the EPA’s standard conversion factor for uncompacted mixed MSW (residential, institutional, commercial): 1 yd³ mixed MSW = 250 to 300 lbs. You may choose to change this number to best represent your operations.