



Lodging and Hotels

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
Guests	1	lbs/person/day	Food Waste
Rooms	345.64	lbs/room/year	Food Waste
Disposed Waste¹	36	% of disposed waste by weight	Food Waste
Employees²	1,305	lbs/employee/year	Food Waste

	# of Guests	Average Compostable Waste Measurement	Average Daily Compostable Waste Disposed (lbs)	1 Week Multiplier	TOTAL Estimated Food Waste Disposed Weekly (lbs)
Guests		× 1 lbs/person/day		× 7	

	# of Rooms	Average Compostable Waste Measurement	Average Daily Compostable Waste Disposed (lbs)	1 Week Divisor	TOTAL Estimated Food Waste Disposed Weekly (lbs)
Rooms		× 345.64 lbs/room/year		÷ 52	

	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		× 250 lbs		× 36% of disposed waste by weight	

	# of Employees	Average Food Waste Measurement	Average Yearly Food Waste Disposed (lbs)	1 Week Divisor	TOTAL Estimated Food Waste Disposed Weekly (lbs)
Employees²		× 1,305 lbs/employee/year		÷ 52	

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 have **143 guests per day**, then:

$$1 \text{ lbs/guest/day} * 143 \text{ guests} = 143 \text{ lbs/day}$$

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

If you have **150 guest rooms**, then:

$$345.64 \text{ lbs/room/year} * 150 \text{ rooms} = 51,846 \text{ lbs/year}$$

$$51,846 \text{ lbs/year} \div 52 \text{ weeks/year} = 997 \text{ lbs/week} = 0.5 \text{ ton of food waste per week}$$

If you fill **1 trash dumpster at 6 cubic yards two times per week**, then:

$$250^1 \text{ lbs/yd}^3 * (1 \text{ trash dumpster} * 6 \text{ yd}^3/\text{trash dumpster} * 2 \text{ pickups/week}) = 3,000 \text{ lbs of total disposed waste/week}$$

$$3,000 \text{ lbs/week} * 36\% \text{ of total waste} = 1,080 \text{ lbs/week} = 0.5 \text{ ton of food waste per week}$$

If you have **40 employees**, then:

$$1,305 \text{ lbs/employee/year} * 40 \text{ employees} = 52,200 \text{ lbs/year}$$

$$52,200 \text{ lbs/year} \div 52 \text{ weeks/year} = 1,004 \text{ lbs/week} = 0.5 \text{ ton of food waste per week}$$

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.

² This metric uses the equivalent number of full-time employees for the entire hotel as a proxy to account for all food waste generated across the hotel by staff, guests, and other patrons.

Tip: The Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association (NEWMOA) has developed a [Green Lodging Calculator](#) that estimates environmental benefits and financial savings from various sustainable practices tailored to the hospitality industry.