

Dumpster Rental & Delivery Checklist

This practical checklist is designed for homeowners preparing for a dumpster rental. It ensures you avoid common hidden fees, protect your property from damage, and manage your waste volume efficiently. Use this list before you book your container and keep it handy until the truck drives away.

Phase 1: Planning and Booking

- **Estimate your volume accurately.** visualize your trash in pickup truck loads (10-yard bin = approx. 3-4 pickup loads).
- **Call at least three local haulers.** Compare their base rates and weight limits, not just the final dollar amount.
- **Confirm the "all-in" price.** Ask specifically if the quote includes delivery, pickup, taxes, and fuel surcharges.
- **Clarify the weight limit.** Write down the exact tonnage included in your rental fee to avoid overage charges later.
- **Check for "clean load" discounts.** Ask if dedicating the bin to a single material (like concrete or yard waste) lowers the price.
- **Verify the rental period.** Confirm how many days are included and what the daily fee is if you need an extension.
- **Ask about prohibited items.** Get a clear list of what cannot go in the bin (e.g., batteries, tires, paint) to avoid fines.

Phase 2: Preparing Your Property (Pre-Delivery)

- **Select a hard, level surface.** Choose a spot on your driveway or street (if permitted) that is flat and clear of overhead wires.
- **Measure the clearance space.** Ensure there is roughly 60 feet of straight-line clearance for the truck to back in and drop the bin.
- **Obtain necessary permits.** Contact your local municipality immediately if you plan to place the dumpster on a public street.
- **Protect your driveway.** Lay down two sheets of thick plywood where the dumpster wheels will sit to prevent asphalt cracks.
- **Move vehicles and obstacles.** Clear all cars, kids' toys, and garden hoses from the delivery area before the scheduled arrival window.
- **Mark the spot.** Use cones or a weighted bucket to show the driver exactly where you want the container placed.

Phase 3: Loading and Usage

- **Load heavy items first.** Walk bulky furniture or heavy debris through the swinging door to fill the bottom evenly.
- **Break down boxes and furniture.** Flatten cardboard and disassemble tables to maximize space and avoid paying for "air."
- **Distribute weight evenly.** Avoid piling all heavy debris on one side, which can make the dumpster unsafe to lift.

- **Monitor the fill line.** Stop loading when debris reaches the top rail; drivers will not haul a dumpster if trash is overflowing.
- **Cover the dumpster when not in use.** Throw a tarp over the top if rain is in the forecast to prevent water weight from increasing your bill.

Phase 4: Pickup and Final Checks

- **Schedule pickup in advance.** Call the hauler 24 hours before your rental period ends to confirm the retrieval date.
- **Ensure clear access.** Move parked cars again so the truck can easily access and lift the full dumpster.
- **Double-check for hazardous waste.** Do a final visual sweep to ensure no prohibited items (like chemicals) were accidentally thrown in.
- **Sweep the area after pickup.** Inspect the driveway for stray nails or debris once the bin is gone to protect your car tires.