

# Practical Guide for Homeowners and Contractors

This checklist is designed for Colorado residents and project managers preparing for a major cleanup or renovation. It eliminates common logistical errors, prevents unexpected fees, and ensures a safe rental experience. Use this list as a step-by-step guide from the initial planning phase through to the final pickup.

## Phase 1: Preparation and Sizing

- **Estimate your debris volume carefully.** Visualize your waste in terms of pickup truck loads; one standard pickup bed equals roughly two cubic yards.
- **Categorize your waste types.** Separate general household debris from heavy materials like concrete or dirt, as these often require different bin types or have stricter weight limits.
- **Measure your available space.** Confirm that your driveway or street spot has at least 60 feet of straight-line clearance for the delivery truck to maneuver.
- **Check overhead obstructions.** Look for low-hanging tree branches or power lines that hang lower than 25 feet above the drop-off zone.
- **Verify local permit needs.** Contact your city clerk or HOA to determine if a permit is required for placing a container on the street or visible in the driveway.
- **Plan your project timeline.** Decide exactly when demolition begins to ensure the bin arrives one day prior, preventing workflow bottlenecks.

## Phase 2: Booking the Rental

- **Ask about "clean load" discounts.** Inquire if the provider offers lower rates for recycling-friendly loads consisting entirely of wood, metal, or concrete.
- **Confirm the prohibited items list.** Request a specific list of banned materials (tires, batteries, paint) to avoid costly contamination fees later.
- **Clarify weight limit policies.** Ask specifically what the cost per ton is if you exceed the included weight allowance for your chosen size.
- **Negotiate the rental duration.** Discuss flexibility for keeping the bin extra days if the project runs behind, or discounts for early pickup.
- **Define placement instructions.** Tell the dispatcher exactly where to place the bin (e.g., "left side of the driveway") so you do not need to be home for delivery.

## Phase 3: Loading and Management

- **Protect your property surface.** Place plywood sheets or wooden planks on the driveway where the dumpster wheels will sit to prevent cracking or scratching.
- **Load bulky items first.** Disassemble furniture and flatten cardboard boxes, placing them at the bottom to create a stable base.
- **Fill the gaps efficiently.** Use bags of smaller trash or loose debris to fill the empty spaces between larger objects to maximize volume.

- **Keep the load level.** Distribute heavy items evenly across the floor of the container rather than piling them all at the back door.
- **Respect the fill line.** Stop loading once debris reaches the top rim of the dumpster to ensure the driver can legally transport it.
- **Cover the container during rain.** Secure a tarp over the top if rain or snow is in the forecast to prevent water weight from increasing your disposal bill.

#### **Phase 4: Final Cleanup and Pickup**

- **Review the prohibited items list again.** Double-check that no hazardous materials or banned electronics were accidentally thrown in by helpers.
- **Clear the approach path.** Ensure no vehicles, toys, or materials are blocking the driveway on the scheduled pickup day.
- **Sweep the surrounding area.** Clean up any nails or small debris around the base of the dumpster before it is hauled away to prevent flat tires later.
- **Compare the final invoice.** Verify that the weight ticket matches your load and that no unexpected fuel surcharges were added without prior disclosure.