



National Waste Statistics: Guidance for estimating quantity of waste generated on-site

The Environmental Protection Agency’s waste surveys include a “Management of waste generated on-site” worksheet where operators are required to report on wastes generated by their on-site activities (e.g. office and canteen waste, wastes from maintenance of fleet wastes from maintenance of machinery).

This guidance is to assist in the calculation of the quantity of **household-type** wastes generated by on-site activities. Typical wastes are generated from office and canteen activities and include mixed residual waste, mixed dry recyclables (plastic, paper & cardboard, metals) and organic waste (food waste and green/garden waste).

If such wastes are transferred off-site to another waste operator, you may have information on waste types and quantities from your records (e.g. invoices). In some cases however the weights may not be readily available and in that case you will have to estimate.

The weight of household-type waste may be estimated using the information provided in the table below and multiplying by the weekly/monthly number of collections (e.g. organic bin (140 litre), collected once per month: 38kg * 12 = 456 kg or 0.46 tonnes). If household-type wastes generated by your offices and canteen are mixed in with wastes you accept on-site for processing, it will be necessary to estimate the waste generated by surveying the bins provided in your premises and estimating how often they are emptied and how full they usually are. Please note that we require reasonable estimates only.

Type of waste generated	Bin size	Typical weight when full
General residual waste	240 litre	30 kg
General residual waste	140 litre	20 kg
General residual waste	80 litre	18 kg

Recyclables (highly variable)	1100 litre	60 kg
Recyclables (highly variable)	240 litre	16 kg
Recyclables (highly variable)	140 litre	8 kg

Organic bin	140 litre	38 kg
Organic bin	240 litre	100 kg

Bag of mixed waste	240 litre	3.5-6.5 kg
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