



Budget Dumpster Presents

THE BEGINNERS GUIDE TO RENTING A DUMPSTER



FROM THE STAFF BEHIND [BUDGETDUMPSTER.COM](https://www.budgetdumpster.com)

Dumpster Rental Guide

HOW IT WORKS

The concept of renting a dumpster seems pretty simple. A company delivers a big empty box, you load it up, and they come back and haul it away. However, you must keep in mind; you are renting someone else's property just like renting a car or anything else. Additionally, you are responsible for everything that ends up in the dumpster when it's removed...whether you, a neighbor or a stranger put it in there. Lastly, there are strict local, state and federal rules and laws that govern the waste industry so you must do your due diligence and familiarize yourself with the process before ordering a dumpster. Dumpsters can be expensive and may come with additional charges if you don't follow (or know) the rules.

This short guide is meant to shed some light on how the dumpster rental process works, what you need to know BEFORE renting a dumpster and how to avoid extra fees or a bad experience. Enjoy!

TERMINOLOGY

All of the following can be used interchangeably: dumpster, box, bin, roll-off, debris box, can, etc.

THE DUMPSTER DELIVERY

Dumpsters come in all shapes and sizes and can be delivered by a variety of different trucks. For the purposes of this guide, I will focus on the most common type of dumpster delivery truck. Essentially it's a flatbed, dump-style truck. Meaning, the dumpster sits on a modified flatbed truck. When the dumpster arrives to be delivered, the bed of the truck rises up into the air and the dumpster (typically secured by a heavy steel cable) is slowly lowered off the truck onto the ground. The beds of the truck will often times require a clearance of 20 feet high or more in order to successfully allow gravity to lower the dumpster and "slide" off the truck. As we'll talk about, it is your responsibility to make sure there are no hazards like low power lines or tree branches that would prevent the delivery. Remember, the driver has more than likely never been to your house or property and relies on your information to make sure the delivery is possible.

Make sure your driveway or delivery area is clear and is wide and long enough for the dumpster. It's always a good idea to measure your area before placing the order for the delivery.

DUMPSTER SIZES

The most common sizes offered for roll-off, temporary, or construction style dumpsters are 10 yard, 20 yard, 30 yard and 40 yard dumpsters. There are other sizes (12 yard, 15 yard, 25 yard dumpsters) but they are not very common.

Dumpster sizes are typically dictated by your geographic location...what city or market you're in. For example, in Cleveland OH almost every dumpster rental company offers 10, 20, 30 and 40 yard dumpsters however, in Baltimore or Newark it's rare to find a 40 yard dumpster.

Certain markets, competitors and sometimes state laws will have an impact on what sizes are commonly available in your area.

DUMPSTER USES

Dumpsters can be used for many reasons. The two most popular uses are for general household materials and for construction debris. Some other uses include landscaping or yard cleanup, concrete removal, food waste only, roofing shingles only, dirt only or mixed use comprised of two or more of the previous materials being comingled.

Depending on your city and the dumpster company you talk to, the rules can vary quite a bit. The reason the rules change from city to city or from company to company are because of where the dumpster will be emptied and the cost associated with disposal.

Some landfills (or transfer stations) only accept certain materials. Some landfills will accept just about anything, excluding hazardous waste. So each dumpster company will have relationships or accounts with local landfills and/or transfer stations. Some companies might have multiple relationships or accounts with many different landfills or recycling facilities and they will be able to haul and dispose of more types of waste than a dumpster company that only works with one or two disposal facilities.

For example; it's not uncommon for "dumpster company A" to accept yard waste but "dumpster company B" will tell you that you cannot put yard waste into the dumpster. That's typically because "dumpster company A" has a relationship with a facility that will accept yard waste while "dumpster company B" has no such option. The same can be said for dirt and concrete. Some companies will say yes and some will say no depending on their ability to dispose of certain materials.

There are situations where some dumpster companies simply don't want to haul dirt or concrete. This may be due the weight of these materials and the wear and tear they have on their trucks or because of specific problems they have experienced in the past. Some dumpster companies might choose to not haul a specific material because there are more rules, regulations and hoops to jump through to be able to haul that material and they simply opt not to engage in that type of hauling due to a cost-to-benefit ratio that does not make sense.

Almost all dumpster rental companies will take general household trash or construction debris. The other materials mentioned above will be determined on a company to company basis.

TYPES OF WASTE

Household Materials /MSW (Municipal Solid Waste). Some examples of household materials would be the types of items you come across when cleaning out a property. Whether it's a home, office, retail store or warehouse, the type of material will typically fall into this category. Furniture, clothes, toys and general trash are all considered household waste. See below for a more thorough explanation.

Demolition and Construction Debris. Some examples of C&D materials would be the types of items you come across when building, renovating, repairing or demolishing a property or structure. See below for a more thorough explanation.

There's a simple rule in the industry that can help most people determine what type of material they are dealing with, here it is: *"Construction debris is typically anything used when building a home or structure and household materials are anything you place inside that home or property after it's been built"*.

1. Construction Waste: is any materials that was used to build the house or structure and would include boards, wood, drywall, windows, doors, roofing shingles, tile, plywood, toilets, bathtubs, shower stalls, cabinets, countertops, etc.
 - a. **Special note:** Construction materials may or may not include hot water tanks, furnaces or carpet. Appliances are not considered construction debris. You should check with your dumpster provider about these items specifically.
2. Household Waste / MSW: Are typically any materials that were placed inside the home or property AFTER the house was built. The items include clothes, furniture, toys, desks, chairs, tables, etc.
 - a. **Special note:** Electronics, appliances, motor parts and carpet are usually special considerations and you should ask your dumpster provider about these items specifically before placing them in the dumpster.
3. Organic Waste and Heavy Debris: Some examples would include concrete, stone, asphalt, dirt, sod, brick, block, stumps, logs, yard waste, etc. These materials are extremely heavy and not all dumpster companies will allow these materials in the dumpster due to the weight and potential hazards of hauling this type of debris. There are many companies that do allow these materials however, they may be segmented and treated differently which would mean the cost is different than normal debris and/or there may be restrictions on the size of dumpster allowed and commingling of various materials. These rules and regulations will vary from company to company. Be sure to ask before placing them in your dumpster.

DUMPSTER PRICING

Just like any other product or service, dumpster pricing is going to be different from company to company. Pricing also varies greatly by geographic location nationally. There is a long laundry list of factors that come into play but here are some of the major influencers...

1. Size of Dumpster. The bigger the more expensive obviously.
2. The weight of the contents going into the dumpster. Dumpster companies often have to pay the landfill or transfer station based on a price per ton model.
3. The type of materials going into the dumpster will be one of the biggest influencers on cost.
4. How far away you are from the company you are renting from or the facility where your dumpster will be emptied. Typically mileage and fuel costs come into play, so the further away, the more expensive your dumpster can be.

5. Does the dumpster company own a transfer station, recycling facility or landfill? If so, they will more than likely segment, resell and/or recycle a lot of their materials, which can lower the cost of the service for you, the customer because your junk will end up making them money!

It's my opinion that you should always seek to work with a company who offers "flat rate" pricing. What we mean is to find a company that charges one flat rate for the entire service including, delivery, removal, rental, tonnage, etc. (but excluding overweight, trip and extension fees because they don't apply up-front). It's always best to work with a company that rolls all fees up into one rate so it's more understandable for the customer and leaves less opportunity for extra or hidden fees to creep in.

For example, some companies will charge a \$150 delivery fee **PLUS** \$80 per ton **PLUS** \$5 per day rental **PLUS** 6% fuel and environmental fee **PLUS** a 3% franchise fee **PLUS** 8.5% tax and even sometimes **PLUS** a removal fee and/or a deposit! And that's where they leave it. Now this isn't inherently "bad" but it's just about as confusing as can be and you don't have a fixed price. Unless you know how much your materials will weigh AND take the time to calculate everything precisely, you just won't know how much the dumpster will cost. This method might work well for professional contractors in some situations but even then, when budgets and bids matter, I don't think this method is the best for the customer. This is my opinion and some people may disagree but our company has invested in enough research to confidently say the overwhelming majority of people (like 99 out of 100) prefer a "flat rate" structure.

Ask questions before renting your dumpster. If the quoted rate seems high or low ask why. Ask if your dumpster company owns a transfer station or landfill. Ask about special rates based on the type of material. For example, even though concrete is extremely heavy, many times it's very cheap to dispose of because it will be crushed and reused. It's not uncommon for concrete or dirt loads to be much cheaper than regular trash BUT you have to ask to get **these** special rates. Some companies don't offer them up willingly!

DUMPSTER RENTAL LENGTH

Just as pricing varies from company to company, so does the rental length. An average rental period is anywhere from 5 days to 14 days or more, included in the quoted price. The rental period is dependent upon several factors but two of the biggest influencers would be the haulers inventory of dumpsters and how busy the hauler is at the time you call. If you work with a small company that only has a handful of dumpsters, they might want a quick turnaround on the dumpster so they can rent it again and again. Dumpsters are the haulers' life-blood and they need to keep them moving in order to make money. No one wants their dumpster to sit somewhere for a long period of time.

Some larger companies have hundreds or even thousands of dumpsters and will allow you to keep the dumpster for 14 or more days. They can afford to let people keep dumpsters longer because of their large inventory and availability.

One very important question you absolutely ask your dumpster company is "how much does it cost if I keep the dumpster past the rental period". Most companies charge a daily or weekly rent which can be

anywhere from \$3 to \$25 per day beyond the agreed upon rental term. If you end up needing the dumpster for an extra week or two you could potentially incur a significant charge.

EXTRA CHARGES

If you don't follow the rules of your dumpster rental, you may find yourself liable and responsible to a host of extra fees. It is imperative that you understand the rules and terms of your rental. It is quite common in the industry and widely acceptable for haulers to charge additional fees for the following reasons...

- **Dry Run or Trip Fee:** If a driver attempts to make a delivery or pick up but can't for any reason outside of his control (like low wires, low tree branches, locked gates, vehicles blocking access, etc.), you will more than likely have to pay a fee for the drivers time, the fuel, rerouting the schedule, etc. This fee can range from \$30 - \$150.
- **Overweight Fee:** If your dumpster has a weight limit and you exceed that limit you should expect to pay an additional charge. Haulers are often times charged by the ton at the landfill. Example: if your terms state a 4 ton weight allowance or limit and you put 6 tons in the dumpster, you are responsible for the additional 2 tons of material because they were not factored into the original agreement or charge. Ask you hauler about additional tonnage charges before you rent your dumpster.
- **Extension or Rental Fee:** as stated, you should expect to pay a daily or weekly fee if you choose to keep your dumpster longer than agreed upon.
- **Overloaded or Overfilled Dumpster Fee:** This one is IMPORTANT. Your dumpster should not be filled above the top of the dumpster. Pretend the dumpster is filled with water...that's as high as you should go. Remember, the drivers have to haul this dumpster down the road and cannot legally take it away if your stuff is sticking up or hanging out of the dumpster. Make sure all items are inside and level at the top. Additionally, if you put too much weight in your dumpster, it will not be able to be removed. All states have D.O.T weight limits that must be followed; in addition, the trucks will have weight capacities as well. If you exceed the weight limit of the truck or the legal limit of the roads, your dumpster will not be able to be removed. You will have to off-load materials and you will have to pay for the dumpster company to come back out again.

TERMS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Read the fine print and buyer beware! You should take time to read and ask the right questions before completing your purchase or following through with your dumpster order. You should know...

- when your dumpster will be delivered
- if you need to be present for the delivery
- how much notice to schedule to removal
- if you need to be present for the removal
- if you need a permit and if so, who is responsible for pulling the permit and paying for it

- if the dumpster will fit where you want it to be placed. Measure before you place your order!
- what is allowed or not allowed in the dumpster
- about any cancellation or extra charges
- etc.

There are some materials and items that can't go into most dumpsters. The following items are "almost" universally considered hazardous materials and should not be placed in your dumpster. This list is not complete and will vary based on several factors so please make sure you ask your hauler about the following list. Items almost universally NOT ALLOWED:

- car tires, car batteries, batteries, oils, paints, refrigerant, asbestos, flammable or toxic liquids, railroad ties, pesticides, thinners, lacquers, pain filters, solvents, oil filters, contaminated absorbents, infectious waste, medical waste, pharmaceuticals, inks, resins, adhesives, 55 gallon drums, etc.

The above list is not comprehensive or complete. You should check with your hauler for a complete list of items not allowed in the dumpster. Many municipalities have also enacted rules and laws against electronics, mattresses, pallets, appliances and other items... landing them on the prohibited items list. Again, some of the latter items mentioned vary from area to area. You must ask your hauler.

CLOSING ADVICE

In closing and after all of the above, we'd like to simply things a bit and offer some relatively simple advice.

1. **Ask a lot of questions.** Weight limits, extra charges, rental terms, get dates, etc.
2. **Find a reputable company.** Pay attention to the way people offer up information and respond to your questions. You'll likely find that some companies get defensive or rude when you start to ask questions the average person wouldn't. You'll notice the difference between a company who has nothing to hide and a company who is trying to keep you in the dark. Choose to work with a company who has experience and is willing to take the time to answer all of your questions kindly.
3. **Be specific.** With delivery dates, placement instructions, the type of material you will be putting in the dumpster, etc. It's your responsibility to be as upfront and clear about your intentions for the dumpster, which will make things smoother all around. Your hauler should be able to rely on you for accurate information that they wouldn't otherwise know or have.
4. **Find a "Flat Rate" Company.** What we mean is to find a company that charges one flat rate for the entire service (excluding overweight, trip and extension fees). It's our opinion that it's always best to work with a company that rolls all fees up into one rate so it's more understandable and leaves less opportunity for extra or hidden fees to creep in. See above for a further explanation.
5. **Consider BudgetDumpster.com ☺.** Why? Well, because we'd love to work with you and because you can trust us. Plus, we've been around for a while and experience matters in this

biz. What else? We're national (but local), we know our stuff (heck, we wrote "The Beginners Guide to Renting a Dumpster"), we're super affordable and we're really nice too!

LEGAL STUFF

This [dumpster rental](#) guide has been created by Budget Dumpster, LLC and BudgetDumpster.com to help the lay person understand the dumpster rental process more clearly. Budget Dumpster, LLC is a national company and has rented over 50,000 dumpsters to customers at the time of this writing. This guide is not absolute or complete. There are many variables in this industry and this guide aims to highlight the author's opinion(s) only. This guide does not contain any legal advice. The author shall not be responsible and shall be held harmless for any technical/factual inaccuracies and/or typographical errors.

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