



Factsheet: Recycling Collection & Processing Equipment Needs

The equipment needed for a recycling program varies greatly from one town to another. The information listed below overviews many of the more common pieces. The prices listed are provided for comparison only and should not be used for developing quotes or grant applications. Please contact vendors specifically for actual quotes.

Eighteen-gallon curbside recycling bins

- These bins average \$7.50 each.
- Weekly collection needed to prevent overflow and keep participation rate high.
- Will typically not hold a household's weekly recycling supply, so many times two bins per household are necessary.

Sixty-five-gallon capacity rolling carts

- These containers average \$45.00 each.
- Some, but not all, are designed for use in automated collection systems.
- Can be used in drop-off situations and collection of material from commercial or institutional sources, as well as residential.

Ninety-five-gallon carts

- These bins often cost \$65.00 each and are the largest size of roll carts.
- Some, but not all, are designed for use in automated collection systems.

- Can be used in drop-off situations and collection of material from commercial or institutional sources, as well as residential.

Six-yard-dumpsters

- Average about \$800.00 each.
- Need a front load compactor truck to empty.

Eight- yard-dumpsters

- These containers cost around \$1,000.00 each.
- Need a front load compactor truck to empty.
- Some programs choose to lease rather than buy this type of equipment.
- Communities often rely on open top or side open 8-yard collection dumpsters to collect sorted material.
- If these containers are used for collecting cardboard, boxes must be properly broken down to avoid overflow

Forty-yard roll-off containers

- These containers can often be compartmentalized to accept multiple types of materials.
- Many programs choose to lease rather than buy this type of equipment.

Forklifts

- Sell for the high \$20,000 range, but usually there is a good market for used forklifts that cost less.
- Programs that use Gaylord containers or other containers on pallets should have a forklift or a pallet jack.
- Forklifts can use different fuels or electric power depending where they are used. Typically, electric or propane driven forklifts are best for indoor uses.

Bobcat steer loaders

- These generally sell for something like \$38,000.
- Can be fitted with forklift blades and other front attachments that allow covering different material handling needs

Gaylords

- These boxes generally sell for \$5.00 to \$7.00.
- A Gaylord box is 48" x 40" x 36" and fits neatly on a standard pallet.

- In covered facilities, these large, reusable cardboard boxes can be an effective and inexpensive collection tool.

Trailers

- Trailers vary in price, often between \$5,000 and \$25,000 a piece.
- Recycling trailers are available in a variety of styles and sizes, including basic bin style, removable multiple bins, and hydraulic compaction trailers.
- Facilities who manage their own sorting floor often use compartmentalized trailers that can be hauled by a pick-up truck with a standard hitch.
- Trailers often work well for special event recycling.

Vertical balers

- These balers often sell in the \$11,000 - \$12,000 range. Look for good used models for less.
- Vertical balers are most often used for easily compactable materials such as cardboard.
- Sometimes, paper dealers will set balers at no cost at a recycling facility in exchange for the discounted cardboard or other materials. If you have no means to buy a baler, it is a good idea to check with local processors.

Horizontal balers

- These balers often sell in the \$30,000 - \$75,000 range.
- Programs that plan to bale plastics often need the compaction ability of a horizontal baler.
- More advanced versions, including auto-tie single-ram balers, often range from \$100,000 - \$200,000.

Feed conveyors for balers

- from \$18,000 - \$30,000

Simple single-stream systems without the baler

- This system often costs programs something in the range of \$1.8 million.
- Approved for low-volume rated equipment only.

Complete glass crushing systems

- The equipment for this process often costs near \$160,000. Smaller systems can be quite a bit cheaper, but will deliver a less-quality product.

Platform scale

- These small scales generally run \$1,500 to \$3,000.
- They are appropriate for weighing bales and Gaylord containers of materials.

Drive-over truck scales

- These scales often cost \$23,000 – \$29,000, not including installation.