

Volume-to-Weight Conversions for Recyclable Materials

for use with the Municipal Recycling Data Sheet

Material	Density	Sources
Paper		
<i>Newspaper</i>		
Loose, unbaled	445 pounds / cubic yard	1,2,3
Compacted	800 pounds / cubic yard	2,3
Hand stacked	35 pounds / 12 inch stack	2,3
<i>Corrugated Cardboard</i>		
Loose, unbaled	200 pounds / cubic yard	1,2,3
Compacted	460 pounds / cubic yard	2,3
<i>Other Paper</i>		
Telephone Books	250 pounds / cubic yard	4
Mixed Paper	490 pounds / cubic yard	1,3
Containers		
<i>Commingled</i>		
Cans, Glass & Plastic	180 pounds / cubic yard	1,2,3
Cans & Glass	270 pounds / cubic yard	1,2,3
<i>Glass</i>		
Whole Bottles	620 pounds / cubic yard	1,2,3
Crushed-semi (manually)	1,175 pounds / cubic yard	2,3
Mechanically Crushed	1,840 pounds / cubic yard	2,3
<i>Steel/ Tin Cans</i>		
Whole	150 pounds / cubic yard	2,3
Flattened	850 pounds / cubic yard	2,3
<i>Aluminum Cans</i>		
Whole	60 pounds / cubic yard	1,2,3
Flattened	225 pounds / cubic yard	2,3
<i>Plastics</i>		
PET #1 - whole	35 pounds / cubic yard	1,2,3
HDPE #2 - whole	25 pounds / cubic yard	3
Plastics #3 - #7 - whole	50 pounds / cubic yard	3
All Plastics: #1 - #7 - whole	38 pounds / cubic yard	2
Miscellaneous materials		
White goods (appliances)	300 lb / cy or 170 each on average	4
Textiles	175 pounds / cubic yard	4
CRTs/Computers	50 lbs each (whole on average)	4
Organics - Weight Conversions		
Grass Clippings	667 pounds / cubic yard	4
Leaves	400 pounds / cubic yard	4
Brush	500 pounds / cubic yard	4
Unfinished compost	1,500 pounds / cubic yard	4
Finished compost	1,350 pounds / cubic yard	4
Organics - Volumetric Conversions		
Grass Clippings	3 cubic yards/ton	4
Leaves	5 cubic yards/ton	4
Brush	4 cubic yards/ton	4
Hazardous Household Products (HHP)		
Auto batteries	39 lbs each	5
Batteries (household)	40 pounds / 5 gallon pail	4
Oil filters	250 pounds / 55 gallon drum	4
Paint (boxed)	690 pounds / cy box	4
Paint (bulk packed)	450 pounds / 55 gallon drum	4
Mercury Containing Products (MCP)		
Fluorescent lamps	0.5 pounds / four foot lamp	4
U-Tube	report as 4 linear feet each	
Circular Bulb	report as 4 linear feet each	
Compact Fluorescent Light Bulb	report as 4 linear feet each	
HID Bulbs	report as 8 linear feet each	

Sources

1. California Integrated Waste Management Board, data from CalRecovery report (w/Tellus) of 1991
2. National Recycling Coalition, data from 1998
3. Information from other government sources includes OR & VA Departments of Environmental Quality, NJ Department of Environmental Protection, HI documentation as well as US Navy facility guidance documents and the United States Environmental Protection Agency
4. DEP conversion rate from previous research
5. From EPA and Waste Age