

RECYCLABLE MATERIAL CONVERSION TABLE VOLUME TO WEIGHT

All weights are on average and may vary.

Category	Material (u=uncompacted, c=compacted & baled)	Volume	Estimated Weight (in pounds/lbs.)
High-grade paper	Computer Paper		
	Uncompacted, stacked	1 cubic yard	655
	Compacted, baled	1 cubic yard	1,310
	1 case	2,800 sheets	42
	White Ledger		
	(u) stacked/(c) stacked	1 cubic yard	375-465/755-925
	(u) crumpled/(c) crumpled	1 cubic yard	110-205/325
	20# bond ream; 8 1/2X 11	1 ream=500 sheets	5
	20# bond ream; 8 1/2X 14	1 ream=500 sheets	6.4
	White ledger pads	1 case=72 pads	38
	Tab Cards		
	Uncompacted	1 cubic yard	605
	Compacted/baled	1 cubic yard	1,215-1,350
Low-grade paper	Cardboard (Corrugated)		
	Uncompacted	1 cubic yard	50-150
	Compacted	1 cubic yard	300-500
	Baled	1 cubic yard	700-1,100
	Newspaper		
	Uncompacted	1 cubic yard	360-505
	Compacted/baled	1 cubic yard	720-1,000
	Compacted	3.33 cubic yards=1 ton	2,000
	12 inch stack	---	35
Other Paper	Miscellaneous Paper		
	Yellow legal pads	1 case=72 pads	38
	Colored message pads	1 carton=144 pads	22
	Self-carbon forms: 8 1/2X11	1 ream=500 sheets	50
	Mixed Ledger/Office Paper		
	Flat (u/c)	1 cubic yard	380/755
	Crumpled (u/c)	1 cubic yard	110/755
Glass	Refillable Whole Bottles		
	Refillable beer bottles	1 case=24 bottles	14
	Refillable soft drink bottles	1 case=24 bottles	22
	8 oz. glass container	1 case=24 bottles	12

	Bottles:		
	Whole	1 cubic yard	500-700
	Semi-crushed	1 cubic yard	1,000-1,800
	Crushed (mechanically)	1 cubic yard	1,800-2,700
	Uncrushed to manually broken	55 gallon drum	300
	Whole	1 grocery bag	16
Plastic	PET (soda bottles)		
	Whole bottles (u)	1 cubic yard	30-40
	Whole bottles (u)	66.67 cubic yards=1 ton	2,000
	Whole bottles (c)	1 cubic yard	515
	Whole bottles, (c)	gaylord box	40-53
	Baled	30" X 62"	500-550
	Granulated	gaylord box	700-750
	8 bottles (2-liter size)	---	1
	HDPE (dairy/milk jug)		
	Whole (u)	1 cubic yard	24
	Whole (u)	80.0 cubic yards=1 ton	2,000
	Whole (c)	1 cubic yard	270
	Baled	1 cubic yard	400-500
	HDPE (mixed)		
	Baled	32" X 60"	900
	Granulated	semi-load	42,000
	Odd Plastics		
	Uncompacted	1 cubic yard	50
	Compacted/baled	1 cubic yard	400-700
	Mixed PET and HDPE (dairy)		
	Whole, uncompacted	1 cubic yard	32
Metals	Aluminum (cans)		
	Whole	1 cubic yard	50-75
	Whole	27.03 yards=1 ton	2,000
	Compacted (manually)	1 cubic yard	250-430
		8 cubic yards=1 ton	2,000
	Uncompacted	1 full grocery bag	1.5
		1 case=24 cans	0.9
	Ferrous (tin-coated steel cans)		
	Whole	1 cubic yard	150
	Whole	13.33 cubic yards=1 ton	2,000
	Flattened	1 cubic yard	850
	Flattened	2.35 cubic yards=1 ton	2,000
	Whole	1 case=6 cans	22
Organics	Yard Trimmings*		
	Leaves (uncompacted)	1 cubic yard	200-250
		8.0 cubic yards=1 ton	2,000

	Leaves (compacted)	1 cubic yard	300-450
	Leaves, vacuumed	1 cubic yard	350
	Grass clippings (uncompacted)	1 cubic yard	350-450
		4.95 cubic yards=1 ton	2,000
	Grass clippings (compacted)	1 cubic yard	550-1,500
	Finished compost	1 cubic yard	600
	Scrap Wood		
	Pallets	--	30-100 (40 average)
	Wood chips	1 cubic yard	500
	Food Waste		
	Solid/Liquid fats	55-gallon drum	400-410
		4.85 drums=1 ton	2,000
Other Materials	Tires		
	Car	1 tire	12-20
	Truck	1 tire	60-100
	Oil (used motor oil)	1 gallon	7
		285.71 gallons=1 ton	2,000

*Density of yard trimmings is highly variable depending on moisture content.

Sources:

- 1) South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling for sharing this information from the 1998 edition, Start A Recycling Program: A Guide to Developing A Recycling Program For Your Business Or Organization. Portions of this table were originally taken from the US Environmental Protection Agency's "Business Guide for Reducing Solid Waste." EPA/530-K-92-004, November 1993.
- 2) Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Arizona Small Business Reduce, Reuse and Recycle Guide, 1992. Original information obtained from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Office of Recycling-1989.