



Minnesota Chamber of Commerce  
**WASTEWISE**

# UNDERSTANDING YOUR WASTE BILL

Use this guide to better understand the common fees associated with your waste bill. Service fees vary by hauler and location. Terminology used as well as the overall 'look' of a waste bill can also vary widely. If you have questions about your bill, contact your hauler.

**BILL TO:**  
JANE'S JANITORIAL  
123 MAIN ST  
JANETOWN, MN

**INVOICE NO.** 000111  
**INVOICE DATE** 02/01/2020  
**ACCOUNT NUMBER** 011123

**1** **BALANCE DUE: \$764.95**  
**PAYMENT DUE: 2/20/20**

Dates of Service	Description	Quantity	Amount
1/15/20	<b>3</b> Payment		-\$770.60
1/1/20—1/31	<b>4</b> 4 Cu. Yard Trash Service, 2x/week <b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 1.0	\$275.00
	<b>7</b> Fuel Surcharge/Environmental Recovery Fee		\$41.25
1/1/20—1/31/20	<b>4</b> Cu. Yard Recycling Service, 1x/week	1.0	\$85.00
	<b>8</b> Recycling Processing Fee		\$22.15
	Fuel Surcharge /Environmental Recovery Fee		\$26.18
1/1/20—1/31/20	<b>2</b> Cu. Yard Organics Service, 1x/week	1.0	\$75.00
	Fuel Surcharge/Environmental Recovery Fee		\$19.00
	<b>9</b> Solid Waste Management Tax	17%	\$53.76
	<b>10</b> County Environmental Charge	53%	\$167.61
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$764.95</b>

COUNTY	STATE TAX ON TRASH (commercial)	COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CHARGE	TOTAL TAX ON TRASH
Anoka	17%	-	17%
Carver	17%	-	17%
Dakota	17%	-	17%
Hennepin	17%	21.5%	38.5%
Ramsey	17%	53%	70%
Scott	17%	-	17%
Washington	17%	35%	52%

- 1 BALANCE DUE:** Total amount to be paid for waste services by due date.
  - 2 DATES OF SERVICE:** May be listed as a monthly range or a single date to indicate specific transaction or service dates.
  - 3 PAYMENTS MADE:** Bill may show payments made for previous months of service.
  - 4 CONTAINER SIZE:** Waste and recycling containers serviced by a hauler are typically measured in cubic yards for dumpsters and in gallons for carts.
  - 5 SERVICE FREQUENCY:** How often haulers pick up containers can range from once a month or every other week to multiple times a week. For customers with large compactors or roll-off dumpsters, "On Call" may be used since the customer contacts the hauler once a container is full and needs to be exchanged. Service frequency may also be written as "lifts per week".
  - 6 QUANTITY:** Refers to the number of containers provided by the hauler.
  - 7 FUEL SURCHARGE/ENVIRONMENTAL RECOVERY FEE:** Fees charged by haulers to cover costs and expenses to operate collection, transfer, landfill, and recycling operations in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.
  - 8 RECYCLING PROCESSING FEE:** Fees charged to offset costs haulers incur due to changes in commodity values for recyclables. May also be written as "Recyclable Material Offset", "Recycling Commodities Adjustment", etc.
  - 9 SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT (SWM) TAX:** The State of MN taxes commercial trash service at 17%. This tax applies to trash service and surcharges only and does not apply to recycling or organics services.
  - 10 COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CHARGE (CEC):** A fee assessed on trash by individual counties, this charge does not apply to recycling or organics services. See table to the left for CECs in the 7-County Metro Area.
- OTHER FEES** not shown here may be included on your waste bill, including: drop off fees for new containers when starting or adding service, extra pick-ups, additional administrative fees, or contamination fees.

# SAVE MONEY ON YOUR WASTE BILL

## RIGHT-SIZE CONTAINERS



If your dumpsters are consistently under-filled, contact your hauler and inquire about getting smaller containers that more closely correspond to the volume of waste and recycling your business generates. Just make sure that containers are still large enough to accommodate your waste material to avoid overage charges. Waste Wise has a worksheet to help you track the level to which each dumpster is getting filled.

## DECREASE PICKUPS



Waste bill amounts tend to increase the more often your dumpsters need to be emptied. For example, if your dumpster is emptied several times a week, there are costs associated with a truck making multiple trips to service them. By reducing the amount of material going into your containers, you can try to limit the number of pickups necessary. Once you're successful in reducing waste volume, contact your hauler to scale back your service schedule.

## REDUCE TAXABLE WASTE



Since trash service is taxed up to 70% in certain areas, it pays to reduce the amount of material ending up in that waste stream. Recycling and organics services are not taxed, so if you can divert enough material from your trash into recycling and organics streams, you may be able to decrease the size of your trash container or how often it's picked up and see a cost savings on your bill. Just make sure that diverted material is actually recyclable or compostable. Better yet, prevent waste at its source by implementing activities focusing on reusing or repurposing materials to keep them out of the trash.

## AVOID CONTAMINATION FEES



Contamination refers to material ending up in recycling and organics that doesn't belong there. For recycling, items may be too soiled with food or liquid, too small to sort properly, wrapped in plastic bags, or just can't be recycled in the first place. For organics, if products are not actually certified compostable, they won't break down properly at a commercial composting facility. When a hauler brings material to a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) or Organics Recycling Facility (ORF) for processing and the load is rejected due to contamination, you may see contamination fees passed down to your waste bill to cover the loss. If you have questions about what can be recycled or composted, get in touch with a Sustainability Specialist at MN Waste Wise.



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Minnesota Waste Wise is a 501c3 nonprofit that provides free technical assistance to businesses and organizations across the Twin Cities metro to help them reduce waste, maximize reuse potential, and optimize recycling programs. Technical services include providing on-site assessments, recommendations, employee training, and grant application assistance.

For more information on Waste Wise, visit [mnchamber.com/wastewise](https://mnchamber.com/wastewise) or call 651-292-4650.