

Here are seven factors to consider when deciding how to sort your waste.

SHOULD YOU SORT WASTE IN SEPARATE OR COMMINGLED CANS?

Sustainability is an ever-increasing focus in the construction and demolition industry. As a result, recycling has become top of mind since it saves on energy, materials and workforce costs.

Implementing a recycling strategy is critical in getting the best results for your jobsite. You can use two different sorting options for recycling: on-site and off-site. But is one better for you? Let's dig into the answer.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ON-SITE AND OFF-SITE RECYCLING?

With off-site recycling, you place different materials (wood, cardboard, metals, etc.) into the same dumpster. A hauler picks up the bins and sends them to a transfer station, where workers separate the debris into reusable materials to recycle and landfill waste. Off-site recycling is also known as commingled or single-stream recycling.

On-site recycling – also referred to as source-separated recycling – involves several dumpsters. Each material goes into a different container to lower the chances of cross-contamination. Haulers then take these dumpsters to facilities that accept the appropriate materials, and what they can't reuse is sent to a landfill in separate bins.

7 Factors to Consider When Choosing Between On-site and Off-site Sorting

Before choosing a sorting method, choose a hauler.

However, you'll get a higher recycling rebate with on-site sorting because separate cans prevent materials from being contaminated. By using different bins, more material will be accepted for recycling than using a mixed dumpster, which could lose some material to contamination.

But even with these rebates, you'll still need to rent more dumpsters and pay for more dumpster deliveries by sorting on-site. The average cost of a dumpster rental nationwide is often over \$400. So, multiply \$400 by how many materials you want

the project. Do you need a large percentage of your waste recycled? Is it important to get points in LEED scoring? Or do you require the job done fast at a low cost?

The right choice depends on what you want to accomplish with your waste diversion goals.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

On the surface, on-site recycling appears to be the obvious choice for having less of an impact on the environment. A

About the Author

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