

# RecycleMania

## Volume-To-Weight Conversion Chart

The following conversion estimates are provided for schools to use in the RecycleMania competition where actual weights are not available. These estimate formulas are based on best-effort weight averages observed at multiple facilities across the country. Because it is possible for individual college and university's actual weights to vary significantly based on local conditions, RecycleMania participants should monitor and make note of materials that appear to be consistently heavier or lighter than the estimates below. Where a college believes it's materials may vary significantly from this chart, they should contact the helpline to discuss options for determining more accurate weights.

For questions about the conversion chart or estimating weights, email or call: [helpline@recyclemaniacs.org](mailto:helpline@recyclemaniacs.org) or (843) 278-7686.

Unless otherwise noted, all figures are from averaged ranges published in *Measuring Recycling: A Guide for State and Local Governments*, by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Washington: 1997.

1. "Recycling Data Report," California Integrated Waste Management Board; Sacramento: 1996.
2. Based on CURC Standards Committee, peer reviewed estimates.
3. Based on RecycleMania Steering Committee estimates

### **Paper** (All grades loose and unbaled)

Newspaper:	433 pounds/cubic yard	4.62 cubic yards/ton
Office paper:	568 pounds/cubic yard	3.52 cubic yards/ton
Mixed paper (1):	484 pounds/cubic yard	4.13 cubic yards/ton
Magazines:	950 pounds/ cubic yard	2.11 cubic yards/ton

### **Corrugated Cardboard**

Flattened boxes, loose:	100 pounds/cubic yard	20 cubic yards/ton
-------------------------	-----------------------	--------------------

### **Containers** (cans, bottles, jars)

Commingled cans, glass and plastic bottles:	200 pounds/cubic yard	10 cubic yards/ton
Whole glass bottles (0-10% broken):	600 pounds/cubic yard	3.33 cubic yards/ton
Aluminum cans (whole, unflattened):	63 pounds/cubic yard	31.75 cubic yards/ton

Steel cans (whole, unflattened):	150 pounds/cubic yard	13.33 cubic yards/ton
Plastic bottles (whole, unflattened):	36 pounds/cubic yard	55.55 cubic yards/ton

### **Single Stream**

Containers, paper, cardboard (3):	139 lbs/ cubic yard	15.46 cubic yards/ton
-----------------------------------	---------------------	-----------------------

### **Food Waste**

Mixed food waste	1,500 pounds/cubic yard	1.33 cubic yards/ton
------------------	-------------------------	----------------------

### **Trash**

Campus waste (loose) (2)	90 pounds/cubic yard	22.22 cubic yards/ton
Campus Waste (compacted):	300 pounds/ cubic yard	6.67 cubic yards/ton
Residential waste (loose):	225 pounds/cubic yard	8.88 cubic yards/ton
Commercial/industrial waste (loose):	450 pounds/cubic yard	4.44 cubic yards/ton

### **Volume Conversion**

1 yard<sup>3</sup> = 201.974 gallons

1 gallon = 0.00576 yard<sup>3</sup>