

Improving the Cleanliness of Our Squares Initiative

Fact Sheet for Businesses

<https://www.medfordma.org/squares>

Starting January 1, 2025, the City of Medford began to transition away from funding business trash and recycling pickup in the Squares. At that time, all businesses in the Squares were expected to incorporate trash and recycling services into their budgets. As of May 1, 2025, Official City Green Trash Bags are no longer permitted for use in the Squares. All trash must be set out for collection in carts or dumpsters. The list of all haulers permitted to provide regular collection service in Medford is [here](#).

Medford's goals for cleaner Squares are to:

- Replace trash bags on sidewalks in Squares with containers (carts or dumpsters)
- Increase recycling and composting to reduce the volume of trash in the Squares
- Reduce rodent attractants and ensure we maintain and improve public health
- Be a more fair and consistent application of the municipal collection contract

The City negotiated fair rates for businesses located in Squares in its new WM collection contract, which began July 1, 2024. WM cart-based recycling service is subsidized by the City to create a strong incentive for businesses to recycle, which is required by City ordinance. The City also negotiated lower prices for recycling than trash for WM dumpster service as well. Negotiated rates will increase 3.5% for cart service and 5% for dumpster service on July 1 each year of the 10-year contract. Businesses can contract for WM service using the negotiated rates shown below. WM contracts are for one year and auto renew unless canceled with 90 days notice. Start by filling out the [online form](#) at [medfordma.org/squares](https://www.medfordma.org/squares).

WM Monthly Trash Rates starting July 2025

Frequency of Collection	1 cart/week	2 carts/week	3 carts/week	4 carts/week	5 carts/week	6 carts/week
64 Gallon Cart	\$23.20	\$43.80	\$64.40	\$84.99	\$105.59	\$126.19
Frequency of Collection	1 X Week	2 X Week	3 X Week	4 X Week	5 X Week	6 X Week
2 Cubic Yard Dumpster	\$194.34	\$366.81	\$539.27	\$711.73	\$884.19	\$1,056.66
4 Cubic Yard Dumpster	\$274.11	\$522.30	\$770.49	\$1,018.68	\$1,266.87	\$1,515.06
6 Cubic Yard Dumpster	\$358.48	\$682.40	\$1,006.31	\$1,330.23	\$1,654.15	\$1,978.06
8 Cubic Yard Dumpster	\$438.82	\$838.46	\$1,238.11	\$1,637.76	\$2,037.40	\$2,437.05
10 Cubic Yard Dumpster	\$520.87	\$996.25	\$1,471.63	\$1,947.00	\$2,422.38	\$2,897.76

WM Monthly Recycling Rates starting July 2025 (EOW = Every Other Week)

Frequency of Collection:	1 cart/week	2 carts/week	3 carts/week	4 carts/week	5 carts/week	6 carts/week
96 Gallon Cart	\$10.35	\$20.70	\$31.05	\$41.40	\$51.75	\$62.10
Frequency of Collection:	1 X EOW	1 X Week	2 X Week	3 X Week	4 X Week	5 X Week
2 Cubic Yard Dumpster	\$63.63	\$127.26	\$232.63	\$338.01	\$443.37	\$548.75
4 Cubic Yard Dumpster	\$71.39	\$142.78	\$259.64	\$376.51	\$493.37	\$610.24
6 Cubic Yard Dumpster	\$81.46	\$162.92	\$291.27	\$419.62	\$547.97	\$676.34
8 Cubic Yard Dumpster	\$89.51	\$179.01	\$318.85	\$458.70	\$598.55	\$738.39
10 Cubic Yard Dumpster	\$98.42	\$196.84	\$348.18	\$499.52	\$650.85	\$802.19

Businesses are free to contact any hauler permitted by the City of Medford on [the City's permitted hauler list](#). A business is not required to use the same hauler for trash as it uses for recycling. All businesses must have recycling service. The freedom to choose your trash and recycling haulers comes with a potential trade-off, which is the possibility of more trucks in the Squares if multiple businesses contract with different haulers. The most efficient system resulting in the fewest trucks is the system that has a single hauler collecting carts and a single hauler collecting dumpsters. Communicating your thoughts about collection service to your neighbors and making informed choices will result in a better system for all.

Don't Know How to Start?

[Fill out the online form](https://medfordma.org/squares) at medfordma.org/squares. If you have difficulties with the online form, call the City Department of Public Works office at (781) 393-2417. After you complete the sign-up process, WM will email you a welcome letter in December along with your customer ID and instructions for how to make your first payment online. After you make your first payment, WM will deliver your containers. More information can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions section of medfordma.org/squares.

Initiative Timeline

Important Dates	What Will Happen	How to Prepare
Starting January 1, 2025	Begin using Official City Green Trash Bags for trash if not yet using carts or dumpsters; WM will no longer collect regular trash bags	Purchase Official City Green Trash Bags at City Hall, Wegmans, Stop & Shop, or Uniao Meat Market
	If you choose to not use City bags and you signed up for service with WM, begin container-based service with WM	Fill out the online form at medfordma.org/squares
	If you already transitioned to service with a hauler other than WM nothing changes	No action needed
Starting May 1, 2025	Stop using Official City Green Trash Bags for trash; WM will no longer collect any bags	Decide what containerized service is best for you (carts or dumpsters); Fill out the online form at medfordma.org/squares for assistance
	Cart or dumpster service will be required for all businesses in Squares	Set up cart or dumpster service on your own or shared with neighbors
	Recycling service will be required for all Medford businesses citywide	Set up recycling collection service

What Size Are the Carts?



WM's 64-gallon cart for TRASH

Height: 41"

Width (side to side): 26"

Depth (front to back): 28"



WM's 96-gallon cart for RECYCLING

Height: 45"

Width (side to side): 28"

Depth (front to back): 33"

NOTE: The cart size assignments by service above are the standard level of service. To accommodate space constraints, WM can provide variable sizes of carts upon request.