

Business food scraps separation requirements:

Tonnage estimation guide for businesses

This guide will help businesses estimate the quantity of food scraps their business generates and determine when your business needs to comply with the food scraps requirement.

Select your business category and enter the number of full-time employees that work at your business. This will help you determine which business group you are in and when you are required to comply with the requirement. All businesses will receive written notification from their local government with details about compliance dates.

Group 1:

Businesses that create 1,000 pounds or more of food scraps (the equivalent of four 60-gallon roll carts) per week will be required to separate their food scraps for collection by March 31, 2023.

Group 2:

Businesses that create 500 pounds or more of food scraps (the equivalent of two 60-gallon roll carts) per week will be required to separate their food scraps for collection by September 30, 2023.

Group 3:

Businesses that create 250 pounds or more of food scraps (the equivalent of one 60-gallon roll cart) per week, along with K-12 schools, will be required to separate their food scraps for collection by September 30, 2024.



Food Scraps Generation Estimation Guide

To estimate the quantity of food scraps your business generates and determine when you likely need to have a food scraps separation system in place, select your business category and enter the number of full-time employees that work at your business.

Grocery stores	# of full-time employees	× 4000 pounds of food scraps per employee per year	÷ 52 weeks per year	= pounds of food scraps per week
Restaurants¹	# of full-time employees	× 2760 pounds of food scraps per employee per year	÷ 52 weeks per year	= pounds of food scraps per week
Lodging and hotels	# of full-time employees	× 1200 pounds of food scraps per employee per year	÷ 52 weeks per year	= pounds of food scraps per week
Hospitals	# of full-time employees	× 300 pounds of food scraps per employee per year	÷ 52 weeks per year	= pounds of food scraps per week
Nursing and residential care facilities	# of full-time employees	× 300 pounds of food scraps per employee per year	÷ 52 weeks per year	= pounds of food scraps per week
Correctional facilities	# of full-time employees	× 1700 pounds of food scraps per employee per year	÷ 52 weeks per year	= pounds of food scraps per week
Colleges and universities	# of full-time employees	× 300 pounds of food scraps per employee per year	÷ 52 weeks per year	= pounds of food scraps per week
Elementary and secondary schools	Elementary and secondary schools will be included in Group 3, starting in September 2022, regardless of the amounts of food scraps they generate.			
Food and beverage manufacturers	Food scraps generation and handling vary widely by food product manufacturer. City and county technical assistance staff will help these businesses determine if and when they will need to have a program in place.			

Source for Business Generation Estimates: Cascadia Consulting Group. *2014 Generator-Based Characterization of Commercial Sector Disposal and Diversion in California*. Publication # DRRR 2015-1543. California Department of Resources and Recycling and Recovery, September 2015.
<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/publications/Documents/1543/20151543.pdf>

¹ For organizations and corporate campuses with full service and on-site cafeterias that are not included as another business category such as hospitals, colleges and universities or correctional facilities, enter the number of full-time employees involved with food preparation and service.