OTTAWA CONSTRUCTION BINS

Bin Sizes & What Fits

Typical bin sizes and dimensions (sizes vary by company), the two 20 yard shapes, and what size a renovation or demolition calls for

9 Expert Answers from Bin IQ

ottawaconstructionbins.ca/construction-brain

Table of Contents

1. Is a 10 yard bin big enough for a basement cleanout in Orleans?
2. Short and tall or long and low: which 20 yard bin suits an Ottawa driveway?
3. Why do 20 yard bins differ in length between Ottawa companies?
4. How big is a 40 yard bin in Ottawa compared to a car?
5. Is a 14 or a 20 yard bin right for a kitchen tear-out in Westboro?
6. Which bin size do Ottawa companies suggest for a whole-house renovation?
7. How many pickup loads does a 20 yard bin from an Ottawa company hold?
8. Can I load an Ottawa bin above the top edge?
9. Will a 20 yard bin fit on a single-car driveway in Vanier?

Q1

Is a 10 yard bin big enough for a basement cleanout in Orleans?

A 10 yard bin is on the small end for a basement cleanout, and whether it is enough depends on what is coming out and how full the basement is. Only one Ottawa bin company published dimensions for a 10 yard bin, approximately 10 by 8 by 4 feet, so treat that figure as approximate and ask the company for the outside dimensions of the specific bin they would send.

For context, company size guides describe a 14 to 20 yard bin as suited to a single-room renovation such as a kitchen or bathroom. A basement cleanout can produce more volume than that, particularly if it includes old furniture, shelving, flooring, stored goods and any framing or drywall. If the load is mostly bulky but light items, a 10 yard bin might handle a modest cleanout; if the basement is fully finished or packed, it may not. Ask the company directly: describe what is coming out and ask whether they would recommend a 10 yard or a larger size.

A few things affect the answer beyond volume. Heavy material such as concrete, brick or soil needs a small or dedicated bin, or a partly filled one, billed by weight; ask the company which bin they use for that and what it may hold. Companies set their own lists of refused and surcharged items, so ask for that list in writing before you load anything. Some companies charge per mattress or per appliance, and some refuse items such as tires, paint, propane tanks or hazardous materials.

On placement: if the bin sits on the road, boulevard or sidewalk in Orleans, the City's TCE permit applies. If it stays entirely on your driveway, check where your property line ends using geoOttawa, since the boulevard beside your property and the area near the street can be City land. Ask the bin company where they plan to set it down and get that in writing.

Before you pay, ask the company to show you the cancellation terms in writing so you know exactly what you can recover if the project changes.

Q2

Short and tall or long and low: which 20 yard bin suits an Ottawa driveway?

Both shapes of 20 yard bin hold the same volume, but their outside dimensions are quite different, and that difference is what matters on a driveway.

The short and tall shape runs about 11 to 12 feet long, 8 feet wide and 5.5 to 6 feet high (typical outside dimensions, sizes vary by company). The long and low shape runs about 18 to 22 feet long, 8 feet wide and 3.5 to

4 feet high. A short driveway goes with the short and tall shape, the shorter of the two. Bin companies ask for a level spot clear of overhead wires and branches, whichever shape you choose.

Before you measure, get the outside dimensions of the specific bin the company will deliver, in writing. Nominal yard sizes describe volume, not shape, and lengths for the same 20 yard bin differ by up to two times between companies. Your driveway measurement and the company's written dimensions are the only reliable comparison.

One more thing worth asking: the end of a driveway near the street can be City land, because the City's right-of-way includes the boulevard and the access to the driveway. GeoOttawa shows the approximate property line. If any part of the bin sits on City land, the City's TCE permit applies, and the City requires a minimum of 10 business days processing time.

Ask the company to give you the outside length, width and height of the exact bin they plan to deliver, so you can hold those numbers against your driveway before you commit.

Q3

Why do 20 yard bins differ in length between Ottawa companies?

We did not find a published reason. What we did find is the range: on Ottawa bin companies' own pages, the bins sold as 20 yard come in two shapes with very different lengths.

Typical outside dimensions (typical, sizes vary by company):

- Short and tall: about 11 to 12 ft long, 8 ft wide and 5.5 to 6 ft high, published by three companies.
- Long and low: about 18 to 22 ft long, 8 ft wide and 3.5 to 4 ft high, published by two.

  One company's own pages even give two different lengths for its 20 yard bin. Across companies, lengths for the same nominal size differ by up to two times. Width, about 8 ft from 14 yards up, is the one dimension that stays consistent.

  That spread is why the yard label alone does not tell you whether a bin fits your spot. Two practical steps follow:

- Ask each company which shape its 20 yard bin is, and for its outside length, width and height in writing.
- Measure the spot where it will sit. A short driveway goes with the short and tall shape. Bin companies ask for a level spot clear of overhead wires and branches.

If part of a long bin would reach the road, boulevard or sidewalk, that part is on City land and the City's Temporary Construction-related Encroachment (TCE) permit applies. The end of a driveway near the street can be City land too; geoOttawa shows the approximate line.

Two companies describe a 20 yard bin as roughly 8 pickup-truck loads, whichever shape it is.

Ask the company for its 20 yard bin's outside dimensions before you book, and measure against those.

Q4

How big is a 40 yard bin in Ottawa compared to a car?

Typical outside dimensions on Ottawa bin companies' pages put a 40 yard bin at about 18 to 23 ft long, about 8 ft wide and 7 to 8 ft high (typical, sizes vary by company). Lengths for the same nominal size differ between companies, so the bin you are quoted may sit anywhere in that range.

For a picture of it, this site's homepage draws the 10, 14, 20, 30 and 40 yard bins side by side at one scale, next to a person about 5.5 to 6 ft tall and a car outline. The car outline is drawn for scale only; we did not take car dimensions from any source, so the drawing is the comparison rather than a figure.

What the size means for you is mostly about the spot:

- Measure the length, width and overhead clearance where the bin will go, and get the outside dimensions of the specific bin in writing.
- Bin companies ask for a level spot clear of overhead wires and branches.
- If any part of the bin sits on the road, boulevard, sidewalk or a public laneway, the City of Ottawa's Temporary Construction-related Encroachment (TCE) permit applies, with at least 10 business days to process.

Ottawa bin companies' size guides point a large renovation or a demolition to 30 to 40 yards. For both sizes we found too few comparable published prices for a range, so ask for a written price in each model: bin fee plus weight, and all-in with tonnes included.
Get the 40 yard bin's outside dimensions from the company before you book, and hold them against your measured spot.

Q5

Is a 14 or a 20 yard bin right for a kitchen tear-out in Westboro?

Either size, by Ottawa bin companies' own size guides: they point a single-room renovation such as a kitchen or bathroom to 14 to 20 yards. Which of the two fits your kitchen depends on how much is coming out and where the bin will sit, and the company you book is the one to size it from your description.

Typical outside dimensions on those companies' pages (typical, sizes vary by company):

- 14 yard: about 11 to 12 ft long, 8 ft wide and 4 to 5 ft high.
- 20 yard, short and tall: about 11 to 12 ft long, 8 ft wide and 5.5 to 6 ft high.

- 20 yard, long and low: about 18 to 22 ft long, 8 ft wide and 3.5 to 4 ft high.

Two companies describe a 20 yard bin as roughly 8 pickup-truck loads, which helps when you picture the volume of cabinets, counters and drywall.
The spot decides as much as the volume. Measure it, and get the outside dimensions of the specific bin in writing. Bin companies ask for a level spot clear of overhead wires and branches. If any part of the bin will sit on the road, boulevard or sidewalk, the City's Temporary Construction-related Encroachment (TCE) permit applies.

Heavy material such as soil, concrete and brick usually needs a small or dedicated bin, billed by weight, so mention any of it when you ask for the price. An old range or fridge may draw a per-appliance charge at some companies.

Describe the tear-out to the company, ask which size it would bring and why, and get its answer with the price in writing.

Q6

Which bin size do Ottawa companies suggest for a whole-house renovation?

For a whole-house renovation, bin companies' size guides point to 30 or 40 yards. At least two Ottawa companies describe that range as suited to large renovations and demolitions.

A 30 yard bin runs about 16 to 22 feet long, 8 feet wide and 5 to 6.7 feet high, typical dimensions that vary by company. A 40 yard bin runs about 18 to 23 feet long, about 8 feet wide and 7 to 8 feet high, again typical and varying by company. The length for the same nominal size can differ by up to two times between companies, so ask for the outside dimensions in writing before you book.

A few things shape which size actually fits your job. The mix of materials matters. Heavy material such as soil, concrete and brick usually needs a small or dedicated bin, or a partly filled one, billed by weight, so a whole-house job with heavy debris may need a second, smaller bin. Ask the company which bin it uses for heavy material and what that bin may hold. Your driveway or street placement also limits length: measure the available run and compare it against the outside dimensions the company gives you.

For 30 and 40 yard bins, published prices from Ottawa bin companies seen in October 2026 are too few to give a reliable range in either pricing model. Ask for a price in both models, bin fee plus weight and all-in, with the days and tonnes stated in each.

Before the bin arrives, have in writing the pricing model, how many days and tonnes are included, and the full list of refused and surcharged items, so there are no surprises when the bin is picked up.

Q7

How many pickup loads does a 20 yard bin from an Ottawa company hold?

Two Ottawa bin companies describe a 20 yard bin as roughly 8 pickup-truck loads, and that figure appears on at least two independent company pages.

It is a rough guide, not a measure. Light, bulky material such as drywall, wood framing or insulation fills the bin faster by volume than by weight. Heavy material such as concrete, brick or soil takes up far less space but can push the bin past its weight limit well before it looks full. For heavy material, ask the company whether a 20 yard bin is the right choice or whether a smaller bin billed by weight makes more sense.

The 20 yard bin itself comes in two shapes, and the shape affects what you can realistically load. One shape is short and tall, with typical outside dimensions of about 11 to 12 feet long, 8 feet wide and 5.5 to 6 feet high. The other is long and low, about 18 to 22 feet long, 8 feet wide and 3.5 to 4 feet high. Sizes vary by company, and a company's 20 yard bin may not match those ranges exactly, so ask for the outside dimensions in writing before you book. A common company rule is to load level with the top edge, with nothing hanging over the sides.

Get the outside dimensions of the specific bin they will deliver, so you can check it fits your space and matches the 8-load estimate for the kind of material you are clearing.

Q8

Can I load an Ottawa bin above the top edge?

A common company rule is to load level with the top edge, with nothing hanging over the sides, and at least one Ottawa bin company says extra fees may apply when a bin is overfilled. That is a company rule, not a City or provincial law, so the answer for your bin is whatever the company you book puts in writing.

Because each company sets its own fill rule, ask before you start loading:

- What is the exact fill rule, and may anything sit above the rim?
- Is there a fee if the bin is overfilled, and how much?
- What may the bin hold by weight for the material you are putting in?

The weight question matters as much as the fill line. Heavy material such as soil, concrete and brick usually needs a small or dedicated bin, or a partly filled one, billed by weight, so a heavy load can reach the company's weight terms before it reaches the top edge.

Two Ottawa bin companies describe a 20 yard bin as roughly 8 pickup-truck loads, a rough guide to whether a load will stay level with the top edge of that size. If you are not sure the size you picked will hold everything level with the top, describe the material to the company and ask whether the next size up, or a second bin for heavy material, is the better fit.

Ask for the fill rule and any overfill fee in writing with the quote, so pickup day holds no surprises.

Q9

Will a 20 yard bin fit on a single-car driveway in Vanier?

It depends on which of the two 20 yard shapes the company delivers and on your driveway's measurements. Typical outside dimensions on Ottawa bin companies' pages (typical, sizes vary by company): short and tall, about 11 to 12 ft long, 8 ft wide and 5.5 to 6 ft high; long and low, about 18 to 22 ft long, 8 ft wide and 3.5 to 4 ft high. Width, about 8 ft, is the one dimension that stays consistent from company to company.

Measure the width and length of the driveway before you book, and compare them with the exact outside dimensions of the bin the company would bring. Lengths for the same "20 yard" label differ by up to two times between companies, so the label alone does not tell you whether it fits.

Two more things to check on the spot. Bin companies ask for a level spot clear of overhead wires and branches. And the end of a driveway near the street can be City land: the City's right-of-way includes the accesses to driveways and the boulevard beside your property. geoOttawa shows the approximate line; for the exact spot, ask the City's ROW Permit Office. A bin on City land needs the City's Temporary Construction-related Encroachment (TCE) permit, which takes at least 10 business days to process.

If the driveway is short, ask whether the company's 20 yard bin is the short and tall shape. Company size guides point a single-room renovation such as a kitchen or bathroom to 14 to 20 yards, so a 14 yard bin, about 11 to 12 ft long and 4 to 5 ft high (typical, sizes vary by company), is another size to ask about.

Before you confirm the booking, get the outside dimensions of the specific bin in writing and measure the driveway against them.

Disclaimer: This guide is provided for informational purposes only by Ottawa Construction Bins. It does not constitute professional advice. Always consult qualified contractors and your local building authority (the City of Ottawa) before placing a bin. A bin on the road, boulevard, sidewalk or a public laneway needs the City's Temporary Construction-related Encroachment (TCE) permit, and asbestos never goes in an ordinary bin. Information is current as of November 15, 2026 and may change. Visit **ottawaconstructionbins.ca** for the latest answers.