OTTAWA CONSTRUCTION BINS

Soil, Concrete & Heavy Loads

Why soil, concrete and brick go in small or dedicated bins billed by weight, and what to ask about weight

5 Expert Answers from Bin IQ

ottawaconstructionbins.ca/construction-brain

Table of Contents

1. Can chimney brick and stone from a Glebe teardown share one bin?
2. What happens if my Ottawa bin is overweight?
3. Why does concrete need a smaller bin than drywall in Ottawa?
4. What bin do I need for soil from a backyard dig in Riverside South?
5. Can clean fill and garbage share one bin in Ottawa?

Q1

Can chimney brick and stone from a Glebe teardown share one bin?

Chimney brick and stone can go in the same bin, but the combined weight is the deciding factor, not the volume. Heavy masonry can fill a bin's weight limit long before it fills the bin's cubic capacity, so ask each company what weight the quoted bin may hold and whether the load is billed by weight or by the bin.

For a chimney teardown, companies that handle heavy material point to a small or dedicated bin, or a partly filled larger one billed by weight. Ask the company which bin it uses for dense masonry loads and what the per-tonne disposal rate is. Published prices from Ottawa bin companies, seen October 2026, show two models: a bin fee of about $200 to $350 plus disposal at about $150 to $160 per tonne, or an all-in price of about $460 to $540 plus tax for a 14 to 20 yard bin for about a week with 1 to 2 tonnes included. A chimney's brick and stone can exceed that included tonnage, so ask for a written price in both models using the same job description, then compare the two totals.

A few things to confirm in writing before the bin arrives:

- whether mixed masonry (brick plus stone plus mortar) is accepted or surcharged
- the fill-line rule (one company states load level with the top edge, nothing hanging over)
- where the bin will sit, because a bin on the road, boulevard or sidewalk needs the City's TCE permit, and the end of a driveway can be City land; check geoOttawa or ask the City's ROW Permit Office if you are unsure of the property line

Once you have the company's written quote in hand, ask what the per-tonne rate is above any included tonnage so you know the full cost before the bin is picked up.

Q2

What happens if my Ottawa bin is overweight?

When a bin is overloaded, the bin company sets the consequences, not the City or a provincial regulation. Published Ottawa bin company prices show two models: a bin fee plus disposal charged at about $150 to $160 per tonne (published Ottawa bin company prices, October 2026), or an all-in price with one to two tonnes included and extra weight billed beyond that. In either model, going over the included weight or the company's stated limit means additional charges, and the amount depends entirely on what that company's contract says.

A few things shape how much extra you pay.

- The pricing model matters: under the bin-fee-plus-weight model, disposal is billed per tonne from the first tonne. Under the all-in model, the contract should state what happens once the included tonnes are used up, and at what rate. Some companies also publish a maximum weight for a bin.
- Heavy material such as soil, concrete and brick usually needs a small or dedicated bin, or a partly filled one, billed by weight. Ask which bin the company uses for that material and what it may hold.
- A common company rule is to load level with the top edge, with nothing hanging over the sides. Ask the company what their fill rule is.
- Some companies add a fuel or environmental surcharge, and some add a winter scrape fee for frozen loads. Either of those can appear alongside an overweight charge.

The contract is where the overweight rate, the fill rule and any surcharges should be written down. Under the Consumer Protection Act, 2002, a future performance agreement over $50 must be in writing, and if you do not receive a copy that meets the Act's requirements, you may cancel within one year under s.23. Ask for the full written terms before the bin is delivered, including what the company charges per tonne above any included amount and whether there is a maximum weight for the bin you are renting.

Ask the bin company first, because the overweight rules, rates and limits are theirs, not the City's. The City's role is the landfill gate and the street permit if the bin sits on City land; it does not set what a company charges you for a heavy load.

Q3

Why does concrete need a smaller bin than drywall in Ottawa?

Because a bin of concrete reaches the company's weight terms long before it is full, while light debris such as drywall fills by volume. Ottawa bin companies handle that difference the same way on their own pages: heavy material such as soil, concrete and brick usually needs a small or dedicated bin, or a partly filled one, billed by weight.

Some companies go further. One keeps its regular bins free of concrete, dirt and asphalt and offers a separate small bin for soil, concrete and clean fill; another limits its smallest clean-fill bins to clean fill only, with no regular garbage or wood. Weight limits differ by company, so we do not print one per size.

The pricing models explain why the weight matters to you:

- In the bin-fee-plus-weight model, disposal is billed per tonne, so every tonne of concrete is on the bill.
- In the all-in model, the price includes a set number of tonnes, and anything heavier is billed beyond that.

Published prices from Ottawa bin companies, seen October 2026, follow those two models, and they are not comparable line by line.

Before booking a bin for concrete, ask the company:

- Which bin does it use for concrete, and how much may that bin hold by weight?
- May concrete share a bin with drywall or other debris?
- What is the rate per tonne, and how many tonnes, if any, are included?
- What does an extra day cost?

For context only, the City's Trail Road landfill lists a 2026 rate of $144 per tonne for fill such as asphalt, masonry and concrete without rebar; that is a City landfill rate, not a bin price.
Ask for the weight the quoted bin may hold, in writing, before any concrete goes in.

Q4

What bin do I need for soil from a backyard dig in Riverside South?

Ottawa bin companies' guidance for soil is about weight, not volume: heavy material such as soil, concrete and brick usually needs a small or dedicated bin, or a partly filled one, billed by weight. Some companies keep a separate bin for clean fill.

So the size question comes after the weight question. Weight limits differ by company, and we do not print one per size, so ask each company:

- Which bin does it use for soil, and how much may that bin hold by weight?
- Is the bin billed by weight from the first tonne, or does the price include some tonnes?
- What is the rate for each tonne beyond what is included?
- May the soil share the bin with other debris, or does it need its own bin?

The answers decide the price more than the bin's label does. Published prices from Ottawa bin companies, seen October 2026, come in two models, bin fee plus weight or all-in with tonnes included, and the per-tonne line is the one a soil load leans on.
For context only, the City's Trail Road landfill lists a 2026 rate of $81.90 per tonne for soil (top soil, sand, sod). That is a City landfill rate, not a bin price.

Where the bin sits matters in Riverside South as anywhere in the city: on the road, boulevard, sidewalk or a public laneway it needs the City's Temporary Construction-related Encroachment (TCE) permit.

Before booking, ask the company for the weight the quoted bin may hold for a soil-only load, in writing.

Q5

Can clean fill and garbage share one bin in Ottawa?

That is a company rule, not a City one, and Ottawa bin companies do not all answer it the same way. Some keep a separate bin for clean fill, and heavy material such as soil, concrete and brick usually needs a small or dedicated bin, or a partly filled one, billed by weight.

Before you load anything, ask the company three things:

- Can clean fill and renovation garbage go in the same bin, or does fill need its own bin?

- Is the bin billed by weight, and at what rate per tonne?
- What may the quoted bin hold, by weight?

Weight is the part that changes the bill: whether the quote bills disposal per tonne or includes a set number of tonnes, heavy fill counts against it, so ask which model the quote uses.
For context only, the City's Trail Road landfill lists separate 2026 rates of $144 per tonne for fill (asphalt, masonry, concrete without rebar) and $81.90 per tonne for soil. Those are City landfill rates, not bin prices; each bin company sets its own.

Some items stay out of any bin regardless: asbestos never goes in an ordinary bin, and the City landfill does not accept hazardous or liquid waste.

Get the company's answer in writing with the quote, including whether a mixed load is priced differently from clean fill alone.

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.