OTTAWA CONSTRUCTION BINS

What Can't Go In

What the City landfill refuses, household hazardous waste, appliances with refrigerant, asbestos, and company rules on refused items

12 Expert Answers from Bin IQ

ottawaconstructionbins.ca/construction-brain

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Q1

Is old carpet and underlay okay in an Ottawa bin?

Carpet and underlay are not on the City of Ottawa's refused list for the Trail Road Landfill, and we found no Ontario regulation that bans them from an ordinary construction bin. For most renovation cleanouts, they go in with the rest of the debris.

A few things affect whether a company will take them without a surcharge. Carpet and underlay are bulky and light, so they take up a lot of space relative to their weight. Companies set their own rules on what they accept, and those rules are not published in a standard form. Ask the company for their refused and surcharged items list in writing before you book.

One practical point: carpet rolls and underlay sheets can be awkward to load level with the top edge of the bin, which is a common company rule. Ask the company whether they want carpet cut into sections or rolled tightly, and confirm the fill-line rule for your bin.

If the carpet is from a home built before the 1990s and you have any reason to think the underlay or the adhesive beneath it may contain asbestos, do not put it in a bin. Asbestos waste cannot go in an ordinary bin under any circumstances, and the City landfill does not accept it. For that situation, the place to start is ottawaabatement.com.

Otherwise, carpet and underlay from a straightforward renovation are the kind of material bin companies in Ottawa handle. Submit a request through the form on this page and companies in the Ottawa Construction Network directory will reply by email with their terms.

Before you confirm the booking, ask the company directly: does carpet and underlay count toward the included tonnes, or does it get billed separately?

Q2

Are old windows with glass accepted in Ottawa construction bins?

Old windows with glass are accepted by most Ottawa bin companies, but glass is treated as a surcharged or conditionally accepted item rather than a straightforward one. The City of Ottawa's Trail Waste Facility does not list glass windows among its refused materials, so the restriction comes from company rules, not City or provincial law.

The main variables are how much glass you have and how it is mixed with other material. A few window frames pulled during a bathroom renovation will land differently than a full-house window replacement where glass makes up a large share of the load. Companies set their own accepted and refused lists, and some treat large quantities of

glass separately from small amounts mixed into general renovation debris.

A few things worth asking before you book:

- Does the company accept glass windows at all, and is there a surcharge per window, per load, or above a certain quantity?
- Does the answer change if the glass is broken versus intact?
- Are the windows mixed with wood frames and hardware, or is it glass only? Some companies handle mixed window units differently from loose glass.
- What is the refused and surcharged items list in writing, so there are no surprises at pickup?

On the contract side, if you book online the Ontario Consumer Protection Act, 2002 treats that as an internet agreement, and the company is required to give you a written copy. Ask for the accepted and refused items list as part of that written record, not just a verbal answer.
The single most useful question to put to a bin company before booking: how does your company price a load that includes a significant number of glass window units, and does that change if the glass is broken?

Q3

Can I haul my own renovation waste to Ottawa's Trail Road landfill instead?

Yes, homeowners can bring residential renovation waste to the Trail Road Landfill Site themselves. The City's Trail Waste Facility rates page confirms that residential garbage, including construction material from the homeowner, is accepted.

A few things to know before you load the truck:

- The City landfill does not accept asbestos, liquid waste, hazardous waste or commercial garbage. There is also a permanent ban on Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional waste.
- Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioning units and dehumidifiers must have cooling chemicals removed and be tagged by a certified technician before arrival; untagged items will be refused.
- Oil tanks and drums must be cut in half or perforated many times.
- If your load contains paint, motor oil, propane cylinders, pesticides, aerosol containers or other household hazardous waste, those items go to a household hazardous waste drop-off, not the landfill. Dried paint is the exception: the City says dried paint can go in the garbage.

On cost, the City's 2026 landfill rates for residential garbage including construction material are $172.70 per tonne

above 250 kg, with a minimum charge of $43.20. Fill material such as asphalt, masonry and concrete without rebar is $144 per tonne. Soil is $81.90 per tonne. These are City landfill gate rates, not bin rental prices.

Whether hauling yourself saves money depends on how many trips you need, what vehicle you have, and how much the material weighs. A bin rental bundles delivery, pickup and disposal into one transaction, which can be simpler for larger jobs. For smaller jobs, a single trip to Trail Road may cost less, but you carry the sorting and transport yourself.

One thing worth checking before you decide: ask a bin company what their disposal rate per tonne is and what minimum charge applies, so you can compare that directly against the City's gate rate for your type of material.

Q4

Does Ottawa's Trail Road landfill take scrap metal and tires for free?

Scrap metal and tires are handled differently at Trail Road, and neither is free.

The City of Ottawa's Trail Waste Facility rates page lists scrap metal under its accepted materials, but a fee applies. Tires are accepted, and the City's page notes a per-tire charge rather than a weight-based rate. Neither material falls under the City's free drop-off categories. The City's page is the place to confirm the current per-unit or per-tonne figure before you load up, as rates can change.

A few other Trail Road rules worth knowing if you are clearing a site: the City's rates page states it does not accept liquid waste, hazardous waste, commercial garbage, or asbestos at the landfill, and there is a permanent ban on Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional waste. Oil tanks and drums must be cut in half or perforated many times before the landfill will take them. Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioning units and dehumidifiers must have cooling chemicals removed and be tagged by a certified technician before arrival; untagged units are refused entry.

If scrap metal or tires are going into a rental bin rather than a personal trip to Trail Road, that is a different question. Bin companies set their own lists of refused and surcharged items, and we found no published rule from the City or Ontario that bans tires or scrap metal from a bin. That said, two or more Ottawa bin companies list tires as a refused item, and some charge separately for appliances. Ask the company for its full refused and surcharged list in writing before the bin is dropped.

Before the bin arrives, have in writing the pricing model (bin fee plus weight, or all-in with tonnes included), how many days and tonnes are covered, and the complete list of items the company will not take or will charge extra for.

Q5

Do Ottawa bin companies refuse electronics and batteries?

Batteries, yes, at two or more Ottawa bin companies: they list batteries among refused items. Electronics did not appear on the company refused lists we read, but that does not mean a company will take them, so the only answer that counts is the one in writing from the company you book.

The City of Ottawa's own routes for both are outside the bin. The City's Waste Explorer finds retailer take-back for batteries, and the Trail Road landfill takes e-waste free of charge when it is source-separated. Scrap metal is free there on the same condition. The landfill's refusal list does not name electronics or batteries; it names asbestos, commercial garbage, liquid waste and hazardous waste, and the City defines hazardous waste as anything

"corrosive, flammable or poisonous".

What to ask the bin company before anything goes in:

- Are batteries of any kind refused, or charged as a special item?
- Are electronics such as televisions, monitors or small appliances accepted, refused or charged?
- Does its written list name the specific items you have, not only a general category?

Some items in a clean-out are household hazardous waste on the City's list, such as aerosol containers, paints and coatings, propane cylinders, motor oil and fire extinguishers. The City runs household hazardous waste events for residents.
Because the City offers free and take-back routes for these items, setting them aside before the bin arrives can keep them off the company's refused list altogether.

Ask the company for its refused-items list in writing, and check it against the electronics and batteries you have.

Q6

Are paint cans and propane tanks allowed in an Ottawa bin?

Paint cans and propane tanks are on the refused list at two or more Ottawa bin companies, and the City of Ottawa does not accept hazardous waste at its landfill. Neither item belongs in an ordinary renovation bin.

The City's household hazardous waste page lists both aerosol containers and propane cylinders as hazardous waste, along with paints and coatings, motor oil, fertilizers and pesticides, fire extinguishers and oil filters. The City describes hazardous waste as anything corrosive, flammable or poisonous. The City runs household hazardous waste events for residents, and its Waste Explorer tool points to retailer take-back programs for some of these items. The City's 2026 rates page for the Trail Road landfill says plainly that the landfill does not accept hazardous waste or liquid waste. Dried paint is a different matter: the City says dried paint can go in the regular garbage.

Two or more Ottawa bin companies list propane or pressurised tanks as refused items, and paint as well. Ask the company for its full refused and surcharged list in writing before the bin is delivered, because each company sets its own.

Paint in liquid form sits in the same category. If you have leftover liquid paint, the household hazardous waste route is the one the City points to. If the paint is fully dried and hardened, the City says it can go in the garbage, but confirm with the bin company whether it accepts dried paint in the bin, since company rules vary.

Set the paint and propane aside before the bin arrives, and check the City's household hazardous waste page for where they go instead.

Q7

Can I throw an old fridge in my bin in Orleans?

The fridge itself is not banned from the City of Ottawa landfill outright, but it cannot arrive there the way it sits in your kitchen right now. The City's special items page says refrigerators, freezers, air conditioning units and dehumidifiers "must have cooling chemicals removed and be tagged by a certified technician prior to being brought to a landfill site. Any items that are not tagged will be refused entry."

So the question is not whether the fridge can go in the bin. It is whether the fridge will be accepted at the end of the haul. If the cooling chemicals have been removed and the unit is tagged by a certified technician before it goes in the bin, the City landfill will accept it. Without that tag, the landfill turns it away.

Beyond the City's rule, bin companies set their own lists of refused and surcharged items. Two companies charge a per-appliance fee on top of the bin price, and at least one lists refrigerant among its refused items. Neither of those is a City or provincial rule; it is a company policy. Ask for the company's refused and surcharged item list in writing before you book, and ask specifically what the appliance fee is and whether a tagged fridge is accepted.

A couple of things worth confirming with whoever quotes you: ask whether the bin price is a flat all-in rate or a bin fee plus a per-tonne disposal charge, because a fridge adds weight and that can change the final bill under the second model. Also ask how and when your card is charged.

The one question that settles it: will the company take a tagged fridge, and what is its appliance charge?

Q8

Can old drywall and shingles go in a rented bin in Ottawa?

No City rule keeps them out: the City of Ottawa's landfill refusal list does not name drywall or shingles. Whether a particular bin company takes them, and at what price, is that company's rule, so the answer for your bin is the one it puts in writing.

The City's own line on these materials points to the landfill rather than a ban. Its special-items page says plaster, wood, drywall, concrete, asphalt and other waste from construction or renovation "ARE NOT collected with regular garbage" and should go to the Trail Road landfill or another landfill. For anyone hauling it there themselves, the City's 2026 rate for residential garbage, including construction material from the homeowner, is $172.70 per tonne above 250 kg.

What to ask a bin company about these two materials:

- Does it accept drywall and shingles, and is there a charge for either?
- How does it bill the load, per tonne or with tonnes included, and what does each extra tonne cost?
- Is its list of refused and surcharged items in writing?

Weight matters to the bill whichever model the quote uses, so describe the load honestly when you ask for the price.
One material never goes in an ordinary bin: asbestos. If you suspect any material in an older home contains it, removal and disposal are covered at ottawaabatement.com.

Shingles from a roof replacement are a roofing job; this site covers only the bin side of it.

Ask the company whether a load of old drywall and shingles changes the price or the bin it would bring, before you confirm the booking.

Q9

What will the Ottawa landfill refuse from a renovation bin?

Four categories are refused outright at the City of Ottawa's Trail Waste Facility: asbestos, commercial garbage, liquid waste, and hazardous waste. There is also a permanent ban on Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (IC&I) waste.

A few specific items come with conditions rather than a flat refusal. Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, and dehumidifiers must have their cooling chemicals removed and be tagged by a certified technician before arriving at the landfill; untagged units are turned away at the gate. Oil tanks and drums must be cut in half or perforated many times before the City will accept them.

Hazardous waste covers anything corrosive, flammable, or poisonous: aerosol containers, motor oil, paints and coatings, propane cylinders, fertilizers and pesticides, fire extinguishers, and oil filters all fall into this category. Dried paint is the exception; the City says it can go in regular garbage. The City runs household hazardous waste drop-off events and its Waste Explorer tool points to retailer take-back programs for these items.

One item that never goes in an ordinary renovation bin under any circumstances is asbestos. Ontario's Reg. 347 requires asbestos waste to travel in a rigid, impermeable, sealed container to a disposal site whose operator has agreed in advance to accept it, and it cannot share a vehicle with any other cargo. The City landfill does not accept asbestos at all. For asbestos removal and disposal, ottawaabatement.com covers that work.

Beyond the City's rules, bin companies set their own lists of refused and surcharged items. Tires and batteries appear on some companies' refused lists and some charge for mattresses; drywall, shingles and mattresses are not on the City's refusal list. Those are company rules, not City or provincial law. Ask the company for its refused and surcharged items list in writing before you load anything.

Start with the bin company, because its written list of what it will and will not take decides what goes in your bin.

Q10

Is it legal in Ontario to put a mattress in a construction bin?

We found no Ontario law or City of Ottawa rule that bans mattresses from a construction bin. The City's Trail Waste Facility does not list mattresses among its refused items, and we found no provincial regulation that prohibits them.

What does apply is company policy. Bin companies set their own lists of refused and surcharged items, and mattresses appear on some of those lists. The same is true for tires, certain appliances, and other bulky items. Two Ottawa bin companies charge a per-mattress fee. Each company sets its own terms, so the answer that counts is the one in writing from the company you book.

A few other things worth knowing for a mixed renovation load:

- The City landfill does not accept hazardous waste, liquid waste or asbestos. Paint, propane cylinders and motor oil are household hazardous waste, and Ottawa bin companies list paint and propane tanks among refused items.
- Oil tanks and drums must be cut in half or perforated many times before the landfill will accept them.
- Companies set their own rules on drywall, shingles and concrete; some keep a separate bin for concrete and other clean fill.

Before the bin arrives, get the company's full list of refused and surcharged items in writing, along with the pricing model (bin fee plus weight, or all-in with tonnes included), the number of days and tonnes covered in the quoted price, and the extra-day rate. That one document tells you exactly what the bin costs and what cannot go in it.

Q11

Can an old oil tank go in a bin after a furnace swap in Ottawa?

Oil tanks have one condition on the City of Ottawa's Trail Waste Facility rates page: "Oil tanks/drums MUST be cut in half or perforated many times" before the landfill takes them. The same page says the landfill does not accept liquid waste or hazardous waste.

Whether a bin company will take the tank at all is a separate question, because bin companies set their own lists of refused and surcharged items. A bin company's list can be stricter than the City landfill's, and the rule that matters for your bin is the one the company puts in writing.

Before the tank goes anywhere near the bin, ask the company:

- Does it accept an old oil tank, and on what conditions?
- Does the tank have to be cut in half or perforated before it goes in?
- Is there a per-item charge for it, and does it count toward the weight on the bill?
- What does the written list of refused and surcharged items say?

Weight is part of the bill in both published pricing models: per tonne in the bin-fee-plus-weight model, and against the included tonnes in the all-in model. Ask how the tank's weight will be billed.
The furnace swap itself is a heating job, not a bin question; this site covers only where the old tank can go.

If the company will not take the tank, the City's own condition still applies to anyone bringing it to Trail Road: cut in half or perforated many times.

Get the company's yes or no in writing before the bin arrives, so the tank is not left behind on pickup day.

Q12

Can tires go in a renovation dumpster in Ottawa?

The City's Trail Road landfill accepts tires, but a bin company may still refuse them. Bans and per-item fees on tires are company rules: at least two Ottawa bin companies list tires among refused items, and others accept them for a per-tire charge.

The City's own routes for tires do not involve a bin at all. Its special-items page says tires should be recycled at participating retailers, and the Trail Road landfill takes up to 10 passenger and light truck tires a day from any person at no charge.

If you still want tires in the bin, ask the company before you book:

- Does it accept tires, and is there a per-tire charge?
- Is its list of refused and surcharged items in writing?

Tires are one item on a longer list. Ottawa bin companies' own lists name hazardous materials, paint, propane or other pressurised tanks, batteries and medical waste among refused items, and the City landfill does not accept hazardous or liquid waste. Fridges, freezers, air conditioners and dehumidifiers must have their cooling chemicals removed and be tagged by a certified technician before a landfill will take them.
None of those company rules is a City ban, and they differ from one company to the next, so the company's own written list is the one to go by.

Get the refused-items list with the quote and check it against what is going into the bin, tires included, before the drop-off date.

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.