

L&I Dumpster Medallion Program FAQ

Who is required to obtain a dumpster license and medallion?

Anyone who uses a “container for refuse or recyclable materials” that is serviced by a business. If the City of Philadelphia picks up your dumpster, you are not required to obtain a dumpster license and Radio Frequency Identification Medallion.

What is a Radio Frequency Identification medallion?

This is a small transmitting device, required by the Philadelphia Code, that must be attached to your dumpster. You can obtain the medallion from the Department of Licenses and Inspections. The device will transmit an individual dumpster medallion identification code to handheld computers utilized by city enforcement officers to obtain your individual license information in the field. No private information is stored on the device itself. If the device is not found in the required area of the dumpster, you will be assessed a violation.

Do I have to obtain a license and medallion every year?

The private dumpster licenses are issued for the lifetime of the business. Public dumpster licenses are now required to be renewed on an annual basis. However, so long as the medallion continues to operate, a new medallion does not have to be picked up.

What are the license fees?

Dumpster Size	Dumpster Use	Lifetime License Fee (Private)	Annual License Fee (Public right-of-way)
Less than 1 Cu. Yd.	Trash	\$80	\$200
Less than 1 Cu. Yd.	Recycling	\$40	\$100
Greater than or equal to 1 Cu. Yd.	Trash	\$150	\$500
Greater than or equal to 1 Cu. Yd.	Recycling	\$75	\$250

Construction dumpsters are \$75 annually (for up to three dumpsters)

Where can I pick up medallions?

You can pick up medallions at the Municipal Service Building, 1401 John F. Kennedy Boulevard. You must first [make an appointment](#) to visit the Permit and License Center.

What happens if my medallion is damaged / defective?

You will receive a violation for a damaged or defective medallion. If your medallion is not functioning properly, please bring it to the Department of Licenses and Inspections to exchange for a new one. The charge for a replacement medallion is \$25. If your medallion is damaged / defective, but you do not bring the medallion or medallion identification number to the Permit and License Center (Municipal Services Building, 1401 John F. Kennedy Blvd), you will be charged \$75 to have an inspector visit the dumpster to obtain the identification number.

Do I have to obtain a separate license for each dumpster?

You must pay for a separate license fee for each dumpster. However, if you have multiple dumpsters at the same location, you can apply for all of them on the same license application. For example, if you have three dumpsters located at the same site, you only fill out one form (though you must pay for three dumpsters). Each dumpster will still have a separate medallion and medallion identification number. If you have five dumpsters total, but two are located at one address and three are located at another, you will need to complete two application forms.

What happens if I change my hauling company?

You must notify the Department of Licenses and Inspections immediately by calling 3-1-1 or (215) 686-8686.

Do I have to get extra approvals for dumpsters placed in the public right-of-way?

Yes – approval from the Streets Department Right-of-Way Unit will be required before a license and dumpster are issued by the Department of Licenses and Inspections (L&I). To get a Streets Department approval, you must submit a Streets Department Review through eCLIPSE and upload a completed [Streets ROW Public Dumpster Form](#) with a site plan showing size, location, and sidewalk/street widths. Upon the Streets approval, you can submit a Dumpster License application with L&I.

If I receive a violation and pay the fine, does that address the violation?

No, you must fix the underlying cause of the violation to prevent further enforcement action for the same infraction. If the violation is for the manner in which the dumpster is used (e.g., using it for trash even though the license is for recycling), or the location of the dumpster or the size of the dumpster (e.g., using a larger than 1 cu. yd. dumpster while only being licensed for less than 1 cu. yd. dumpster), you must contact the Permit and License Center by either calling 3-1-1 or (215) 686-8686 or submit an [online help form](#) and provide the corrected information.

When will violations be issued for the failure to have a medallion?

If you do not have a dumpster license and medallion, and are subject to the relevant code provisions, you should expect a violation.

I have heard the City is charging a new fee for commercial trash pick-up – is this the same fee?

No – the commercial trash pickup fee is charged to commercial and multi-unit residential properties who have their trash picked up by the City of Philadelphia. The dumpster license is separate from that. For more information about the trash pick-up fee, please contact the Streets Department Solid Resources Unit at (215) 686-5090, or email solidresources@phila.gov.