How to Buy an Outdoor Trash Can

Looking for the Right Outdoor Trash Cans?

If you manage or own an outdoor facility, your reputation and revenue depend on how inviting, safe, and clean it is. You're responsible for maintaining the pathways and common spaces that get the most foot traffic, so you should make it as easy as possible for guests, customers, and employees to dispose of their trash. One trash can doesn't fit all businesses, however, so it's important to weigh your options and consider your unique needs before purchasing trash cans.

Why You Should Be Picky

You probably don't spend very much time looking at trash cans, so you may not realize how many options and varieties are available. However, with so many materials, sizes, and shapes to choose from, it's important to make sure you're choosing the right trash can for your particular outdoor site.

If your visitors will stroll through any outdoor common areas or linger outside your building, chances are good that they'll eventually need to throw something away. If you sell or provide disposable products such as food, paper cups, or even receipts, it's even more important to offer a secure and hygienic place to throw it away. Otherwise, litterbugs could quickly turn your place of business into an eyesore.
How To Choose The Ideal Trash Can

Don’t assume that an indoor receptacle will work outdoors, or that any outdoor trash can will do. There are hundreds of different features and styles available, and they all serve certain needs that may or may not apply to your outdoor site. To avoid wasting money on materials or additions that you don't need — or settling for the bare minimum, and providing insufficient trash disposal options as a result — just make sure you know exactly what to look for.

Your primary concerns should include storage capacity, style and durability, but even these categories are full of complicated nuances that depend on your particular business or facility. For example, most restaurants require outdoor trash cans that don't attract stains and spills, but drive-through restaurants also need attached chutes, so that drivers don't miss the trash can when they toss their wrappers and receipts on the way out. No matter what your business is, there's a trash can that can keep it clean; you just have to find the right one.

Checklist: Important Questions When Buying Outdoor Trash Cans

As you consider your options, ask the following questions to determine whether a trash can is right for your particular needs.

1. Where will you put it?

"Outdoors" can mean many different things, so narrow down your outdoor conditions to make sure your receptacles can handle them. The following factors are important:

   - Overhead coverings — will a roof or awning protect your trash can from outdoor conditions?
   - Exposure to wind and projectiles — will your trash can be in the middle of an open space, or can you depend on trees and buildings to block gusts of wind?
   - Local climate — how hot, cold, humid and/or windy does it get throughout the year?
   - Nearby fences — can you depend on a security fence to keep your cans secure?
   - Air quality — will it be exposed to salty or polluted air?

2. Who will use it, and how?

Everyday usage patterns determine your capacity, maintenance and hygiene needs. If your trash cans overflow too quickly and your maintenance staff can't clean them out regularly enough, they'll overflow and pollute your property with unattractive, smelly and unhygienic waste. Prevent that trashy oversight by making sure you can accommodate everyone.

Number of people

How much foot traffic does each outdoor space get? Is it a common gathering spot, or tucked away in a semi-private nook? Will you need multiple trash cans, or is one sufficient?
Types of trash

Ideal trash can capacities also depend on the type and amount of trash that these people throw away or recycle each day. For example, if you’re buying trash cans for a mall, arena, or restaurant, paper products and food waste will require more trash can capacity, and additional hygiene concerns such as lids and custom recycling options.

3. How difficult is it to empty and maintain?

Don’t forget to accommodate the employees who will be responsible for cleaning out your trash cans. Make sure it doesn’t take too long to remove full liners or bags, replace them, clean the lid and other surfaces, and secure the trash can afterwards. Depending on how many employees you can hire and how much time they allocate for trash maintenance, you may need additional or bigger trash cans to prevent overflow.

4. How will you prevent damage?

Most outdoor trash cans should be weather-proof, waterproof, fireproof, and graffiti-proof. More importantly, they must be heavy or secure enough to withstand high winds and intentional vandalism. Most outdoor trash cans come with anchors or mounting options to permanently attach them to your property, and while concrete trash cans are particularly windproof, others incorporate a sand or concrete base to weigh them down.

5. Which styles are available?

Attractive and clean trash cans encourage people to dispose of their waste rather than tossing it aside or leaving it on a table or bench.

Matching sets

Some trash cans can be supplemented with ash trays, benches, planters or recycling bins that come in the same material and finish. This gives your site a cohesive and professional look, especially if they compliment nearby architectural features.

Materials and finishes

The most common trash can materials come with the following benefits:

- Concrete — heavy, long-lasting, easily customized with different stone and finish options; reinforced with rebar
- Plastic — less likely to crack, crease, fade or attract graffiti; more customization options
- Stainless steel — sophisticated and stylish; doesn’t collect fingerprints, rust, or scratches
- Galvanized steel — suitable for industrial purposes, such as garbage pickup and oil disposal; fire-resistant; lightweight and heavy duty options available
- Metal armor — very long-lasting; decorative; ventilates odors without exposing contents to theft or damage; resists dents and mold
Decorative details

No matter which material you pick, you'll enjoy a wide range of color and size options. However, some come with additional finishing touches that really make your trash cans stand out. Metal and steel trash cans are especially versatile, because they usually have cut-outs or slats that ventilate their contents. Some of the most popular shapes include circles, stars, wavy or straight lines, and swirls.

Customization options

Personalize your trash cans to make them especially eye-catching and increase your brand recognition. Match your official colors, add a laser-cut logo or message, or raise funds by selling advertising space on the sides. Your guests will take notice.

Outdoor Trash Cans for Your Facility

Choosing great outdoor trash cans for your facility is easy. Just keep your unique needs in mind to narrow down the fantastic selection of styles, sizes, materials. Outdoor trash cans play an important role in keeping your property safe, clean, and professional. Let Trashcans Unlimited help you choose the perfect trash solution for your property today.

Our Expert Facility Managers’ Top Picks

Here are some of our recommendations based on years of our own experience, what other customers buy for given uses, and what we have learned over the phone helping people:

Ideal Outdoor Trash Cans for Office Buildings

1. 30 Gallon Concrete Push Door Top Outdoor Waste Container TF1015
2. 30 Gallon Concrete 4 Way Open Top Outdoor Waste Container TF1016
3. 53 Gallon Concrete Push Door Dome Top Outdoor Waste Container TF1030
4. Kolor Can 32 Gallon Indoor Outdoor Square Trash or Recycling Receptacle
5. Kolor Can 42 Gallon Indoor Outdoor Trash Receptacle
6. 36 Gallon Metal Outdoor Street Scape Trash Can
7. 36 Gallon Oakley M3601-FT Outdoor Waste Receptacle
8. 40 Gallon Laser Cut Saw Grass Outdoor Waste Container
9. 42 Gallon Outdoor Trash Can Dome Lid and Ashtray
10. 42 Gallon StoneTec Outdoor Trash Can Dome Lid and Ashtray
11. Outdoor Trash Receptacle Beige or Mocha Wicker
12. 31 Gallon Concrete Funnel Top Outdoor Waste Container TF1085

The Best Outdoor Trash Cans For Rainy Environments
1. Dome Top 30 Gallon Outdoor Concrete Garbage Can
2. Dome Top 40 Gallon Outdoor Concrete Garbage Can
3. Kolor Can 32 Gallon Indoor Outdoor Square Trash or Recycling Receptacle
4. Kolor Can 42 Gallon Indoor Outdoor Trash Receptacle
5. 36 Gallon Witt Industries Oakley M3600R Outdoor Waste Receptacle
6. 36 Gallon WC3600-FT Outdoor Waste Receptacle
7. 40 Gallon Covington Metal Outdoor City Trash Can Park Garbage Can
8. 48 Gallon Witt Industries Metal Mesh Street Park Trash Receptacle
9. Landscape Series Perforated 34 Gallon Recycling Receptacle
10. Landscape Series Perforated 34 Gallon Trash Container
11. Landscape Series Perforated 40 Gallon Trash Receptacle

The Best Outdoor Trash Cans for Public Parks, Stadiums, and Universities

1. 36 Gallon Concrete Funnel Top Outdoor Waste Container TF1175
2. 30 Gallon Concrete Pitch In Top Outdoor Waste Container TF1230
3. 24 Gallon Plastic 4 Way Open Top Indoor Outdoor Waste Container TF1019PSW
4. Kolor Can 32 Gallon Indoor Outdoor Square Trash or Recycling Receptacle
5. Kolor Can 42 Gallon Indoor Outdoor Trash Receptacle
6. Oakley Extra Large Outdoor Recycling Bin
7. Stadium Series 55 Gallon Stainless Steel Trash Container
8. 55 Gallon Witt Industries Painted SC55 Trash Container
9. 35 Gallon Witt Industries Stainless Steel SC35SS Trash Container
10. 48 Gallon Witt Industries Metal Mesh Street Park Trash Receptacle
11. 48 Gallon Metal Recycling Bin Heavy Duty Parks and Rec Can
12. 20 Gallon Excell Landscape Outdoor Perforated Trash Can WR22
13. 34 Gallon Excell Landscape Outdoor Perforated Trash Can WR34
14. Landscape Series Perforated 34 Gallon Trash Container

The Right Outdoor Trash Can for Outdoor Restaurants and Convenience Stores.

1. 24 Gallon Concrete Pitch In Top Outdoor Waste Container TF1022
2. 42 Gallon Outdoor Trash Can Dome Lid and Ashtray
3. 42 Gallon All Season Square Plastic Outdoor Garbage Can with Dome Lid
4. 45 Gallon All Season Hexagon Outdoor Garbage Can with Drive Thru Chute
5. 30 Gallon All Season Indoor Outdoor Hexagon Plastic Garbage Can
6. 40 Gallon All Season Rectangular Plastic Indoor Outdoor Garbage Can
7. 42 Gallon All Season Indoor Outdoor Square Plastic Garbage Can
8. Landscape Series Perforated 34 Gallon Trash Container
9. 30 Gallon Concrete Push Door Top with Drive Up Chute Outdoor Waste Container TF1021
10. 38 Gallon Metal Armor 4 Way Open Top Lid Outdoor Waste Container MF3053
The Optimal Outdoor Trash Cans for Residential Buildings

1. 30 Gallon Concave Concrete Push Door Top Outdoor Waste Container TF1044
2. Light Duty 32 Gallon Galvanized Trash Can with Optional Lid
3. Light Duty 20 Gallon Galvanized Trash Can with Optional Lid
4. Heavy Duty 32 Gallon Galvanized Trash Can with Optional Lid
5. 48 Gallon Witt Industries Metal Mesh Street Park Trash Receptacle
6. 48 Gallon Metal Recycling Bin Heavy Duty Parks and Rec Can
7. Landscape Series Perforated 34 Gallon Trash Container
8. 36 Gallon Metal Outdoor Recycling Trash Can
9. Landscape Series Perforated 40 Gallon Trash Receptacle
10. 45 Gallon Collapsible Clean Grid Recycling Container or Trash Can
11. 30 Gallon Flat Steel Outdoor Pitch In Lid Waste Receptacle MF3215

A Quick Introduction to Outdoor Trash Cans

What is an outdoor trash can?

Outdoor trash cans are essentially purpose-built trashcans just for outdoor locations. They reduce litter, prevent litterbugs, and keep garbage away from areas where they might bother others.

What kinds of outdoor trash cans are there?

Plastic Outdoor Trash Cans

Plastic outdoor trash cans have become extremely popular in the last few years for their portability, color options, fade and crack durability, fire safety, and ease of emptying for grounds
staff. These are particularly useful if local regulations make outdoor trash can placement difficult.

**Concrete Outdoor Trash Cans**

Concrete outdoor trash cans are the type of trash cans you are most familiar with. They are the classic look and type of trashcan that most people think of when it comes to garbage cans. While they have grown more popular in recent years with the advent of more materials and technology, this is still the dominant type of outdoor trash can many establishments, particularly commercial businesses, will look for.

**Metal & Steel Outdoor Trash Cans**

While these are still common in many parts of the country, the popularity of metal and steel outdoor trash cans has increased in recent years. The benefits of steel trash cans are that you are assured that they will last for a long time while remaining asthetically pleasing to the eye. The downside is that they may need to be anchored to the ground to prevent theft as they are not as heavy as concrete trash cans.

**Conclusion:**

Thanks for reading this guide. We hope it provided you with all the information you need to select the perfect outdoor trash can for your facility. Please let us know if you have any questions. Over the past 10 years, we’ve helped hundreds of people make their public spaces clean and safe with proper trash cans. Let us know how we can help you find the perfect outdoor trash can today.