

Keep rubbish skips well away from your business

The tables below display the recommended distance that common rubbish bins and skips should be located from timber and non-timber buildings to reduce the risk of fire spreading.

Wheelie bin

Size	Name	Dimensions L x W x H (in metres)	Recommended distance to building (timber)	Recommended distance to building (non-timber)
Residential & Commercial	120L bin	0.44 x 0.56 x 0.93	2m	1m
	240L bin	0.55 x 0.74 x 1.07		
Larger bins	660L bin	1.33 x 0.77 x 1.23	3m	2m
	1100L bin	1.36 x 1.06 x 1.37		

Skip bin

Size	Name	Dimensions L x W x H (in metres)	Recommended distance to building (timber)	Recommended distance to building (non-timber)
Small	2m skip	1.8 x 1.3 x 0.9	4m	2m
	3m skip	3.5 x 1.6 x 0.6		
Medium	4.5m skip	3.5 x 1.6 x 1.0	6m	3m
	7.5m skip	3.5 x 1.6 x 1.8		
	9m skip	3.5 x 1.6 x 1.5		
Large	6m skip	4.4 x 2.4 x 0.9	7m	4m
	10m skip	4.4 x 2.2 x 1.4		
	15m skip	4.4 x 2.4 x 1.8		

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Preventing rubbish fires

Fire-safety advice for businesses



New Zealand Government

FS1522

Protect your business

The New Zealand Fire Service attends hundreds of fires that have spread from nearby rubbish skips and bins every year.



These fires are almost always deliberately lit and come at a huge cost – in property loss, injuries and loss of business. In dollar terms the indirect economic loss is about \$100m annually.

Rubbish and cardboard stored in skips or bins near buildings are an easy target for opportunists seeking to start a fire. These fires can quickly spread to your building, plant and other equipment associated with your business – threatening your trade temporarily – or permanently.

As a building owner or occupier you are required by law to make sure any material that could be set alight, for example rubbish, cardboard, wooden crates and the like, is kept securely to prevent it becoming a fire hazard.*

*The Fire Safety and Evacuation of Buildings Regulations 2006, regulation 12, requires building owners and occupiers to ensure that materials such as timber, firewood, hay straw, dry plant cuttings, flammable packaging material, combustible waste and any other flammable materials to be stored inside or outside of a building in a manner that prevents a fire hazard to the building, another building, or to any road or other public place.

Help reduce the risk of rubbish fires damaging your business with the following 9 point checklist

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|--|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 1 Locate bins away from building. | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6 Define safe designated smoking areas for staff. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Store combustible waste in metal rubbish containers with self closing lids. | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7 Lock bin lids when not in use. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Products and materials that need to be stored outside must be in limited pile sizes and well away from buildings, inside and outside the boundary fences. | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8 Install and maintain adequate perimeter fencing and lock and secure property at night. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Arrange to have waste collected weekly to minimise rubbish on site at weekends. | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9 Provide security lighting and surveillance equipment. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Ensure public access is limited to your building and yards. | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Have you considered installing sprinklers?

Sprinklers give 24/7 protection and in most cases a sprinkler will put out a fire before you even knew you had one.