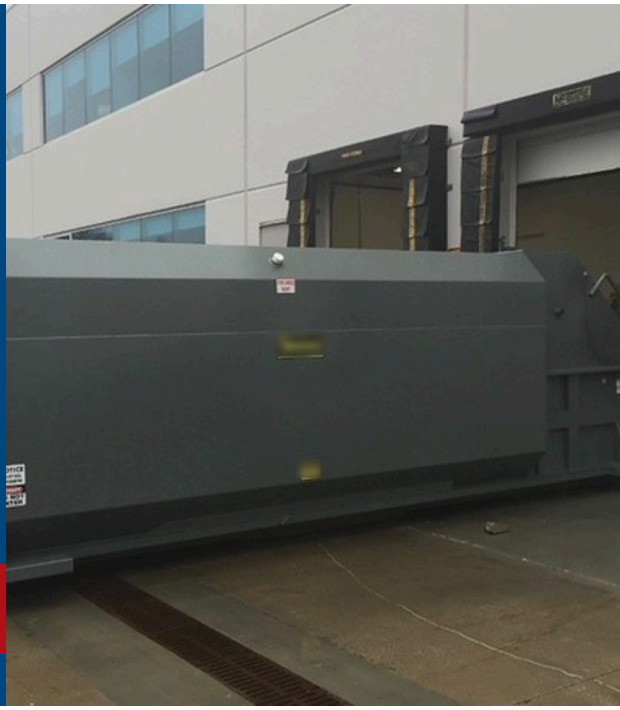
5 MINUTES AT THE START OF THE SHIFT, FOR 0 SAFETY INCIDENTS

Garbage compactor safety

Garbage compactors can make waste handling easier, but they can also expose you to serious injury. Safe operation starts with staying alert, following established procedures, and never taking shortcuts. If something does not look or feel safe, stop and ask for help before you proceed.

"Safety starts before you press the button."



Garbage compactor hazards

11 HAZARDS

Crushing & Caught-Between. The compactor's moving components can cause serious crushing or caught-between injuries. Keep your hands, feet, clothing, and entire body away from the hopper and moving components.

Pinch Points. Doors, gates, hinges, latches, and loading areas can create pinch points that can injure hands and fingers. Keep hands clear when closing or securing these components.

Falling or Reaching Into Compactor. Never try to climb into, onto, or reach inside the compactor, as it can cause a serious injury.

Flying or Shifting Debris. Trash may shift or debris may be thrown from the hopper during operation. Stay clear of the equipment while it is cycling.

Sharps & Hidden Objects. Garbage bags may contain broken glass, sharp metals, blades, needles, or other sharp objects. Never push down or compact trash with your hands.

Heavy or Awkward Trash Bags. Lifting heavy bags can cause strains, sprains, and overexertion. Test the weight before lifting, use proper lifting techniques, use a cart or dolly when available, and ask for assistance with heavy or awkward bags.

Slips, Trips & Falls. Leaking trash bags, wet floors, loose garbage, clutter, and poor housekeeping around the compactor can create slip and trip hazards. Maintain solid footing and keep the area clear.

Unexpected Equipment Movement. Can cause serious injury, particularly when attempting to clear a jam or work near moving components. Never attempt repairs, troubleshoot, or clear a jam unless you are authorized and proper lockout/tagout requirements are followed.

Electrical & Mechanical Hazards. Damaged wiring, exposed components, mechanical problems, and improper maintenance can cause electrical shock, fire, or mechanical hazards.

Hazardous or Prohibited Materials. Liquids, oils, paints, chemicals, aerosols, batteries, flammable materials, and hazardous waste should not be placed in the compactor.

Vehicle & Mobile Equipment Traffic. Remain alert if the compactor is in an area where there is vehicle and mobile equipment traffic.

CHECK FIRST

Before using the compactor

- [ ] Only trained and authorized employees should operate the equipment.
- [ ] Check the area for damaged guards, doors, controls, or other obvious problems.
- [ ] Make sure doors, gates, and safety interlocks are properly positioned before operating.
- [ ] Keep the floor around the compactor clean and dry to prevent slips and falls.
- [ ] Wear the PPE required by your site and task, such as safety glasses, work gloves, and safety footwear.

EVERY CYCLE

Safe operating practices

- Never place your hands, arms, feet, or body inside the compactor.
- Never climb inside or attempt to retrieve an object while the equipment operates.
- Keep clear of pinch points, moving components, and the compactor area.
- Never bypass, disable, tape down, or defeat safety switches, guards, or interlocks.
- Use designated tools or equipment for handling waste when required rather than reaching into hazardous areas.
- Watch for broken glass, sharp metal, needles, and other sharps while handling trash.
- Do not overfill the compactor or force oversized material into the opening.
- Keep unauthorized employees away while the equipment is in operation.
- If something looks unsafe, stop the task and ask for help.

STOP WORK **If something looks unsafe, stop the task and ask for help.**

TALK IT THROUGH

Q1 Where is the compactor at our site, and who here is trained and authorized to run it?

Q2 If it jams, what is our lockout/tagout rule, and who do we call?

Q3 What do you do if you spot a needle, blade, or broken glass in a bag?

HUDDLE SIGN-IN

Site _____ Date _____ Site Leader _____

Attendee names _____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

Safety starts before you press the button.

READY • SECURE • LEAN

5-4-0 SAFETY PROGRAM

5 minutes at the start of the shift, for 0 safety incidents