Dumpsters are in use at almost every commercial property or construction jobsite. All kinds of waste are discarded into dumpsters including metal, wood and plastics. Dumpsters are a repository for stolen items, hazardous materials, sharp objects and other hazardous items. Construction workers, warehouse employees and even wives and children use dumpsters every day. Review the safety concerns listed below when working around dumpsters.

**WORKSAFE TIPS**

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED**
- Wear gloves when placing waste into dumpsters
- Wear eye protection when placing waste into dumpsters – wind can pick up dusts & particles

**PREVENTING STRAINS & INJURY**
- Never over-fill trash bags or waste containers
- Team lift heavy objects or waste containers
- Avoid lifting waste bags or containers overhead – use a smaller dumpster, open the dumpster door or build a platform to elevate workers and reduce lifting exertion
- Never “throw” trash waste – avoid shoulder injury
- Break down odd-shaped waste as to prevent awkward positions that could lead to strain
- Never “yank” or “kick” a dumpster door
- Use both hands when flipping open dumpster lids

**WASTE COLLECTION TIPS**
- Remember that waste in dumpsters is sharp, and can cause lacerations and puncture wounds
- Never overload dumpsters – fill only to the top
- Load dumpster containers evenly
- Stay clear of dumpsters being lifted & emptied
- Never dump chemicals or hazardous materials or biomedical waste in dumpsters

**BEST PRACTICES**
- Don’t smoke around dumpsters
- Keep a fire extinguisher near dumpsters
- Avoid placing hazardous materials in dumpster – refer to local waste regulations
- When purchasing waste cans consider designs with large, easy-to-grip handles
- Replace cans with damaged/missing handles or wheels
- Use smaller waste cans/bags as their loaded weight is much less than larger cans.
- Use a step ladder and pole to shift & move waste around in dumpsters.
- Never stand atop or jump on waste inside a dumpster
- Keep dumpsters in a secure, well-lit location to prevent arson and trespassers
- Maintain dumpsters with lids and doors closed to prevent theft, arson and litter
- Use two or three people to move rolling dumpsters
- Stand clear when dumpsters are unloaded
- Use caution around moving refuse trucks
- Report damage to the collection company
- Keep the area around dumpsters clear of trip hazards
- Clear dumpster areas of snow and ice – prevent falls
- Never position roll-off dumpsters beneath power lines – the truck lifting mechanism may contact