

Trash compactor quarterly maintenance checklist

A quarterly trash compactor round is short on purpose: it catches the wear items that fail between annual services. This checklist is sized for a tech with a phone. Every item says what to look at and the photo that proves the round happened. Work is commonly verified against manufacturer's published instructions. Confirm the edition your authority having jurisdiction has adopted.

Who runs it: The maintenance or compactor-service tech on the quarterly round. When: Every quarter. Oil leaks, a slowing ram and a leaking container seal are what turn a working compactor into a mess in the alley.

Hydraulic power unit

- ☐ Oil level, condition and leaks checked
Reservoir at level, oil not milky or burnt, no weeping at the cylinder, hoses or fittings, no puddle under the unit. 2 photos required
- ☐ Ram operation and cycle time observed
Ram driving to full stroke and retracting smoothly, cycle time in normal range, no shudder or stall under load. 1 photo required

Safety and guarding

- ☐ Interlocks, keyed control and guarding verified as observed
Access door and interlock stopping the ram, key control functioning, guards in place — checked by observation only, never by reaching in. 2 photos required

Container and housekeeping

- ☐ Container/chute latch and seal checked
Container latched square to the charge box, gasket sealing, no gap letting liquid or debris escape at the joint. 1 photo required
- ☐ Pad kept clean, odor and pests controlled
Charge box and pad clear of spilled waste, no standing leachate, drain to the sanitary point clear where fitted. 1 photo required