DETRITUS

Dumpster quote decoder

Put two or three quotes side by side before you book.

Ask each provider about every line below. A fee that is not mentioned is not the same as a fee that is zero, so write down the answer.

PROVIDER AND JOB

Job address and delivery date

Dumpster size and material

Expected rental length

Quote A provider and date

Quote B provider and date

Quote C provider and date

FEE BY FEE

Fee or term	Ask	Quote A	Quote B	Quote C
Base rental	What is included: days, haul, disposal?			
Included weight	How many tons, and is it per haul?			
Overage	Cost per ton over, and is weight by scale ticket?			
Delivery and pickup	Is it in the base price?			
Rental days and extension	What is the daily charge after the included days?			
Trip or dry run charge	What if the driver cannot reach or load the box?			
Fuel surcharge	Flat or percent, and how is it set?			
Environmental or regulatory fee	Is it a fixed fee or a percent?			
Permit and street placement	Who pulls the permit, and who pays?			

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Restrictions, cancellations and the final comparison.

MORE TERMS TO ASK ABOUT

Fee or term	Ask	Quote A	Quote B	Quote C
Prohibited materials	What items trigger a charge or a refusal?			
Overfill or contamination	What is the rule and what does it cost?			
Relocation or extra swap	Charge to move or swap the box?			
Cancellation or reschedule	Notice needed and any fee?			
Payment terms	Deposit, card fee, net terms?			
Pickup lead time	How much notice do they need?			

BEFORE YOU BOOK

- ☐ I know the weight limit and what happens if I go over
- ☐ I know the rental days and the extension charge
- ☐ I know who is responsible for the permit
- ☐ I know what cannot go in the dumpster
- ☐ I know where the box will sit and that the driver can reach it
- ☐ I have the total in writing, with every fee listed

TOTAL COMPARISON

	Quote A	Quote B	Quote C
Total if I stay within the limits			
Total if I run two days over and 1 ton over			
Total with every optional fee			

Compare the second row, not only the first. The cheaper base price often costs more once a normal job runs a little long or a little heavy.