

# NABERS Waste Rules and support documentation

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A NABERS Waste Verification is an independent measure of the resource recovery performance of a building. It uses a consistent method of measurement to assess how well buildings separate and divert waste generated on-site into streams that can be readily recovered, and whether those materials are likely to go to a facility that will recover them efficiently. A NABERS Waste Rating uses the same rigorous process to evaluate a building's performance and then expresses it on a star rating scale according to an industry benchmark. This lets you see how your building compares to its peers of a similar building type.

The NABERS Waste Rules set out the requirements to assess the waste management and resource recovery performance of any building type.

NABERS Waste Ratings or Verifications must be performed by a NABERS Assessor accredited in the NABERS Waste methodology and comply with the principles and standards set in the rules for gathering, interpreting, and using waste data.

The latest version of the NABERS Waste Rules is v2.1.

# What's new in this version?

The Waste Rules v2.1 contains technical changes from v2.0 of the Rules.

All changes are itemised in Appendix G for easy reference, but in general:

- Manual handling (i.e. bag-based) data, previously accepted as primary data, is no longer considered suitable for extrapolating building-wide results.
- Dry waste recycling now requires both a general waste and organics recycling stream (where available) to be present and functional to properly account for putrescible material and contamination.

The Rules – Waste for Offices v1.1 contains technical changes from v1.0. All changes are itemised in Appendix G for easy reference, but in general:

- Manual handling (i.e. bag-based) data, previously accepted as primary data, is no longer considered suitable for extrapolating building-wide results.

If you have any questions regarding the interpretation or application of the Rules, please contact [nabers@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nabers@environment.nsw.gov.au).

## NABERS Rules

- [NABERS The Rules - Waste v2.1](https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-06/NABERS%20Waste%20Rules%20v2.1.pdf) (<https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-06/NABERS%20Waste%20Rules%20v2.1.pdf>)
- [NABERS The Rules – Waste for Offices 1.1](https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-06/NABERS%20Waste%20for%20Offices%20Rules%20v1.1.pdf) (<https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-06/NABERS%20Waste%20for%20Offices%20Rules%20v1.1.pdf>).

## Other documents

- [NABERS Waste calculation spreadsheet v3.4.1](https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-02/NABERS%20Waste%20calculation%20spreadsheet%20v3.4.1.xls) (<https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-02/NABERS%20Waste%20calculation%20spreadsheet%20v3.4.1.xls>) This spreadsheet is required for section 7 and section 8 of the Rules (v3.4.1, updated June 2025).

# Previous versions now superseded

- The previous (now superseded) version of the Waste rules was [version 2.0 of The Rules-Waste](https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-07/NABERS%20The%20Rules%20-%20Waste%20-%20v2.0.pdf) (January 2024)
- The previous (now superseded) version of the [Waste for Offices rules was version 1.0](https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-07/NABERS%20The%20Rules%20-%20Waste%20for%20Offices-%20v1.0.pdf) of The Rules- Waste for Offices (January 2024)

## About the NABERS Waste Platform

The NABERS Waste Platform is an online data management system designed to monitor waste and recycling data. Its primary purpose is to facilitate the NABERS Waste Rating and Verification process by securely storing the necessary information.

Additionally, it functions independently as a valuable tool for tracking waste and recycling. The Platform offers the ability to gain valuable insights into waste management practices, presenting dynamic charts and high-level indicators for a comprehensive overview.

The Platform can be used across most of the built environment. Almost all property types are already available and we will add additional as the demand increases. All user support documents for the Platform can be found on this page. This includes the current version of the data upload template for the Platform.

The free training module, [NABERS Waste Basics](#) provides an introduction to the NABERS Waste Rating methodology and online platform for customers and users. We recommend for users to upload their waste data on a regular basis to track, visualise and examine their ongoing waste performance.

## Who can use the Waste Platform?

Anyone with a valid NABERS login and password can use the Waste Platform.

If you are new to the Platform, then we recommend you complete our [free online training](#).

# Why our data format?

NABERS worked with the commercial property sector to develop a national standard waste reporting format. These reports allow waste producers to become more consistent across the sector which makes it easier to benchmark waste performance improvements.

This format is becoming a national standard for the collection of commercial waste data. The format:

- meets the needs of the Better Buildings Partnerships Operational Waste Guidelines;
- can be used for Green Star points through the Green Building Council of Australia; and
- aligns with the waste industry's move towards actual-weight-based reporting

By delivering waste data in this format, you will be offering your clients best practice reporting.

## Using the online Waste Platform

The Waste Platform can be configured to enable an organisation's cleaning or waste contractor to upload their nightly collection data on a regular basis, using the Waste Platform Data Template below.

An organisation can also assign a Platform Administrator to carry out this task themselves.

Alternately, they can [find an assessor](#) to manage the entire process on their behalf. There are numerous specialised waste consultants among our list of accredited assessors who can provide this assistance.

The organisation can view and use this data for ongoing management of their operational waste performance, and to generate a NABERS Waste Rating or Verification.

## Training

NABERS offers a free online tutorial on how to use the platform, called [NABERS Waste Basics](#). This training will give you:

- an overall understanding of how the Platform works;
- detail on how to upload data to the Platform;
- an understanding of how organisations will view and use the data; and

- the skills to troubleshoot data upload issues.

The tutorial is designed to be self-paced and modular, making it a handy resource for ongoing reference or sharing with others as needed.

You can access the tutorial by following [this link](#) or by navigating to the [training](#) page of this website and searching for “waste.”

## Templates and other supporting documents

The following templates and documents can be downloaded below:

- [NABERS Waste calculation spreadsheet v3.4.1](#) ([https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-02/NABERS Waste calculation spreadsheet v3.4.1.xls](https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-02/NABERS%20Waste%20calculation%20spreadsheet%20v3.4.1.xls)) (required to verify primary data against a second source during rating)
- The [Building Setup Information form](#) (<https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-03/Building%20Setup%20Information%20Form.xlsx>) (required to ensure a smooth setup for your building)
- [Waste Platform Data Format v4.0](#) (<https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-03/Waste%20Platform%20Data%20Instructions%20v4.0.xlsx>) with instructions and example
- [Waste Platform Data Template v4.0](#) (<https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-03/Blank%20Waste%20Platform%20Data%20Template%20v4.0.xlsx>) (a blank copy of the above for regular use)
- A [form to create a contractor company on our database](#) (<https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-03/Waste%20Contractor%20Details%20Form.xlsx>) so they can access the platform

## Helpful user guides

In addition to [NABERS Waste Basics](#) outlined above, we also offer several user guides for download:

- The [NABERS Waste Rating Guide](#) (<https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-11/Waste%20-%20Introduction%20to%20the%20New%20Waste%20Rating.pdf>).

- [User Guide for Waste Contractors](https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-11/Waste%20Platform%20User%20Guide%20-%20for%20Waste%20Contractors.pdf) (<https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-11/Waste%20Platform%20User%20Guide%20-%20for%20Waste%20Contractors.pdf>)
- User guide on [how to register a building on the platform](https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-11/Waste%20How%20To%20Register%20a%20Building%20on%20the%20Waste%20Platform) (<https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-11/Waste%20How%20To%20Register%20a%20Building%20on%20the%20Waste%20Platform>) and add user accounts
- A [guide to common errors](https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-11/Waste%20Platform%20User%20Guide%20-%20Uploading%20Data.pdf) (<https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-11/Waste%20Platform%20User%20Guide%20-%20Uploading%20Data.pdf>) relating to data uploads and how to fix them
- [How to assign an Accredited Assessor to a Waste Rating](https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-11/Waste%20-%20How%20to%20Assign%20an%20Accredited%20Assessor%20to%20a%20Rating.pdf) (<https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-11/Waste%20-%20How%20to%20Assign%20an%20Accredited%20Assessor%20to%20a%20Rating.pdf>)  
(The Waste Rules also contain procedures for the rating)
- [User guide explaining what the Material Recovery Score](https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-11/Waste%20-%20Guide%20for%20Users%20-%20Material%20Recovery%20Score.pdf) (<https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-11/Waste%20-%20Guide%20for%20Users%20-%20Material%20Recovery%20Score.pdf>) is, how it works and how it can affect your Waste Rating
- A [Quick Reference Guide](https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-03/Waste Manager%20Platform%20User%20-%20Quick%20Reference%20Guide.pdf) (<https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-03/Waste Manager%20Platform%20User%20-%20Quick%20Reference%20Guide.pdf>) for user types on the Waste Platform
- A [list of waste types available on the platform](https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-03/NABERS%20Waste%20-%20list%20of%20waste%20streams%202.pdf), (<https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-03/NABERS%20Waste%20-%20list%20of%20waste%20streams%202.pdf>) and the values NABERS uses for calculations

[NABERS Waste Rules v2.1.pdf](https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-06/NABERS%20Waste%20Rules%20v2.1.pdf) ([/sites/default/files/2025-06/NABERS%20Waste%20Rules%20v2.1.pdf](https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-06/NABERS%20Waste%20Rules%20v2.1.pdf))

[NABERS Waste for Offices Rules v1.1.pdf](https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-06/NABERS%20Waste%20for%20Offices%20Rules%20v1.1.pdf) ([/sites/default/files/2025-06/NABERS%20Waste%20for%20Offices%20Rules%20v1.1.pdf](https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-06/NABERS%20Waste%20for%20Offices%20Rules%20v1.1.pdf))

[NABERS Waste calculation spreadsheet v3.4.1.xls](https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-02/NABERS%20Waste%20calculation%20spreadsheet%20v3.4.1.xls) ([/sites/default/files/2025-02/NABERS%20Waste%20calculation%20spreadsheet%20v3.4.1.xls](https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-02/NABERS%20Waste%20calculation%20spreadsheet%20v3.4.1.xls))

[Blank Waste Platform Data Template v4.0.xlsx](https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-03/Blank%20Waste%20Platform%20Data%20Template%20v4.0.xlsx) ([/sites/default/files/2024-03/Blank%20Waste%20Platform%20Data%20Template%20v4.0.xlsx](https://www.nabers.gov.au/sites/default/files/2024-03/Blank%20Waste%20Platform%20Data%20Template%20v4.0.xlsx))

[Waste Platform Data Instructions v4.0.xlsx \(/sites/default/files/2024-03/Waste%20Platform%20Data%20Instructions%20v4.0.xlsx\)](#)

[Building Setup Information Form.xlsx \(/sites/default/files/2024-03/Building%20Setup%20Information%20Form.xlsx\)](#)

[Quick Reference Guide to Platform User Types.pdf \(/sites/default/files/2024-07/Quick%20Reference%20Guide%20to%20Platform%20User%20Types.pdf\)](#)

[Waste Contractor Details Form.xlsx \(/sites/default/files/2024-07/Waste%20Contractor%20Details%20Form.xlsx\)](#)

[User Guide for Waste Contractors.pdf \(/sites/default/files/2024-03/User%20Guide%20for%20Waste%20Contractors.pdf\)](#)