



Frequently Asked Questions

The following is a list of frequently asked questions that may be of assistance during preparation of waste composition study or performance audits. If you have any further questions or require clarification please contact [CIF Staff](#).

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1. What is statistical relevance and how does it affect my study?

In accordance with industry standards and guidelines for curbside waste audits in Ontario, it is common practice that a sample group of 100 single-family homes (10 homes in a row in 10 sample areas) representing the municipality's single-family waste generation/recovery behavior be considered.

Selection factors include:

- type of home (e.g. semi-detached, detached, row house, etc.)
- size of home
- property values
- age of home and neighborhood
- demographics
- households that receive the same level of service
- households that are typically collected early morning

Things to avoid:

- Split dwellings such as a main floor and basement apartment should be considered only if they are common
- Triplexes, small apartment buildings, and row houses or townhouses with communal collection pads
- homes right at the beginning of a collection route (provides more leeway in case the regular hauler collects early from the study area)
- homes on busy roads
- vacant homes, homes under construction or homes up for sale
- Christmas, March break and peak summer vacation periods

2. How is study data used by CIF/SO?

CIF uses the combined data to track trends in Ontario Blue Box material composition, weight, type, contamination, quality, etc. and to monitor and measure the effect of local changes made to individual municipal programs. Information, data and results of any CIF-SO studies are to be shared between the CIF and SO, provided that the information and data are used for the sole purpose of operating the Blue Box Program Plan and are not shared beyond these two parties, unless authorized by the parties in writing.

3. Can depots be studied?

Yes, however, special conditions apply. Unlike residential households, depots are often used by industrial, commercial and institutional (IC&I) customers as well as residents and businesses from multiple locations. To obtain accurate and relevant composition study data, pre-screening of the users must be performed and non-residential customers must be separated from residential.

Download the [Depot Screening Pre-survey](#) for review and contact [CIF Staff](#) to discuss the project before submitting a funding application.