

Industrial Trash Compactor & Baler Safety Inspection Checklist

Site / Project	_____	Address	_____
Inspector name	_____	Company	_____
Date	_____	Time	_____

Documentation aid only. Adapt this resource to the site, manufacturer instructions, and applicable local requirements. It does not replace a competent person, professional judgment, legal advice, or a required statutory form.

Inspection checklist

Baler/Compactor Mechanical Integrity

☐ Inspect the Ram for cracks, excessive wear, or deformation. Ensure it moves smoothly without binding.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Examine hydraulic hoses and fittings for leaks, abrasions, or damage. Replace any compromised components immediately.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Verify that all door interlocks are functioning correctly. The Ram should not operate when any door is open. Test each interlock individually.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Test the Emergency Stop (E-stop) button. Ensure it immediately halts all machine functions when activated.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Confirm that all safety guards and shields are in place and securely fastened. No missing or damaged guards are permitted.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Inspect the baling or compaction chamber for structural damage, such as cracks or dents, that could compromise its integrity.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ For balers, check the wire feed mechanism for proper operation. Ensure wires are feeding smoothly and not tangling.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Verify the pressure relief valve is functioning correctly to prevent over-pressurization of the hydraulic system.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

☐	Inspect the control panel for any damage, loose wiring, or malfunctioning buttons. Ensure all labels are legible.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm that all lubrication points are properly maintained. Grease all fittings according to the manufacturer's recommendations.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) Procedures

☐	Confirm a written Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) program is in place and readily accessible.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Inspect LOTO devices (locks, tags, etc.) for proper function and availability. Ensure sufficient quantity for all energy sources.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Before any maintenance or jam clearing, verify that all energy sources (electrical, hydraulic, etc.) are properly isolated and locked out.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure all employees who operate or maintain the baler/compactor have received adequate LOTO training and can demonstrate proficiency.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm that a machine-specific LOTO procedure is available at the machine and that employees understand it.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify that LOTO tags are properly filled out with the date, time, and name of the authorized employee.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	After energy isolation, verify that any stored energy (e.g., hydraulic pressure) is safely dissipated before commencing work.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	If multiple employees are working on the equipment, ensure a group LOTO procedure is followed with a designated authorized employee.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm that the LOTO devices are removed only by the employee who applied them, following a documented procedure.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify that the LOTO program is periodically inspected (at least annually) to ensure its effectiveness.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Operational Safety & Housekeeping

☐	Ensure the area around the baler/compactor is clear of obstructions, debris, and tripping hazards.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm that materials are loaded into the baler/compactor safely and evenly to prevent jams or uneven compression.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

☐	Verify that all warning signs and safety labels are in place, legible, and in the correct language(s).	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure adequate lighting is provided around the baler/compactor to allow for safe operation and inspection.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm that only authorized and trained personnel are operating the baler/compactor.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure that employees know how to report any malfunctions, safety concerns, or incidents related to the baler/compactor.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm that measures are in place to prevent unauthorized entry into the baling/compaction chamber during operation.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify that only approved materials are being processed in the baler/compactor. Avoid flammable or explosive materials.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure spill control measures are in place to address any potential leaks or spills from the hydraulic system.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify that the E-stop button is easily accessible and not obstructed by any materials or equipment.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

☐	Ensure that appropriate PPE (safety glasses, gloves, hearing protection, etc.) is readily available and in good condition.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm that employees are wearing appropriate eye protection (safety glasses or face shields) when operating or maintaining the baler/compactor.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify that employees are wearing appropriate gloves to protect their hands from cuts, abrasions, or exposure to hydraulic fluid.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure employees are wearing appropriate safety shoes or boots with steel toes to protect their feet from falling objects or crushing hazards.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	If noise levels exceed 85 dBA, confirm that employees are wearing appropriate hearing protection (earplugs or earmuffs).	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure that employees have been trained on the proper use, maintenance, and limitations of the required PPE.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Inspect PPE for any damage, wear, or defects. Replace any compromised PPE immediately.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

☐	Confirm that PPE fits properly and is comfortable for employees to wear.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	If working in areas with mobile equipment, ensure employees are wearing high-visibility clothing.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	If airborne contaminants are present, verify that appropriate respiratory protection is used and a respiratory protection program is in place.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Fall Protection (If Applicable)

☐	If elevated platforms are used, inspect guardrails for proper height (42 inches +/- 3 inches) and structural integrity.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify that midrails are installed halfway between the top rail and the walking surface and that toe boards are at least 3.5 inches high.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	If fall arrest systems are used, inspect harnesses for any damage, wear, or defects. Ensure proper fit.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Inspect lanyards for any cuts, abrasions, or damage. Ensure the lanyard is compatible with the anchorage point.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Verify that anchorage points are capable of supporting at least 5,000 pounds per employee attached.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure adequate fall clearance below the anchorage point to prevent the worker from striking a lower level in the event of a fall.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	If self-retracting lifelines (SRLs) are used, inspect them for proper function and ensure they are properly connected.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Ensure that employees have been trained on the proper use of fall protection equipment and procedures.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Inspect ladders for damage, missing rungs, or slippery surfaces. Ensure ladders are properly secured.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐	Confirm that portable ladders are set up at the correct angle (4:1 ratio) and extend at least 3 feet above the landing.	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Findings

#	Item	Location	Severity	Action required
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

Signature

Inspector signature _____

Name _____

Date _____