



Dispatchers guide to ordering Street Sweepers

Call our full-time staff
7 a.m. to 5 p.m. M-F

(714) 637-3180 (800) GET-BILL (800) 438-2455 (714) 998-6487 FAX

Follows are the items you will be asked when ordering a sweeper. Knowing these items ensures everyone is on the same page and avoids surprises and delays.

Remember to order early. 4-5 days in advance is not too soon. Same day service and Friday afternoons are difficult to accommodate.

1 When would you like the sweeper? Day & Time. Are you flexible on the time?

On the first job of the day we will arrive within 5 min. of the agreed time. The 2nd or 3rd job of the day is more flexible as we never know if the previous job runs a little long (or short). If you can be 100% flexible as to the show up time, we offer a 2-hour plus travel minimum.

2 How long will you need the sweeper?

Your best guess is all that is needed. We try to schedule some "fudge factor" so if you order 4 hrs. and it goes 5, no problem. Changing from 4 to 8 in the same day may not always be possible. Changing from "all day" to 4 hours can also cause problems as we probably turned down work to reserve your spot.

3 What type of work or job are we sweeping for?

This makes sure we ask the right questions and know what to look for on the job site. Sweeping for a seal coat is treated differently than sweeping before a water truck.

4 Do you have a legal place to get water for dust control?

There are about 30 different water districts in Orange County alone. Though water is relatively cheap, each district decides how to account for, meter and bill for water usage. Not making arrangements with them and "stealing" water can result in stiff fines and even arrest. Because each of our trucks may work in several districts in a single day, it is essential that we rely on the contractor to make arrangements for the one district their site is in. Sweepers can be filled up from "metered" fire hydrants or even a garden hose (it just takes longer). All our trucks carry the necessary hoses, valves and wrenches to fill from hydrants. Our trucks do not carry garden hoses. The only place to carry them is on the passenger seat, so we need to know in advance if you would like us to provide the garden hose.

5 Do you have a legal place to leave the debris?

Southern California is no longer a land of open fields and vacant lots. Roadside or "midnight" dumping is not only unethical but illegal. We arrive at all jobs empty. When we finish the job, we rely on the contractor to supply us with a legal place to dump, or if it **must** be hauled to a landfill, to make **prior** arrangements and pay the additional hauling and gate fees. Note: not all jobs will have this option.

6 Do you require PO's or other paperwork?

If you have internal paperwork that should be sent or referenced with our billing, please provide it to us. With over 400 active customers, each having their own changing requirements, it is very difficult to keep track. Remember these are your internal financial controls. Your vendors simply use these as a courtesy to help speed up payment.



Rules of Thumb and other information you never thought to ask



How clean can a sweeper get it?

Broom street sweepers are simply a spinning broom that flicks loose debris onto a conveyor belt. The conveyor then carries the debris up into a hopper. The cleaning is just like a push broom sweeping onto a dust pan, only bigger. It doesn't sweep any better than a push broom; it only covers a lot more ground.

When is it too heavy to sweep?

Using the push broom analogy: if you were going to do the job by hand, would you use a shovel first? If so the job needs a tractor first. If it is ready for the push broom, it is also ready for the street sweeper. On the same thought, when the sweeper is done, it is now ready for the water truck.

Our operators will get out of the truck and use a shovel if needed. This does tend to be a very expensive laborer however. Besides the obvious tractor work, having the site clear of debris larger than your fist and/or shipping straps may save you some money as our operator will not have to hand pick the site.

Don't sweepers use water to clean?

No, sweepers only use water to control dust. It is a very common misconception that the water does any cleaning. If you were to push broom off the sidewalks, would you want them sprinkled first?

Can sweepers sweep dry?

Only if you want to get fined by AQMD for a fugitive dust violation, or have problems with OSHA by asking the operator to disable or not use the safety device designed to minimize the dust he has to breathe.

Unfortunately, many sweepers do use too much water. Once the dust is under control and the pavement is damp we will turn down or turn off the water. The last thing anyone wants is a muddy mess. However, when the street dries out or any dust is visible, the water must be turned back on.

Can sweepers remove the stain off the street?

Just like the 1st rule of thumb, brooms can only remove what is loose. Staining or discoloration is simply not removable with a push broom or a mechanical broom.

Why do sweepers cost so much?

Many years ago there was an old rule of thumb that basically said a piece of equipment should rent for 1,000th of its purchase price. i.e. \$60,000 backhoe would go for \$60 an hour, a \$200,000 scraper would get \$200 an hour. New sweepers now cost \$140-160,000. Add in the increases in liability and workers comp., sweepers should be about \$170 per hour. As it is, an operated 10 ton sweeper probably costs you less per hour than your plumber or copier repair man.

Why can't sweepers bring their own water?

The water only lasts about an hour. We are also not always coming from a site that will allow us to take water that will not be used on their site.

Why can't the water truck bring its own water?

Construction water trucks in California are licensed as "special equipment". The license only allows them to travel over the road to and from job sites. They are not allowed to haul water on the road. Also, most water trucks can dump their full load in 3-8 minutes. A metered fire hydrant must be on site for water trucks, using a garden hose would take 4-8 hours to fill the truck.