



The Best Trash Can for Kitchens, Bathrooms, and Beyond

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What's the best trash can for kitchens, bathrooms, and other rooms in your home? If you like to keep your home trash-free and tidy, no run-of-the-mill waste receptacle will do. Each area of your home begs for a certain type of trash can, after all: some big, some small, some best for paper, some for wetter or more odoriferous debris, and some even able to withstand the inquisitive efforts of trash-obsessed pets or kids.

To help guide you to the best wastebasket for the job, here's what to consider for each room.



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Kitchen



[Photo by Jackson Design & Remodeling](#)

You're battling smells and high traffic in this spot, so choose a solid can that can hold up to heavy use and take some punishment, says **Julie Coraccio**, the organizing guru at Reawaken Your Brilliance.

"I like having a step to push that opens the can, and I prefer materials that don't show fingerprints," she notes.

But for many pros, the ideal waste receptacle is a sliding, two-bin setup tucked under your kitchen counter—one for trash and the other for recyclables (food waste can go in a compactor or compost pail). Cans that hold 10 to 13 gallons are usually sufficient for kitchen trash.

Jamie Gold, a San Diego-based certified kitchen designer, agrees. "Even the most attractive stand-alone models don't add much aesthetically and can be easily knocked over by kids and pets," she explains.

The materials here can vary, from plastic to stainless steel, though the latter is very popular as it matches many appliances, points out **Darla DeMorrow**, author of "Organizing Your Home With Sort and Succeed."

Bathroom



[Photo by Criner Remodeling](#)

A small, 4- to 7-gallon wastebasket that's about a foot high is fine in this area.

Coraccio recommends shelling out for more on a bathroom trash can. "It needs to withstand moisture and humidity," she explains.

If you choose a wicker one, be sure it's made from all-weather wicker so it doesn't absorb moisture. Many homeowners like matching sets that include a basket, cups, and toothbrush and soap holders, but don't bother with these options if you won't use all the pieces.

If the can will sit where it can be seen, you might spend a little more time coordinating the color or theme in your bathroom, suggests DeMorrow. "But if you're placing it under the sink or behind a partition near the toilet, any plastic pail will do the job," she adds.

Whether or not you line this (and other small) wastebaskets, the choice is yours.

"Lining it will obscure the top part of the pail's design, but it'll keep the container cleaner and fight odors," DeMorrow says.

Home office



[Photo by Common Bond Design](#)

A home office benefits from two wastebaskets, says Gold. "You need one for trash and the other for paper recycling—and legal or financial info should be shredded, not tossed out whole," she says.

Wood, wire, or metal mesh wastebaskets work well with the mostly paper refuse in this room, as well as in crafts rooms and workshops. But be sure to choose the right size.

"People often make the mistake of using a little bathroom can in the home office, but it's usually too small and the wrong shape," explains DeMorrow.

Pick one that's at least a foot tall and wide-mouthed, as office trash usually includes larger papers and boxes.

"Clutter tends to pile up in home offices because it can't be conveniently thrown out, so set yourself up with a larger bin for recycling and a smaller one for actual garbage", she adds.

Pro tip: Line the basket under your shredder to keep those tiny papers from flying all over, suggest **Jennifer Snyder**, an organizing pro at Neat as a Pin.

Kid's room and bedrooms



[Photo by Iris](#)

Have fun with this can—and maybe the kids will actually use it, says Coraccio. Try a wastebasket with an animal head lid, bright stripes, leopard spots, or anything sports-themed. Or set up a classic mini basketball hoop over the pail so your tot can practice her 3-pointers and clean up, too. Lining kids' pails makes sense since sticky candy wrappers and yogurt tubes will likely land inside.

As for your own bedroom, a small wastebasket in (or near) your closet makes sense for dry cleaner bags and tags from new clothes, says Snyder.

