



## At Home Waste Audit

Now that you've learned what can and can't be recycled, it's time to see how you and your household are sorting their waste!

**Goal:** After doing this activity, you'll know what your family already disposes of properly, and where you can improve.

### Instructions

1. Place a piece of paper and a pencil next to each trash, recycling, or compost bin in your home. If you don't have all three bins, that's ok! Use what you already have.
2. Set a time frame. How long would you like to track your household waste? Try and do it for longer than one day.
3. Every time someone in your household drops something in the bin, they should write what the item is on the piece of paper.
4. At the end of your waste audit, collect all of the tracking sheets from around the house and compare! Answer the questions on the worksheet provided and determine where you and your family can make changes and reduce waste.
5. Set a goal to make one change to your waste disposal habits. It can be anything, from trying a reusable water bottle, to starting a compost bin! Pick something that will work for you and your household and try it out.

### Vocab and Definitions

Audit: an inspection

Recycling: to take something old and make it new again

Compost: process where materials like plants, fruits, and vegetables are mixed together to decompose and become rich, healthy soil

Reduce: to make something smaller



## At Home Waste Audit Worksheet

1. List the waste bins you have around your home and where they are located.

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2. What item of trash was thrown away most often?

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3. Was anything put in the incorrect bin? If so, what was it? (Example: We put a toilet paper roll in the trash can, but it should have been recycled.)

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4. What is one change you can make at home to reduce waste?

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