

Waste Audit

Celebrate Earth Day by taking a second look at your garbage.

Collect

- Garbage (about 1 day's worth)
- Tarp
- Rubber gloves
- Paper
- Pencil

Conduct your research

1. Find a spot suitable to conduct your trash inspection.
Hint: An outdoor place works best.
2. Spread out the tarp on the ground and put on rubber gloves.
3. Dump the garbage onto the tarp.
4. Sort the garbage into categories, such as food waste, paper products, and plastics.



Analyze the results

What types of items make up the majority of your trash? Did you find items that could have been recycled, reused, or composted?

Take action

With your family, develop a plan to reduce the amount of garbage your family produces. Consider starting a compost bin for food waste, switching to cloth napkins instead of using paper, or finding new uses for empty yogurt cups or takeout containers.

Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

Waste is anything that we throw away that does not get reused. How we handle waste affects the environment in which we all live. The three best ways to eliminate waste are to reduce the amount of waste you generate, reuse everything you can, and recycle as much of what you cannot reuse as possible.