



How to:

CONDUCT A WASTE AUDIT

According to the EPA, the average American produces 4.4 pounds of waste per day.

PREPARATION

- 1 Collect your waste material for a set amount of time. We recommend 7 days.
- 2 Gather your materials: gloves, protective layer (tarp, newspaper, shower curtain), garbage bags, and scale.
- 3 Choose what waste to collect: make sure to collect all clean waste. Do not include bathroom or personal hygiene waste in the audit.
- 4 Choose your categories: we suggest 5 main categories, general recycling, specialty recycling, landfill waste, food waste, and donations.

Waste Audit Categories



General Recycling

Cardboard, paper, glass, plastic bottles, and tin and aluminum cans can be recycled in UK's All-In-One bins.



Specialty Recycling

Items such as batteries, paint, and can be recycled, but not in your All-In-One bin.



Landfill Waste

All non-recyclable items that are not food waste go into this category.



Food Waste

Food waste includes food scraps, expired food, and anything that was once edible.

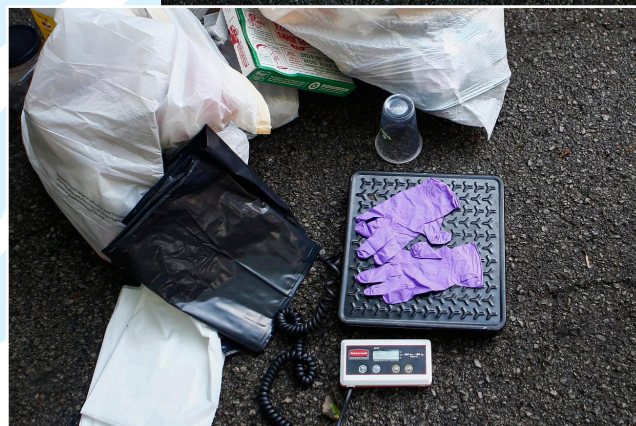
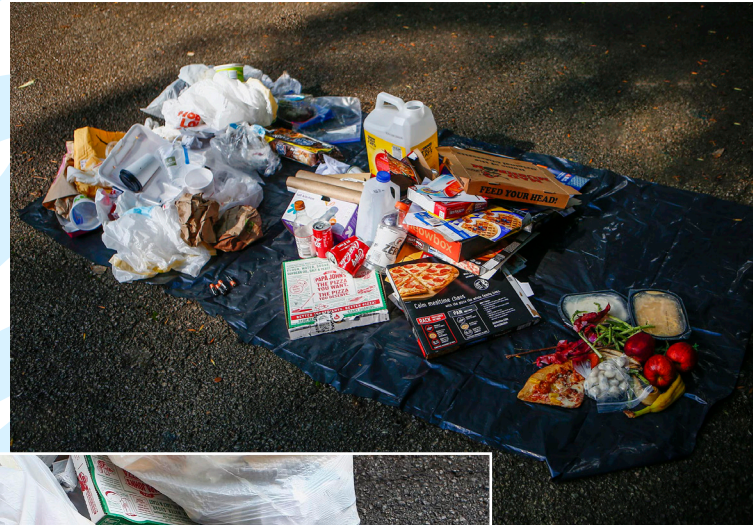


Donations

Items such as clothes or household items that someone else could still use should be donated.

CONDUCTING YOUR AUDIT

- 1 Prepare your space. Lay down your protective layer and put all of your collected waste on it. Make sure to collect any litter that might blow away.
- 2 Sort your waste into your 5 categories on your protective layer.
- 3 Put each category into its own bag, then weigh each category on a scale. Bulky items (cardboard boxes, etc) can be weighed separately.
- 4 Use the UK Recycling waste audit worksheet to calculate your totals and percentages.
- 5 Evaluate your findings and make changes to reduce your waste.



AFTER

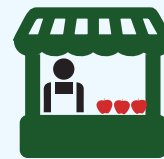
Reflection questions after waste audit:

- Did you find a lot of single use items such as plastic bottles, bags and straws in your waste?
- Did you see any patterns in your waste? Was most of your waste fast food, packaging, spoiled or uneaten food?
- How can you minimize this waste?
- Are there any items thrown away that could have been repurposed?
- How can you start purchasing items with waste reduction in mind?

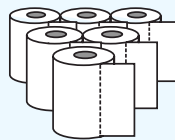
Make changes in response to your waste audit results! Here's some ideas:



Look for products with minimal packaging



Shop local: farmer's markets, co-ops, local artists



Buy in bulk



Buy used and secondhand items



Find creative ways to repurpose your waste



Use reusable items when possible

HOME WASTE AUDIT WORKSHEET

1 Divide into categories.



General Recycling



Specialty Recycling



Landfill Waste



Food Waste



Donations

2 Put each category into its own bag.

3 Weigh each individual bag and record the weights. After recording individual weights, add them together to get your total waste weight.

| Category | Weight |
|---------------------|--------|
| General Recycling | |
| Specialty Recycling | |
| Landfill | |
| Food Waste | |
| Donations | |
| Total | |

4 Calculate percentages. Divide the total weight by the individual category weights, then multiply by 100 to get a percentage.

| Category | Weight | Percentage |
|---------------------|--------|------------|
| General Recycling | | |
| Specialty Recycling | | |
| Landfill | | |
| Food Waste | | |
| Donations | | |
| Total | | |