

Recycling at Home Survey

TEACHER SUPPLEMENT

Take this survey home to determine your solid waste output and how you might change it. Compare answers with your classmates and find solutions to how you might reduce the amount of trash you throw away everyday.

1. On average, how many bags of garbage does your family throw away each week?
a. 1 b. 2 c. 3 d. 4 or more

The average household puts out 2-3 bags of garbage per week. By recycling and composting, we can often reduce this amount by half.

2. How many waste paper cans or trash bins do you have around the house?
a. 1-2 b. 3-4 c. 5-6 d. 7 or more

Answers for this question may vary. A larger household may have 5-6 bags, but rarely 7 or more.

3. How many of these bins are located in the following places?
a. Kitchen _____ d. Bedroom(s) _____
b. Bathroom(s) _____ e. Den / Computer Room _____
c. Garage or outside _____ f. Other _____

Again, answers may vary according to the # of rooms in the house. Those with larger responses to #2 may have more locations in their homes.

4. Do you recycle at home? Circle - **YES** or **NO**

Remember how many students answered "yes". Poll the class at a later date to determine if the number has changed. This is a good way to rate the effectiveness of recycling education.

5. What items do you recycle at home?
a. Metal Cans d. #1 & #2 Plastic Bottles, jugs, jars
b. Newspaper e. Clear glass bottles, jugs, jars
c. Magazines f. Other _____

Items listed in A-F are accepted at all Recycling Depot sites throughout the County. For those that write in an answer in F, probe to see what it is and where they take it. Compare different answers throughout the class.

6. Do you or your family use any of the following at home? Write **Y** for Yes, **N** for No.
Paper Plates _____ Styrofoam Plates _____
Paper Towels _____ Paper Napkins _____
Microwave Dinners _____ Disposable Cups _____
Disposable Utensils _____

All of these items contain disposable aspects that can be avoided by alternate means. Those who recycle to help the environment must understand that these products still go to the landfill.

7. Do you or your family use any of the following at home? Write **Y** for yes, **N** for No.
Reusable Dishes _____ Reusable Cups _____
Fabric Napkins _____ Metal Utensils _____

These are only a few items that can save on waste output. Reusing items at home decreases not only the waste output, but also the amount of money we pay for disposable items. The only difference here is a little effort to make them clean again!