



Quick and Easy Tips for Waste Management

*Avoid making garbage in the first place and reduce the cost of disposing of or recycling it later.
Save valuable materials and play an important role in protecting the environment and public health.*

1. The Hierarchy of Waste Management

The waste hierarchy relates closely to the three R principles (reduce, reuse and recycle) which classify waste management strategies according to their desirability in terms of waste minimization and prevention. It is important for us as consumers to buy, use and support products that rank higher on the hierarchy such as aluminum cans rather than non-recyclable plastic containers.



2. Main Types of Waste

The most common categories of waste are: recyclable, non-recyclables, toxic, biodegradable, consumable (food), household and human waste.

3. Waste Management and Energy Recovery

The energy content of waste products can be harnessed directly by using them as combustion fuel, or indirectly by processing them into another type of fuel.

4. Recyclables (see 5-8)

Recyclable materials include many kinds of glass, paper, metal, plastic, textiles, and electronics.

5. Common Recyclables: Glass

Collected glass is crushed and added to a raw material mix in a melting furnace, then mechanically blown or molded into new jars or bottles.

6. Common Recyclables: Paper

Almost all paper can be recycled today, but some types are harder to recycle than others. Papers coated with plastic or aluminum foil and papers that are waxed, pasted, or gummed are usually not recycled because the process is too expensive; avoid them.

7. Common Recyclables: Plastic

Plastic recycling is the process of recovering scrap or waste plastics and reprocessing the material into useful products.

8. Common Recyclables: Batteries

All batteries have chemicals inside – including lead, cadmium, and mercury. Sending batteries to the landfill or incinerator will contaminate soil, air, water, and food. Collect used batteries, and send them to designated collection sites.

9. Non-Recyclables (see 10-13)

It is important to know what you cannot recycle to avoid contaminating products that can be recycled and reused.

10. Important Non-Recyclables: Paper Drink Cups

The fluid in these cups can contaminate the other recyclables and prevent the paper from being recycled.

11. Common Non-Recyclables: Tissue or paper towels

These products often have high recycled fiber content and as fibers get shorter and shorter, their uses are more and more limited. There is also concern due to the high bacteria content in these products.

12. Common Non-Recyclable Plastics: PVC and Mixed plastics

Plastics that are made out of PVC are not recyclable. Some plastic consists of more than one kind of plastic; because of this, they cannot be recycled.

13. Common Non-Recyclables: Some Paper Products

Paper products that are made of materials that have been recycled several times, waxed/soiled paper products or paper with high glue content cannot be recycled.

14. Biodegradable Waste

Kitchen, garden, and other organic waste can be composted into fertile topsoil.

15. Medical Waste

Medical waste can transmit disease. Place medical waste in an air-tight container and dispose of the container once it is full. Take the waste to a specified safe disposal site such as a hospital or city facility.

16. Education on Waste Management

It is important to educate local residents on the benefits of proper waste management and the harmful effects of improper waste management.

17. Waste Management and Government Services

Government should provide proper services to ensure all sorted recycled, toxic, medical waste will be processed properly.

18. Integrated Waste Management

Waste management is a large-scale operation that requires cooperation between companies, governments and residents.

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