



Inventory of Solid Waste Disposal In Your Home

Please answer the following questions to help you assess solid waste disposal in your home or apartment.

1. Who picks up your trash and where is it landfilled?
2. What is the percentage (by volume or weight) of your entire waste stream for the following items:
 - A. Paper/cardboard
 - B. Metal cans (i.e., aluminum, steel, tin)
 - C. Plastic #1 and #2 (i.e., water bottles, milk jugs, water bottles)
 - D. Other plastics (i.e., Styrofoam, plastic wrapping)
 - E. Food
 - F. Electronics (i.e., computers, TVs, cell phones)
 - G. Yard waste (i.e., leaves, branches, grass clippings)
 - H. Household hazardous waste (i.e., paint, batteries, light bulbs)
 - I. Trash
3. Do you recycle? If so, what?
4. Does your county/waste hauler provide containers for recycling?
5. Do you compost food/yard waste waste at home or participate in a community sponsored composting program?
6. Do you purchase:
 - A. Items that can be reused or recycled?
 - B. Items made from recycled material?
 - C. Items with reduced packaging?
 - D. Items in large quantities to reduce the amount of packaging?
7. Do you use disposable/reusable items? (i.e., paper plates vs. dishes, disposable diapers vs. reuseable diapers)
8. Do you donate household/personal items (i.e., furniture, clothing, toys, books) to charitable organizations?
9. What is your annual cost for:
 - A. Recycling
 - B. Trash pickup
 - C. Fertilizer
 - D. Mulch
10. Keep a year long record of changes to these questions. Have a family meeting and decide the best ways to further decrease your waste stream.

Ideas to Reduce Solid Waste that is Sent to the Landfill from Your Home

Ideas that are free or nearly so

1. If you aren't recycling, call your county solid waste coordinator and inquire about recycling programs available in your community. Ask your local waste agency to sponsor an electronic waste recycling day at least once a year.
www.waste.ky.gov/branches/rla/County+Solid+Waste+Coordinators.htm
2. Conduct a home waste audit, to find out how much (recyclable and landfill-bound material) you are throwing away. www.kentuckypride.com
3. Find places in your community where you can take items to be recycled or reused, such as paint. earth911.org/recycling/
4. Participate in web-based trading programs, such as Freecycle or Craigslist.
www.craigslist.com
www.freecycle.org/
5. Donate magazines to doctor's offices, and clothing, furniture and appliances to Goodwill or the Salvation Army.
6. Stop junk mail. www.kentuckypride.com/campaigns/waste_reduction/junkmail.htm
7. Reuse packing peanuts or donate to a mailing company that will re-use them.
8. Use compost to replace fertilizer and mulch. For information on how to start composting visit www.mastercomposter.com.

Ideas less than \$25

1. Purchase items in bulk to reduce packaging waste. Example: buy large bags of chips and package them in re-usable baggies, instead of buying single serving bags.
2. Use rechargeable batteries instead of single use batteries. Dispose of them properly by contacting <http://www.rbrc.org/>
3. Use cloth napkins and dishtowels, instead of paper napkins and paper towels.
4. Use a reusable water bottle instead of buying lots of individual size water bottles.
5. Use re-usable grocery bags, or participate in stores' plastic bag recycling program.
6. Make note pads out of scrap paper.
7. Purchase items that are made of recycled content and/or are recyclable. Example: printer white paper.

Ideas more than \$25

1. Purchase or construct a compost bin to help compost organic waste. These cost about \$100 and make composting neater and easier than the traditional method.
http://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profiles0903/compost_heap.asp
2. Purchase durable, good quality items, such as furniture, that will last longer.
3. Organize an aluminum can drive as a fundraiser for a local charity or school.
4. Purchase a printer that will print on both sides of the paper. (approx. \$400)
5. Use reusable diapers instead of disposable. The cost for 2 years of

reusable diapers is \$200-\$300. Two years of diaper service can be \$1,400 and the cost for two years of disposable diapers is \$1,600.