#breakfreefromplastic

# WASTE AUDIT METHODOLOGY

**What you need:**

- Containers of a common volume (drums, pails, or standard-size bags)
- ground sheet / tarp
- tongs for picking up and sorting
- waste charts and forms

Volume is the key measurement for clean-ups, as plastic discards like polystyrene or plastic bags are lighter in weight but tend to occupy a lot of space.

1. Collect together all the wastes that are generated or found in the designated clean up area / site.

2. On your ground sheet, segregate the waste collected into separate piles according to the classifications listed in the Waste Classification Table found on page 2 of this form.

3. Choose a common container or pail of the same size. Measure the volume of the standard container and mark it on your form.

4. Using the standard container, determine the volume of each type of waste by counting and tallying the number of filled containers per type. Be careful not to compress or flatten too much the piles of waste inside the containers when estimating the volume.

5. Enter the data immediately into the forms after each measurement.

Additionally, try to document the collected waste with photographs. Of course: as well as you possible can, deposit all waste collected and tallied into local waste management or recycling systems.

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# WASTE CLASSIFICATION TABLE

| | |
|---|---|
| **Composite/Multi-layered packaging** | e.g. Shampoo packets, toothpaste sachets, coffee sachets, “foil”-type or multilayer wrappers or bags, shelf-stable containers (i.e. Tetra Pak), etc. |
| **Single-layer plastics** | Clear flexible wrappers, clingfilm, six-pack rings, tubing, etc. |
| **Plastic Bags** | Polythene bags (e.g. t-shirt bags or retail plastic bags), clear or opaque |
| **Hard plastic containers & jugs (HDPE)** | e.g. Shampoo or lotion bottles, condiment bottles, milk jugs, etc. (usually designated by the #2 printed at bottom of container) |
| **Polystyrene** | e.g. Hard or “foam” plastics: food containers, cups, utensils / cutlery, etc. (usually designated by #6 printed at bottom of container) |
| **Polypropylene (PP)** | e.g. yogurt tubs, bottle caps, etc. (usually designated by the #5 printed at bottom of container) |
| **PET plastic** | Soda bottles, water bottles, juice bottles (usually designated by the #1 printed at bottom of container) |
| **PVC plastic** | PVC plastic can be rigid or flexible and is commonly used as pipes, wrapping for bedding, deli and meats, shrink wraps, plastic toys, table cloths, shower curtains (usually designated by #3 printed at the bottom of the container) |
| **Drinking straws** | |
| **Diapers and sanitary pads** | |
| **Metals / Cans** | Aluminum drink cans, foil, metal food cans, other types of metals |
| **Glass** | All kinds of glass EXCEPT thermometers, light bulbs, medicine packs and bottles, medical supplies |
| **Paper / cartons / cardboards** | All kinds of paper products |
| **Biodegradable waste** | All kinds of bio waste, including organics, except paper and cartons |
| **Cigarette butts** | |
| **Textile** | All kinds of cloths, rags, clothing, fabric, etc. |
| **Ceramics** | Pottery, plates, mugs, ceramic figurines, etc. |
| **Hazardous waste** | Paint cans, light bulbs, batteries, etc. |
| **Medical waste** | Thermometers, syringes / sharps, other materials from hospital treatment, infectious items, etc. (Note: common household medical items and pill containers should be classified by plastic type, above) |
| **Footwear** | Slippers and shoes |
| **E-waste** | Electronics, electronics accessories, cables, etc. |
| **Others** | Rubber, all other kinds of waste that don’t fall under the categories above |

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# WASTE AUDIT FORM - TOTAL

**Name of Organization:** _____ **Date of Audit:** _____
**Zone / Area Audited:** _____ **Country:** _____
**Name of Group Lead:** _____ **# Volunteers:** _____
**Type of Clean-up:** ○ Coast / Ocean ○ Shoreline / River ○ City / Land ○ School / Office
**Volume of Container:** _____

| **CLASSIFICATION** | **# CONTAINERS** (tally mark for each container filled, eg: 𝍸) | **TOTAL VOLUME** (= # of tally marks **x** container volume) |
|---|---|---|
| Composite / Multi-layered packaging | | |
| Single-layer plastics | | |
| Plastic Bags | | |
| Hard plastic containers & jugs (HDPE) | | |
| Polystyrene | | |
| Polypropylene (PP) | | |
| PET plastic | | |
| PVC plastic | | |
| Drinking straws | | |
| Diapers and sanitary pads | | |
| Metals / Cans | | |
| Glass | | |
| Paper / cartons / cardboards | | |
| Biodegradable waste | | |
| Cigarette butts | | |
| Textile | | |
| Ceramics | | |
| Hazardous waste | | |
| Medical waste | | |
| Footwear | | |
| E-waste | | |
| Other | | |
| | **TOTAL WASTE** | |

Remarks / Comments:

_____
_____
_____