



Project Instructions

Recycling @ Home

Summary

While you are at school, you work hard to recycle in your classroom, in the blue recycle bins around campus, and at the SCRAP cart. What about at home? Are you recycling, and are you recycling correctly? Why is it important to recycle? The most important reasons we recycle are to use less of Earth's precious resources, to keep our landfills from overflowing, and to keep pollution out of our oceans.

So many things can be recycled, such as cans, paper, cardboard, and glass. Once recycled, they are made into other products. Today you will be looking in your recycling bin to see what is being recycled and if you are recycling properly.



Watch this video to learn more about what your waste hauler does after they pick up your comingled recycling. <https://youtu.be/TomnkX7qIGQ>

Activity

1. Gather materials: one large plastic trash bag or tarp to cut open, your filled recycle bin, gloves (optional - if you don't want to get your hands dirty)
2. Print out the checklist below
3. Lay out the trash bag or tarp outside
4. Dump out the recycle bin contents onto the trash bag or tarp
5. Using the checklist, sort the recycled materials into appropriate categories
6. Fill out the questions on the checklist
7. Don't forget to make a sign to hang on your recycle bin listing the proper items that can be recycled!



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Activity Data Sheet

Look through your sorted piles of recycling and make a tally of how many of each item you find. Look to see if the items are cleaned out- no food scraps left in them. Also, sort out the contamination (the things that DO NOT belong in the recycle bin such as wrappers, food, or plastic bags).

Recycled Items	How many did you find?	Were they clean?
Carton Containers- milk, juice or soup cartons		
Mixed Paper- newspaper, junk mail, printer paper		
Styrofoam- egg cartons, carry out containers *Only recyclable in Encinitas*		
Aluminum- cans, tins, clean foil, soda cans		
Glass- jars, bottles, containers		
Paperboard- Cereal and other thin boxes		
Cardboard- thicker cardboard boxes		
#1-#7 Plastics- look for # on bottom of item (lids and caps too)		

- Rate how your family is doing with recycling at home from 1-10 (1-not recycling at all, 10 - recycling perfectly) Our recycling score is a _____
- What can be done to make your family a 10? _____
- What contamination did you find in your recycling? _____



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- Now peek in your trash can (you don't have to dump it out). What do you see that could have been recycled?_____
- Using the chart above, make a chart to hang on your recycle bin that reminds your family about what can be recycled!

Other Resources About Recycling

Encinitas Residents:

<https://www.edcodisposal.com/corporate/recycling-information/>

Carlsbad Residents:

<https://www.wm.com/content/dam/wm/documents/RecyclingResources/Posters-Guides-Tools/Recycling-Myths.pdf>

City of San Diego:

<https://www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/recycling/residential/curbside/no>