



Waste Audit Directions

- Step 1 - Choose which room(s) you will be collecting waste from, and for how many days. Make sure to have your containers ready to collect the waste in. We recommend starting with your kitchen, bedroom, and/or office first. You may collect for one day, or for three. It's up to you!
- Step 2 - Room by room, collect the waste at the end of every day and set aside to audit the next morning. Remember, each room gets its own individual bin. You may find it helpful to label the bins so you remember what room and day the waste is from.
- Step 3 - At the start of the next day, prepare your audit space by laying down the floor covering. Put on your gloves (optional), and take one item out at a time. Group the items on the floor by category: Plastic, Paper, Glass, Aluminum Cans, and Other. Consider taking a photo of your piles of waste. Record your findings from the bin on Keep Philly Beautiful's Waste Audit Form, or on a piece of paper. Repeat this process for every room you are auditing.
- Step 4 - Once all items from the day are recorded, put the waste into the correctly labelled trash bag, either "recycling", "trash", or "compost". You'll want a new sample of waste from the room bins every day. If we don't put these items in their own bags, we risk combining old samples with new ones. Remember, plastic bags NEVER go in your recycling bin. At the end of the experiment, remove all recyclable items from the trash bag and put them back into your recycling bin.
- Step 5 - Complete the Waste Audit questions on the Waste Audit Form and reflect on what you saw. Consider sharing a video with Keep Philly Beautiful and/or on social media (with your parents permission, of course) to tell everyone what you learned: @KeepPhiladelphia Beautiful (Facebook and Twitter), @mybeautifulphl (Instagram), and use #mybeautifulphl. Or, e-mail your observations and any photos you took during the process to info@keepphiladelphiabeautiful.org.



Waste Audit Supply List

- Printed out Audit Form or several pages of blank paper
- Pen or Pencil
- Towel or floor covering
- Sorting bins for daily collection
- One to three days worth of trash, collected and separated at the end of each day, from one or more rooms of your home
- Trash bags (marked with tape or marker to show “Trash” or “Recycling”. “Compost” bag is optional).
- Scale (optional)
- Philadelphia recycling guide (philadelphiastreet.com/recycling)