

Household rubbish audit

What you need

- 3-5 days' worth of your household rubbish
- Gloves
- Tarpaulin or wind free area outside to put rubbish on ground
- Waste audit data sheet and pen



How to do it

1. You will need to conduct two waste audits, both will measure 5 days of your household rubbish. The first audit is done just after your first training workshop with your mentor. The second audit is done two months later to see how your rubbish composition has changed.
2. Set aside your rubbish for five days. Do not include your regular recycling into the rubbish audit. We are measuring only what would be thrown out in your rubbish.
3. Record how many rubbish bags you have collected. Number does not have to a whole number eg. 1 and ½ or 1.5 bags
4. Find a wind free location where you can tip your rubbish out. A tarpaulin helps.
5. Tip out the contents of all the bags and begin to sort them into piles of rubbish, recyclable items and compostable material. The piles should be of approximately even height and density. Note that some items may be recyclable elsewhere but are not currently collected in Whangarei ie. Ice cream containers. Consider re-using or avoiding wasteful and non-recyclable packaging.



Waste categories

Compostable Materials	Recyclable Materials	Non-recyclable (Rubbish)
Food waste	Steel cans (clean)	Plastic wrap, plastic bags
Garden Waste	Aluminium cans	Foil packets
Food contaminated paper	Aerosol cans (must be empty!)	Polystyrene/Foam
Paper towels	Glass Bottles & Jars	Packaging and trays
Coffee grinds/Tea bags	Plastic 1 (Soft drink/Water bottles and clean	Tetrapak cartons
Wood Ash	clear meat trays)	Paper coffee cup
Compostable packaging	Plastic 2 (Milk bottles, Cleaners, Shampoo,	Soft drink takeaway cups
that says home	dish-wash liquid containers etc)	Straws and plastic cutlery
compostable	Cardboard	Ice cream, yogurt
	Paper	containers

		Plastic lined paper Disposable Nappies
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- If you are unsure if an item is recyclable then look up your local recycling guide on the council website Whangarei District Council or ask your mentor.
- If you are unsure if an item is compostable then ask your mentor or research online.

6. Then determine the approximate percentage of each category. See the diagram below

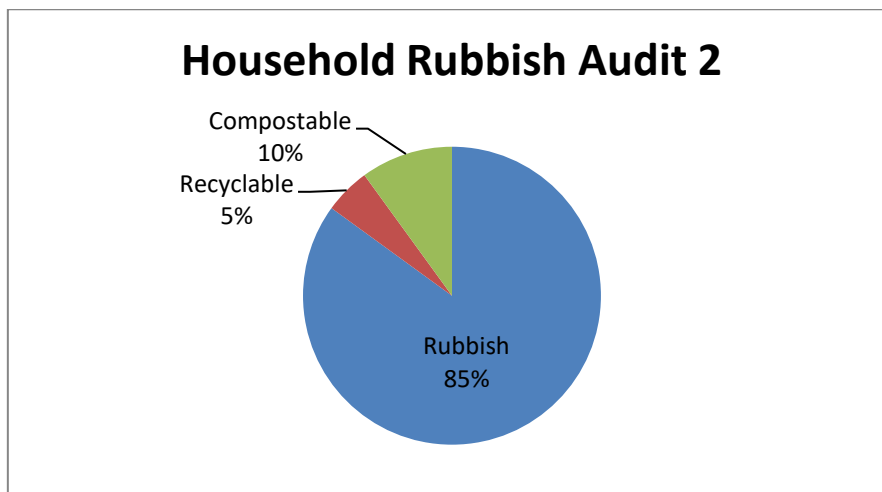
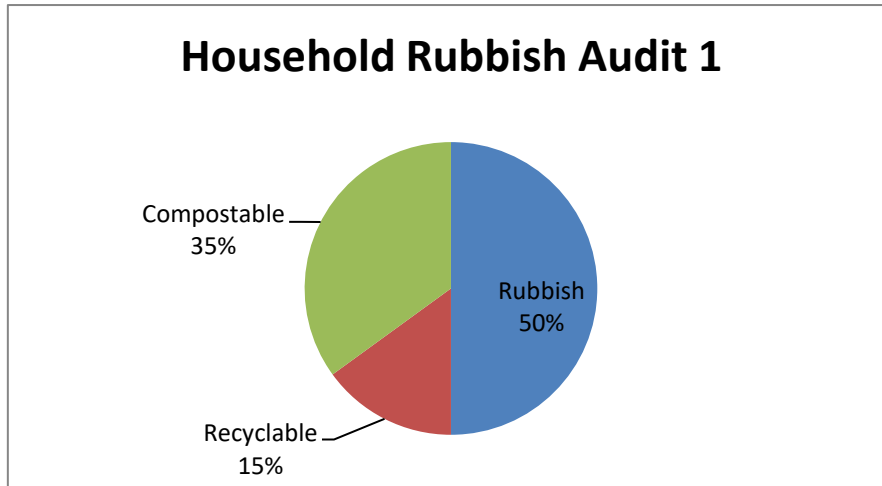


7. Record your results on the table the same as the one below found on your data sheet.

My rubbish audit results (example)

Audit	Date	Location	No. of rubbish bags	% compostable	% Recyclable	% Rubbish
1st	2/8/17	38 Eden terrace, Kamo	2	35	15	50
2nd	3/10/17	38 Eden terrace, Kamo	1	10	5	85

8. On the data sheet provided enter your approximate percentages into the pie chart and divide the chart into sections representing those percentages– similar to the example below. Notice how the percentages may have changed in your second audit. Less compostable and recyclable material in your rubbish is the aim.



9. Return the data you have gathered to your mentor. If you have any questions at all please contact your mentor they will be happy to help with any advice about conducting a waste audit or setting up your new composting system.

10. Begin your journey to zero waste!