



Home Waste Audit & Sorting Activity

Think you and your family are GURU recyclers and/or composters?! Check out the activities below (two options for those who get squeamish) to see how you level up when it comes recycling or composting!

Or maybe you've talked about composting at home for awhile and this is your chance to learn, as an individual or family, what goes where and why!

Activity Option #1: Real Sort

Supplies needed:

- Your household "garbage" (recycling, compost, landfill) materials (one day to a week worth)
- Tongs
- Plastic/rubber gloves or washable gloves
- Tarp, large piece of cardboard, old sheet (optional)
- An outside area to dump the materials (or for smaller sorts, inside works!)
- Paper
- Pencil
- Recycling, Compost, and Landfill posters from Napa Recycling (online download)
- Audit sheet (online download)

Please remember to not include bathroom waste and to wear closed toed shoes, gloves, and eye protection while sorting. Garbage should only be handled when spread out on a flat surface tarp to avoid unknown contact with sharp objects.

Activity #1: Talking Trash!

1. Have available the recycling, compost, landfill **posters** from Napa Recycling for reference or have the **website** pulled up to use the search tool – this way when in doubt, you find out!
2. Gather one day's (or up to one week!) worth of "garbage" from your home and empty it onto a tarp/flat surface (or equivalent) outside. (some people prepare by collecting all the materials the day before in one container).
3. Begin sorting items into piles – Recycling, Compost, Landfill, Other (use your audit sheet, if you like!)
4. What items confuse you? Put them to the side to use the search tool on Napa Recycling and take a picture of it to post #EarthDayNapa #NapaRecycles – so we can know too!
5. Eye how much of each "stream" (rec/compost/landfill/other) of "garbage" you have and make a pie chart.



6. What does your garbage look like – snap a photo and tag it #NapaRecycles #EarthDayNapa
7. Clean up! Put items in their correct containers and then wash your hands!
8. Were there items that could be reused? In the wrong spot? You didn't know? Or were you a guru!?

Activity Option #2: Picture Sort

Supplies needed:

- Print Outs linked on our website titled “Home Audit Print Outs for Activity Option #2”
- Scissors
- Tape/Glue
- Four Pieces of Paper: Recycling, Compost, Landfill, Other
- Pencil/Coloring Crayons/writing utensil
- Recycling, Compost, and Landfill posters from Napa Recycling (online download)

Activity #2: Talking Trash! (print outs)

- Have available the recycling, compost, landfill **posters** from Napa Recycling for reference or have the **website** pulled up to use the search tool – this way when in doubt, you find out!
- Print out the provided sheets for What Goes Where?
- Begin sorting items into piles – Recycling, Compost, Landfill, Other on your pieces of papers labeled as such.
- What items confuse you? Put them to the side to use the search tool on Napa Recycling and take a picture of it to post #EarthDayNapa #NapaRecycles – so we can know too!
- Clean up! Put cut outs in the recycling or compost bin!