



5-7



Rubbish check

Do you know how much rubbish is thrown away in your school each week? This activity will help you find out.

There are lots of different types of rubbish. In your school, rubbish will usually be thrown away from the following places, and could include all sorts of different materials:

- Canteen – food scraps and rubbish packaging
- Classroom – scrap paper, empty paint pots, old pens
- Playground – snack wrappers, drinks cans and bottles
- Science labs – chemicals, broken glass, paper towels

What you will need

Bin bags, gloves, tongs, magnets, rubbish bins, plastic sheets



What to do

1. Design a 'tally sheet' to put by the classroom bin for a week – every time someone throws some rubbish in get them to mark it on the sheet.

Example waste tally

Waste Type	Amount
Cardboard	III
Glass	I
Metal (aluminium)	II
Metal (steel)	IIII
Organics (food)	II
Paper	IIII
Plastics	IIII
Textiles	I
Mixed / not sure	II

2. Use the tally to do a rubbish check of the playground bins and school canteen bins. Find a space and empty the bin onto a plastic sheet – remember to wear protective gloves and be very careful of sharp rubbish.



5-7



3. Sort the rubbish into the following categories:
 - Paper and cardboard
 - Plastic
 - Aluminium
 - Steel
 - Glass
 - Organic – food, leaves
 - Textiles
 - Mixed / not sure
4. Which type of rubbish is thrown away the most?
5. Which rubbish can be recycled?
6. Where are the rubbish bins in your school? – draw a plan of the school showing the bins.
7. Are these bins in the best place? Are they used too little or too much? Do you have room for different bins for each material? Look at your plan and decide whether you could move bins or add some more.
8. If you do have space for recycling, contact some of the following organisations who can tell you more about setting up a school recycling scheme:
 - www.alucan.org.uk – recycling aluminium
 - www.scrib.org – recycling steel
 - www.britglass.co.uk – recycling glass
 - www.bpf.co.uk – recycling plastic
 - Your local recycling officer (look in the phone directory, under your local council)
9. TELL EVERYONE! Let the rest of the school know where and how they can recycle their rubbish – make posters or ask your teacher if you can organise a school assembly on recycling.

