

Bin investigation



Fancy yourself as a bin detective? Why not have a rummage through your bin to identify the different types of waste you are throwing away. It's super easy; all you need to do is follow these 3 steps and you'll soon know what you throw!

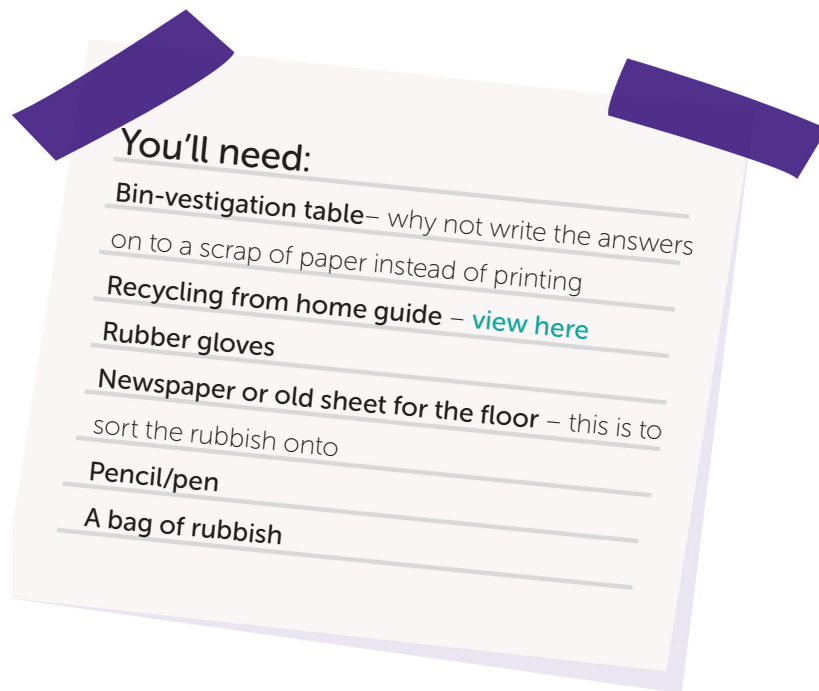
Step 1

Be prepared

Make sure you have the equipment needed to carry out the job.

Remember, you could be dealing with dirty rubbish so it's important to handle it with care and wear gloves. You can do this inside or outside, but if you're outside make sure none of it blows away!

Put an old sheet or newspaper on the ground or a table and take care to empty your rubbish out onto it.



Step 2

Get sorting



First separate your waste into different material types. Here are some ideas: plastic film, plastic packaging, cans, tins, crisp packets, paper, kitchen roll, food, sweet wrappers, etc.

Write the material types onto your sheet and record the number of items of this material you have found. For each type, have a think about how it could have been reduced, reused or recycled and write down any ideas in the table. When finished, pick out and wash any items for recycling or reuse, and make sure the rest goes back in your bin.

Tip

Some materials may have more than one option when it comes to reducing, reusing and recycling - see the examples overleaf.

Step 3

Get reducing

You should now have a good understanding of some of the most common things you throw away, and whether you are putting anything in the bin that could be recycled, reused or reduced by avoiding buying them in the first place.

Tip

Remember, check before you chuck! Could it be reduced, reused or recycled next time?

You can keep your bin-vestigation sheet as a personal record. Why not try making some changes and then do another bin-vestigation to see if there is any difference.

