

Binvestigation



Fancy yourself as a bin detective? Why not pick a disguise, get your kit ready and have a safe rummage through your bin to identify the different types of waste your family are throwing away.

It is super easy; all you need to do is follow these 3 steps and you'll soon know what you throw...

Step 1

Be prepared

Every good detective prepares themselves before entering a scene, make sure you have the equipment needed to carry out the job.

Remember you could be dealing with dirty waste so it's important to handle with care and wear gloves. And don't forget, you are doing a bin-vestigation so the gloves will also stop you leaving any fingerprints which could disturb the scene. If possible, do this outside but be careful not to create any litter!

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



Step 2

Get sorting

Firstly, separate your waste into different material types, here are some ideas; plastic film, plastic packaging, cans, tins, crisp packets, paper, kitchen roll, food you could have eaten (like leftovers or food that's past its best), food you couldn't have eaten (like peels, skins, pips and bones), sweet wrappers, etc.

Write the material types onto your sheet, record the number of items for this material and tick off whether it could have been reduced, reused or recycled. If you have any ideas of how then write these down too.

Tip Some materials may have more than 1 tick, see the examples on the Bin-vestigation table.

Step 3

Get reducing

You should now have solved the mystery and have an idea of what your family throw away. What could have been avoided? Was a lot of it food related? Why not try to reduce, reuse and recycle what you can so your bin is lighter the next time the crew pick it up.

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

When finished, why not rinse, squash and pop recyclables into your recycling box/bin and make sure the rest goes back into the waste bin.

