



Slim your Bin – Leader Instructions

The purpose of this activity is to confirm what can and what cannot be recycled from home, and then look at how you can reduce the amount of waste in your **residual** bin. Introduce this term if you have not already done so.

Resources

- 5 envelopes containing cards, showing some things we throw away.
- Display set and 5 sets of images of the containers for recycling and residual waste in your local area.
- Display set and 5 sets of additional images of a household waste recycling centre, a charity shop and a compost bin.

Activity 1

- Place on each table an envelope of cards, a set of container images, and a set of the 3 additional images
- Ask your group/students to share the contents of the envelope between the people sat at their table.
- Ask them to put the images of the containers in the middle of the table and for now, put the 3 additional images to one side.
- Ask them to place their cards on the container they think they should go in. Explain that some of the items are too big to actually fit in a bin, but if they cannot be recycled then they must be placed in the residual container.
- When all the cards are used up, go through the exercise with the group/students and show which container the cards should go in.

Tell them to clear away all the recycling, but leave out the **residual** bin and its contents. Explain to the group/students that we are now concentrating on reducing the amount we put in our **residual** bin.

Activity 2

Ask the group/students now to put their 3 additional cards out.
Ask them to see how they can further reduce their residual waste.

The only things remaining in the bin should be:-

Food trays (Styrofoam)

Margarine tubs

Nappies

Plastic egg trays

Yoghurt Pots

Then remind the group/students that they have a choice what they buy and should avoid buying items with non-recyclable packaging.

Slim Your bin – answers

Mixed recycling container	Garden waste bin	Paper / card container	Residual bin
Aluminium drinks cans	Dead flowers	Junk mail	Plastic egg trays
Foil containers	Weeds	Magazines	Pet bedding (unless in home compost bin)
Plastic milk bottles	Grass cuttings	Newspaper	Waste food
Glass bottles	Twigs	Cardboard boxes	Margarine tubs
Steel food can		Cardboard egg trays	Yoghurt pots
Empty aerosols	Usual wrong additions:	Drinks / milk cartons (tetra pak)	Pyrex glass
Plastic bottles	<i>Pet bedding- may be contaminated so should put this in residual bin</i>	office paper	Food trays
Glass jars	<i>Vegetables / peelings – nothing that has been in the kitchen should go in the garden bin</i>		Nappies
Plastic shampoo bottles			Plastic wrapping
Usual wrong additions:	Home compost bin	Household waste recycling centres	Charity shops
<i>Pyrex glass – melts at higher temperature than normal glass so will contaminate glass recycling. Also should not put in drinking glasses, broken window / plate glass.</i>	All the above – You can home Compost you peelings as there is no risk of contaminating the wider environment as the compost will be used back on your garden.	Batteries	Furniture in good condition
			Mobile phones
<i>Paint cans –leaking of paint will contaminate the recycling</i>	<i>No cat / dog faeces</i>	Paint cans	Old shoes
	<i>No cooked food waste as may attract vermin</i>	Old fridges/ washing machines and other small electrical items <i>(many charities will not accept electrical items as they can't guarantee their safety)</i>	Old clothes