



The Waste Audit

- Determine types of material being thrown in the waste stream.
 - Over a 2-week to 4-week period, use only transparent garbage bags.
 - Enlist the assistance of custodial staff during this time to estimate the percentages of the various categories of material in the waste stream.
- or-
- Where unbagged articles are thrown directly into dumpsters, inspect the contents of the dumpster at regular intervals (i.e. - twice daily) to make a note of what is in the waste stream.
- If possible, actually weigh or estimate weights of different materials.
- Determine sources of various kinds of waste (i.e. - from one location or many locations).
- Determine which materials in the waste stream are recyclable.
- Analyze your organization's current solid waste management system based on the results of the Waste Audit. If certain items were recycled, could the size of the dumpster needed for solid waste disposal be reduced? Would fewer container pick-ups or pulls be required monthly?
- Document findings and recommendations, including the feasibility of recycling or not recycling certain types of materials, and the costs of setting up and operating the recycling program.

For Commercial Waste Audits

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Management Department**
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The Southern Waste Information Exchange (SWIX)
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