

1. Introduction

Proper waste segregation is one of the most important steps in creating a cleaner and more sustainable environment. EcoPickup aims to make waste management simple, efficient, and environmentally friendly for every household and community. This guide provides a detailed overview of common waste categories, their characteristics, and the recommended disposal methods. By understanding how to categorize waste correctly, citizens can help reduce pollution, improve recycling efficiency, and support a healthier ecosystem.

2. Major Categories of Waste

2.1 Organic Waste (Biodegradable Waste)

Organic waste includes all biodegradable materials derived from plants, animals, and natural decomposition. Common examples are fruit and vegetable scraps, leftover cooked food, tea leaves, eggshells, garden clippings, dried leaves, and spoiled fruits.

Disposal Method:

Organic waste should always be separated from dry waste. Place organic waste in green bins or composting containers. When composted properly, this waste becomes nutrient-rich fertilizer that can enrich soil and reduce the need for chemical fertilizers. Households are encouraged to practice home composting using bins or compost pits to reduce landfill load.

2.2 Plastic Waste (Recyclable Plastics)

Plastic waste is one of the fastest-growing waste streams. It includes PET bottles, food packaging, plastic covers, milk packets, detergent bottles, shampoo bottles, straws, single-use plastics, disposable plates, and spoons.

Disposal Method:

Plastic should always be rinsed to remove food residue. Clean and dry plastic items can be placed in blue recycling bins. Segregation improves the quality of recycling and prevents contamination. Avoid burning plastic as it releases toxic fumes. EcoPickup recommends reusing durable plastics wherever possible to minimize waste generation.

2.3 Paper Waste (Dry Recyclable Waste)

Paper waste consists of newspapers, magazines, notebooks, office paper, envelopes, cardboard boxes, paper packaging, and shredded documents.

Disposal Method:

Ensure paper waste is kept clean and dry. Wet or food-soiled paper cannot be recycled effectively. Stack newspapers and magazines neatly, flatten cardboard boxes, and tie

bundles before placing them for pickup. EcoPickup encourages schools and offices to adopt paper recycling programs to reduce deforestation and promote circular recycling.

2.4 Electronic Waste (E-Waste)

E-waste refers to discarded electronic devices and components such as mobile phones, chargers, laptops, earphones, batteries, remote controls, keyboards, and small appliances.

Disposal Method:

Electronic waste must **never** be thrown in general waste bins due to the presence of heavy metals like lead and mercury. E-waste should be stored separately and handed over only to certified recyclers. EcoPickup provides specialized e-waste pickup slots to ensure safe handling, dismantling, and recycling.

2.5 Metal Waste

Metal waste includes aluminum cans, tin containers, screws, bolts, steel utensils, aerosol cans, and metal packaging.

Disposal Method:

Clean the metal items before disposal to prevent rust and contamination. Store scrap metal separately and hand it over during scheduled recycling pickups. Metal recycling helps conserve natural resources and significantly reduces mining impacts.

3. Waste Segregation Best Practices

- Always separate waste at the source: **wet**, **dry**, **plastic**, **paper**, and **hazardous**.
- Wash recyclable items like cans, bottles, and boxes before disposal.
- Never mix glass with general waste; broken glass should be wrapped securely.
- Keep a small container for household batteries; dispose via dedicated e-waste channels.
- Label bins clearly to avoid confusion among family members or housekeeping staff.
- Reduce waste by choosing reusable bags, bottles, and containers.
- Compost biodegradable waste to reduce landfill accumulation.
- Avoid burning any type of waste.

4. EcoPickup Support

EcoPickup provides scheduled pickups for organic waste, plastic waste, paper waste, metal waste, and e-waste. Users can book pickup appointments anytime using the EcoPickup AI Assistant. For additional help or queries:

Email: support@ecopickup.org

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