

# So you want to do a Visual Waste Audit?

## What is a "Visual Waste Audit"?

A Visual Waste Audit is a procedure to help review waste generation, methods of disposal, waste characteristics and what could be improved.

To get your Visual Waste Audit started, here's what you need to do:

### Step 1

Make sure you have the proper equipment.



Trash



Tarp, work gloves, a reflective vest, & a rake

**Tip: Try to only grab trash in trash bags. Don't worry about loose trash you may find in trash cans!**

### Step 2

Dump out the trash onto the tarp and start separating the different types of trash.



**Types of trash:**  
recyclable plastic, metals, glass, paper & cardboard, non-recyclable trash, and organic waste.

### Step 3

Once you have all the types of trash separated, take a picture and guesstimate what percentage of each type of trash there is. Then, have your partner take a guesstimate.



Ensure that you and your partner agree on the percentages. Then, record your percentages on your spreadsheet.



## Step 4

Once done guestimating, rake all the trash back into a garbage bag for disposal.

Then, dispose of the collected trash as determined by your team.



**Tip:** I found it easiest to line a trash bag inside a small trash bin then rake the trash inside.



## Step 5

Once finished doing your Visual Waste Audits, your tarp will be dirty and in need of being hosed off.



The tarp can then be easily folded for storage and won't smell like trash!



**Great job! Please make sure you report your data, pictures, and return any borrowed equipment to your team leader.**

