

LESSON No.14



HOUSEHOLD WASTES

Do you need to clean your room daily? Yes, we need to clean our room daily. In the course of our daily activities we produce a lot of waste materials. The waste material, refuse or garbage makes the room untidy. Here is a list of commonly found waste materials.

Vegetable waste	Wrappers	Plastic bottle	
Paper pieces	Broken glass	Old rags	Bandages
Used battery/cell	Broken electric bulbs	Fused tube bulbs	
Used and exhausted stationery items.			

What are the waste materials produced from your house?

Make a list of those materials. _____

Do you produce waste materials in your school? Find the waste materials found in your school dust bin.

Write them. _____



How do you manage with the waste materials? Do you burn them? Do you put them in a garbage pit?

Some of the waste materials break down easily. They change to some other forms. These materials are known as degradable waste. Find out all the degradable wastes found in your house and school.

Make a list of them. _____

Some other waste materials do not degrade or hardly degrade. They are non-degradable waste.



Make a list of materials that can not be degraded easily.



Such materials might be solid or liquid.

Some waste materials can be reused. Some can be recycled. And some can be transformed into some useful forms.

Can you find the use of old cycle tubes, empty mineral water bottles, used up ball pen refill, etc.?

Why do the rag pickers collect old battery, plastic, metal can, iron, etc.?



Waste materials can be categorised in different ways. Keeping the idea of waste management in mind we can categorise the wastes in the following categories. Appropriate methods of their disposal are suggested.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES CLASS- IV

Sl. No.	Categories of wastes	Appropriate method of disposal
1.	Degradable wastes: Vegetables, leaves, peels of fruits, garden litter.	Composting
2.	Recyclable wastes: paper, glass, the metals, plastic, old batteries.	Must be handed over or sold to Ragpickers.
3.	Toxic waste: chemicals, paints, broken CFL.	The wastes must be collected separately and left for the agencies to dispose off properly.

In rural areas, the waste materials are mainly biodegradable wastes. They decompose easily by natural processes. In urban areas the waste materials are mainly non-degradable. They do not decompose easily and take long time to decompose. They induce toxic and hazardous wastes.



Waste materials in Rural areas



Waste materials in Urban areas

Wastes should be disposed off properly without creating any harm in the environment.

If the waste materials are not disposed properly, it can lead to pollution in air, water and land.

Wastes should be managed in a scientific manner.

Composting is the process of natural decomposition of organic wastes. It is a useful solution to waste management.

How to make a compost pit?



- a. Select an airy place.
- b. Dig a pit.
- c. At the bottom of the pit make a layer of brick or concrete.
- d. Above the concrete layer put a layer of dry leaves or twigs.
- e. Put the organic waste including cow dung, garden soil layer after layer.
- f. Put water regularly to keep the matter moist.
- g. Turn the wastes for every fortnight to increase air movement.
- h. After a few days the colour of the matter changes into brownish black.

Now, it becomes good manure. It is ready to use.

Paper, plastic, glass, metal wastes can be recycled. Hand them over for recycling.