
Waste Characterization Sort Categories

WASTE CHARACTERIZATION STUDY SORT CATEGORIES

Category

Description

Paper

Corrugated Cardboard/ Kraft Paper

This component includes brown corrugated cardboard and brown kraft paper. Brown kraft paper is commonly used in grocery bags and lunch sacks. It is a tough brown wrap made from sulfate wood pulp. This material is primarily used in the construction of boxes (corrugated packaging) and art applications.

Newsprint

This component includes paper products printed on newsprint, with either black or colored ink. Local papers/regional publications (gazettes) and other newspapers were sorted into this category.

Office/Computer Paper

This component includes primarily high grade white paper, such as typing and copy paper. Computer paper includes outputs from printers that do not contain a carbon.

Glossy/Magazines

This component includes magazines and glossy paper such as posters and brochures. Glossy paper generally was composed of newspaper advertisement inserts.

Mixed Paper

This category covers any paper product not included in one of the previously mentioned categories. Mixed paper includes carbon paper, non-corrugated cardboard (chipboard), books, phone books, tissues, paper towels, napkins, paper plates, paper packaging, file folders, "junk mail," and cancelled checks. Non-corrugated cardboard is frequently seen in the form of cereal and shoe boxes; wax or plastic-coated cardboard is also included.

Plastics

Polystyrene

This component includes all expanded/unexpanded polystyrene materials used in electronics packaging and in food applications such as plates, coffee cups, and clam shell containers.

HDPE Containers

This component includes high density polyethylene plastic rigid containers used in beverage containers (e.g., milk, water, cider), liquid laundry detergent bottles, and 5-gallon HDPE buckets commonly used in construction.

PET Containers

This component includes polyethylene terephthalate plastic soda bottles, as well as plastic liquor and cranberry juice bottles. Other miscellaneous PET includes containers for mouthwash and cooking oil. Clear, as well as green and smoke-colored PET, were included in this category.

Category	Description
<u>Films</u>	This component generally includes film plastic, such as household plastic bags (e.g., trash and sandwich bags and plastic wrap), cigarette wrappers, and dry cleaning bags. Thin, as well as thick, film plastics (colored and clear), and other flexible sheet plastic resins were included in this category.
Poly Vinyl Chloride	This category includes poly vinyl chloride (PVC) resins such as food product containers and piping applications.
Mixed Plastics	This category covers other plastics not classified into the above categories. Common plastic types in the Mixed Plastics category were thermal-set plastics (e.g., fan shrouds and tail light assemblies), and disposable plastic items (e.g., pens, razors, empty disposable lighters, etc.).
<u>Glass</u>	
Glass Containers	This component includes food, beverage, and laboratory containers made of clear or colored glass.
Other Glass	This category includes the remaining glass materials found in the waste stream such as light bulbs, window panes, and automotive windshields.
<u>Metals</u>	
Aluminum (Recyclable)	This component is limited to aluminum beverage cans.
Ferrous	This component includes tin-coated steel cans (e.g., those used for food products) and miscellaneous cast iron, steel, or other ferrous metals.
Other Non-Ferrous	This category covers aluminum foil (uncontaminated with food), miscellaneous aluminum parts, aluminum window frames without screen or glass, and aluminum siding and guttering. Brass and pot metal also were sorted into this category.
<u>Organics</u>	
Lumber/Wood	This component includes all processed wood products such as plywood, trim, construction boards, and pressboard. Crates are included in this category.

Category**Description**

Textiles/Rubber/Leather

This component includes primarily carpeting, clothes, and shoes. Generally, any textile item, including contaminated rags, shirts, socks, underwear, pants, and bedding, are sorted into this category. Rubber items, including shoes, carpet padding (foam rubber), and heater hoses are included, as well as leather items (e.g., shoes, belts, hand bags, etc.).

Yard Waste

This component includes brush, leaves, and grass.

Food Waste

This component includes food related organic materials present in waste. Chicken carcasses, apple cores, hamburgers, and french fries are a few examples of the food waste encountered during sampling. Liquid food wastes, such as wine or pickle juice, were emptied from their containers into the food waste category before the containers were sorted into the appropriate category.

Diapers

This component consists solely of disposable diapers, which are manufactured using a combination of plastic (polypropylene) and paper.

Miscellaneous Organics

This category covers fine organic material left at the bottom of the sorting table once larger distinguishable materials have been sorted. The Miscellaneous Organics category might include small portions of contaminated (wet) paper, food, yard waste, and cigarette butts, which cannot be segregated and classified. Other materials found in the Miscellaneous Organics category are sawdust, dead animals, and animal wastes.

Miscellaneous Inorganics

This category covers other non-combustible materials, excluding Hazardous Materials (as defined below). Materials present in this category primarily are home construction wastes, such as dry wall, rock, plaster, fiberglass insulation, ceramic tile flooring, and asphalt composite shingles.

Hazardous Materials (Small Quantity)**Pesticides**

This component includes any packaged chemicals used expressly for the control of vermin or other pests.

Non-Pesticide Poisons

Any non-pesticide, non-fuel/paint items such as copier products including toner and liquid cleaners.

Paint/Solvent/Fuel

This component includes materials used for coating, cleaning, or as a fuel source.

Category	Description
Automotive Products	Includes materials generated through the operation and maintenance of automobiles and trucks such as oil filters, antifreeze, and air filters.
Dry/Wet Cell Batteries	This component includes household dry cell batteries, such as AAA, AA, C, D, and 9-volt sizes, as well as wet cell batteries.
Miscellaneous Materials	Covers hazardous materials non-inclusive to the above categories. An example would be a syringe or assorted medicines.
<u>Special Wastes</u>	Automobile tires and bagged medical wastes were included in this category.