

# Test your recycling knowledge

1. The average family of four will throw out \_\_\_\_\_ kilograms of garbage in a year.
2. The four Rs of effective waste management are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. What percentage of the food we buy will end up in the garbage? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Recycled glass can make up what percentage of the content of new glass materials? \_\_\_\_\_
5. We each use more than \_\_\_\_\_ kilograms of paper and paperboard products a year.
6. What percentage of our household waste is made up of packaging material? \_\_\_\_\_
7. A baby born in Ontario will tend to generate \_\_\_\_\_ tonnes of waste in his or her lifetime.
8. Which are the three basic ingredients for good composting? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.



9. The average household produces an average of \_\_\_\_\_ kilograms of newspapers a month.
10. Every time we recycle one tonne of steel cans, we save \_\_\_\_\_ tonnes of iron ore.
11. It takes how many litres of water to make one tonne of steel? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Recycling one tonne of newspapers saves \_\_\_\_\_ trees.
13. Which of the following are NOT very suitable additions to your compost? egg shells, orange peel, brazil nut shells, coffee grounds, chicken fat, grass trimmings.
14. "Individuals have little impact on rates of resource depletion." Is this statement true or false?

## ANSWERS

1. *Over 1460 kilograms of garbage.* Discarded garbage is very expensive in many ways. In direct terms, we use land for fill purposes which may otherwise serve more useful and long-term purposes. We are also throwing away still more of our limited resources, particularly metals and even the technically renewable ones, like wood and paper.
2. *Reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery.*
3. *Twenty per cent.* Bread crusts and other assorted leftovers may adorn the garden lawn as a treat for the birds and squirrels, but there are other ways.
4. *Up to 70 per cent for green bottles and 20 to 30 per cent for clear bottles.* Glass makes up eight per cent of total residential waste. Since it takes less energy to make new glass from old glass, we not only save on fuel consumption, but stack emissions are reduced.
5. *216 kilograms or more.* Recycling paper makes good sense in many ways.

It can make a high quality, competitively priced paper product. It eliminates the need for expensive landfill, creates jobs in the recycling trade, conserves trees and decreases energy and other costs involved in hauling the material to the paper mill.

6. *Thirty per cent or more.* This can be reduced in a number of ways by using refillable or recyclable containers, such as plastic milk jugs; by buying in bulk, one large box creates less waste than two small ones; by reusing packaging where possible; by purchasing unpackaged or least packaged goods. Shopping in a farmers' market locale can help in this.

7. *50 tonnes of solid waste.*

8. *Organic material, air and water.*

9. *Nearly 14 kilograms.* The total quantity of waste newspapers generated in Ontario is about 905 tonnes a day. Mills making use of deinking technology will use upwards of 108,000 tonnes a year of such waste in the manufacture of "new" product.

10. *1.5 tonnes.* This is not to mention the energy equivalent of 567 litres of oil that would otherwise be consumed in the manufacture of steel from iron ore.

11. *More than 250,000 litres.*

12. *19 trees per tonne.*

13. *Chicken fat.*

14. *False.*

### HOW DID YOU SCORE?

If you scored . . .

10 or more correct, you are already on the way to helping build a new future.

five to nine, show some degree of awareness. Now all you have to do is to build on it.

four or less, you are missing out on a great deal. What are you going to do about it?

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