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Bin It to Win It: Green Waste Sorting Game Family Exploration

OVERVIEW

Sorting items into the trash, recycling, and organics bins is one of the easiest and most powerful ways that Orange County families can care for our environment. This printable card game invites everyone to become a master waste sorter.



WHAT YOU'LL DO

As you and your family play the card game, you'll practice sorting different kinds of waste into the three types of bins that you have at home: a green organic waste bin, a blue recycling bin, and a brown trash bin.

Different items score different amounts of points. But be careful: some may be tricky!

If you ever need help, you can always spark a conversation or check your waste hauler's official "What Goes Where" service guide. After you're done with the cards, don't forget: you can recycle them in a paper bag or mix the cards into your compost.



WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

By participating in this activity, you'll learn how to:

- Identify which everyday food scraps and household materials go in the organics bin, recycling bin, and trash bin.
- Use information from your local waste hauler to investigate tricky items.



WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- A printed set of waste sorting cards
- A printed set of bin cards
- Scissors (to cut the cards apart)
- A device with internet access



WHY THIS MATTERS

When food scraps and other organic waste decompose in a landfill, it can create methane — a gas that harms air quality and contributes to climate change.

When we sort food scraps and organic waste into the organics bin, they are sent to a special area within the landfill where they can break down in a much healthier way. These materials are turned into compost, which helps build healthy soil, supports gardens, and keeps our communities cleaner and greener.

California's [Senate Bill 1383 \(SB 1383\)](#) aims to reduce the amount of methane that our state produces by requiring that food scraps, yard waste, and other organic materials stay out of the trash. That means your local waste hauler is part of the team, helping families divert organic waste so that it can be composted.

Most waste haulers in Orange County accept items like fruit and vegetable scraps, dairy, meat, coffee grounds, eggshells, and yard trimmings in the green organics bin. Some haulers also take food-soiled paper, while others do not. Because the rules vary by city, it's always best to check what your local hauler accepts. That's why practicing through this game can help!



ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS: CARD SORTING GAME

Step 1: Find Your Local Waste Hauler

What can go in your organic waste bin may be different depending on where you live! Check out oclandfills.com/residential-haulers to find your local waste hauler.

Next, visit oclandfills.com/organics to get your waste hauler's service guide. This will be your ultimate reference during the game. Make sure to keep the service guide hidden until it is time to check an answer!





Step 2: Review the Different Bin Types

Before you start sorting, get to know your three bin cards:

- **Green Organics Bin:** This is where you put anything that can be composted.
- **Blue Recycling Bin:** This is where you'll deposit recyclable materials.
- **Brown Trash Bin:** You'll put all other items that cannot be recycled or composted here. These items will go to the landfill.



Step 3: Play the Game

To set up the game, place the three bin cards on the table. Shuffle the item cards and place them face down in a draw pile.

Start by drawing an item card. The first player must declare which bin the item belongs in and place the card under the correct bin.

The next player can either challenge the previous player's sorting choice or draw their own card. Use your waste hauler's service guide to check your answers.

When a card is correctly sorted, the player receives one point. If challenged and corrected, the challenger gets the point. If both are wrong, no one gets a point.

Be careful! There are special "tricky" cards among the other items. When you pull a tricky card, you can either:

- Option A: **Guess** where the tricky item goes. If you get it right, you earn three points. If you guess wrong, one point is deducted from your score total.
- Option B: **Research** by checking your waste hauler's sorting guide to see how to sort the item. You will then receive two points for using your resources wisely!

Step 4: Determine the Master Sorter

Once all the items are sorted, count each player's point total. The player with the highest total score wins and is crowned the family's "Master Sorter!"



TAKE IT FURTHER

Did you enjoy playing the **Bin It to Win It** card game? Check out the **Kitchen Quest: Beginning Your Composting Journey** activity to try sorting your kitchen waste for real!



GAME RULES SUMMARY

Card Type	Description
Bin Category Card	These category cards represent the three-bin waste system that is used in Orange County. Place item cards and tricky cards under the bin cards.
Item Card	These cards represent an item that needs to be sorted under a bin card.
Tricky Item Card	These item cards also need to be sorted under a bin card, but they have a different point system from item cards. You can either guess (Option A) or research (Option B) to sort these cards.

Sorting Action	Points Awarded to Sorter
Basic Sort (Correct)	+1 point
Basic Sort (Incorrect, Challenged)	0 points (Challenger gets the point if they are correct. If both challenger and sorter are incorrect, no points are awarded.)
Tricky Item (Option A, Correct Guess)	+3 points
Tricky Item (Option A, Incorrect Guess)	-1 point (Challenger also gets deducted a point if they are incorrect.)
Tricky Item (Option B, Research)	+2 points



PROJECT
ZERO
WASTE

 |  **Waste&Recycling**



Trash

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WASTE

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Compost

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Recycle

Tricky



Chicken Bones



Greasy Pizza Box



Egg Shells



Apple Core



Fall Leaves



Food Scraps



Used Tissue

Tricky



Meat Trimmings



Old Art



Plastic Bottle



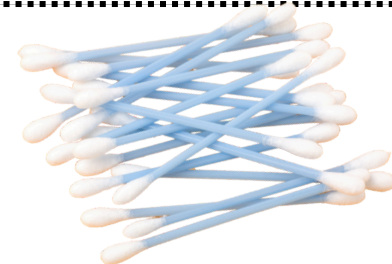
Aluminium



Glass



Toilet Paper Roll



Cotton Swabs



Plastic Bag

Tricky



Snack Bag



Pet Waste



Diaper



Styrofoam



Mask



Spoiled Fruit



Banana Peel



Candy Wrappers



Milk Carton



Uneaten Food



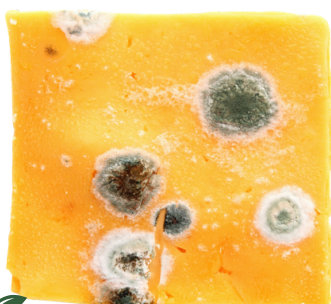
Cardboard Box



Soiled Paper Towel



Fish Bones



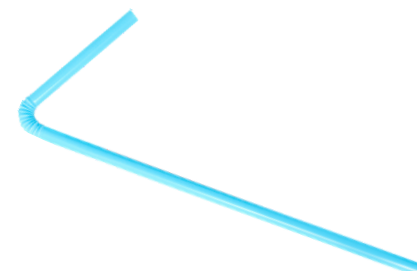
Spoiled Cheese



Coffee Grounds



Juice Box



Straw