

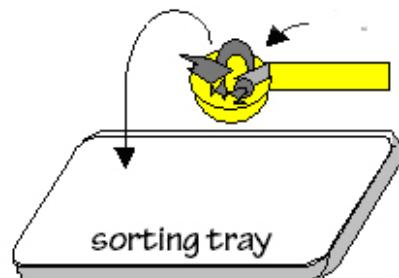
# Take Out the Trash

## Procedure:

1. Always wear safety goggles.
2. • Measure 1 heaping scoop of unsorted “trash” onto the rectangular sorting tray.
  - Spread out the trash on the sorting tray.
3. • Slowly pass the magnet over the trash in the tray. Use the magnet to separate all of the trash it can.

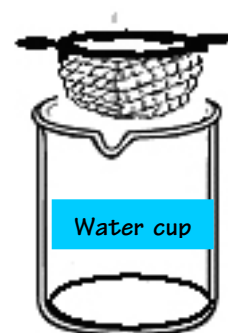
What kind of trash does it attract?

  - Put the metal trash you collected into the cup labeled “magnetic trash.”

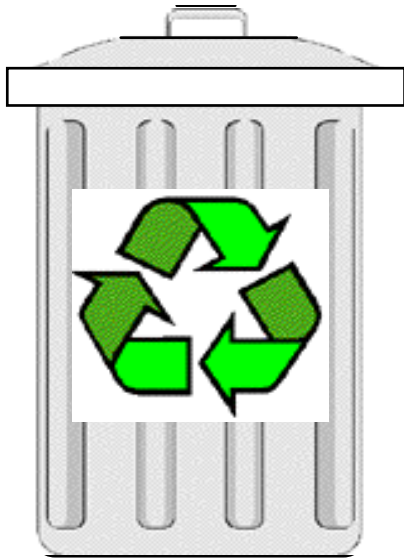


4. Place the strainer into the water cup.
5. Pour the trash that is left on the tray into the strainer. Stir once with the slotted spoon.

Which type of trash sinks and which floats?



6. • Use the slotted spoon to remove the floating trash.
  - Put the floating trash into the cup labeled “floating trash.”
7. Lift the strainer out of the water. Empty the strainer into the cup labeled “sinking trash.”



How is trash sorted for recycling?

## A Closer Look:



Before trash can be recycled, it must be sorted. The methods used to sort the trash in this experiment are also used in recycling centers.

Different physical properties, such as **magnetism** and **density**, are used to separate trash. Huge magnets separate steel items from plastic and other metals. Other trash is separated according to density differences into “sinkers” and “floaters.” Heavy, dense trash “sinks” while lighter trash “floats.”

Once trash has been completely sorted, it is usually broken down into small pieces and melted or reformed to make new items. Recycling trash protects the environment by reducing our use of landfills and by reducing our need for raw materials from the earth.