

WORKSHOP EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Built by The Home Depot Kids Workshop

April Recycling Truck

Ages 5-12

CONNECT.

The average person produces four pounds of trash every day. That's a lot of garbage! Out of this trash, three-quarters of it *could* be recycled. Unfortunately, most people actually recycle much less than this.

Did you know that anything made out of paper, plastic, metal, or glass can be recycled? Picture everything you threw in the trash yesterday. Is there anything you could have recycled instead?

During April, Earth Day is celebrated around the world to remind people to take care of our planet. To help celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, think about what you can recycle around your home and do something good for our planet.



INVESTIGATE.

Considering all of the trash that *should* be recycled, it's a good thing recycling trucks exist! Once recyclables are picked up, the recycling trucks bring them to a materials recovery facility where they are sorted so they can be made into new products.

Take a look at your Recycling Truck. What could be added to make sure as many materials as possible make it from your home to the materials recovery facility? (Hint: Recyclable materials are not put in garbage bags when they are thrown out!)

Without trash bags, it may be more likely that recyclables are lost or damaged before they arrive at their destination. To combat this, let's design a waterproof Recycling Truck cover to make sure the recyclables don't blow away or get destroyed by rain or snow.



You'll need:

- Your Recycling Truck
- Fabric
- Super glue
- Water guard spray
- Plastic wrap
- Velcro
- Scissors
- Spray bottle, filled with water

Before you create an actual cover, experiment with the waterproofing process:

1. Cut out four small squares of fabric.
2. Place one square aside. This will be your experiment's **control**. You won't add anything to this square, and you will be able to compare your pieces of fabric to this one to see which one has better results!
3. With an adult, follow the instructions on the water guard spray and spray another square of fabric.
4. Use the materials above and/or any other supplies in your home to waterproof the remaining two squares two different ways.
5. Once all four squares are ready, line them up in a row with your **control** square first. Then use the spray bottle to give all four squares one spray of water, then another spray, and so on... and observe how they react to each spray. Once a square has soaked through to the other side, remove it from the testing row. Continue until you have a waterproof winner!

INNOVATE.

Now that you've figured out how to make your fabric cover waterproof, consider how to use your materials to make it windproof, too. Keep in mind that you must be able to move the cover when you add and remove recyclables!

Keep track of your brainstorming using the checklist below:

- Waterproof: ____
- Windproof: ____
- Mobile: ____

When you have an idea for a Recycling Truck cover that is waterproof, windproof, and mobile, cut out the fabric and get to work. By the time you're done, you should have a weather-proof Recycling Truck that will help recycle more trash than ever before!

MAKE. CREATE. EXPLORE.

