

Ontario Waste Breakdown

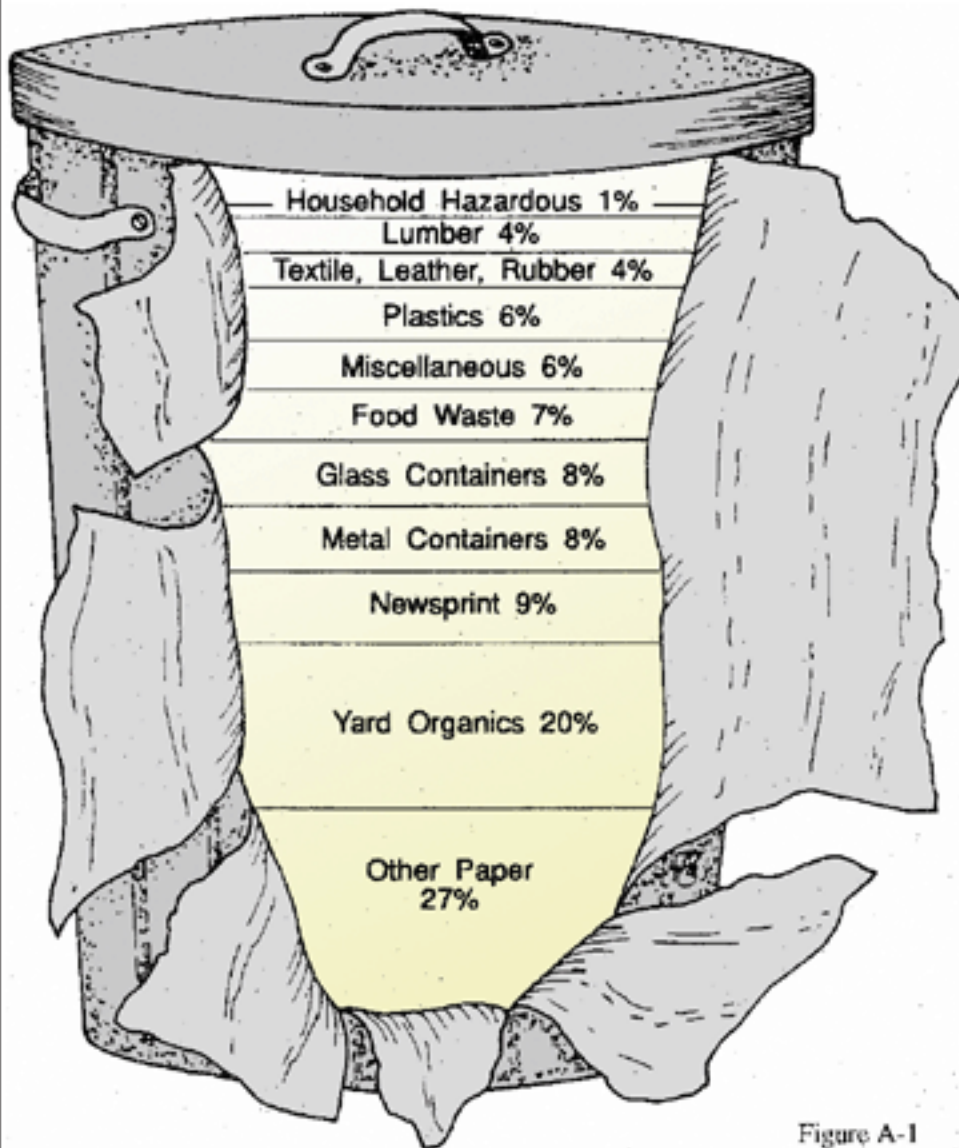


Figure A-1

Ontario generates close to 10 million tonnes of waste every year; this works out to be one tonne for each person in the province. Industrial/commercial/institutional (I.C.I.) sources produce 60% of our garbage. Hospitals, schools, offices, manufacturing facilities, restaurants and retail outlets are examples of I.C.I. waste producers.

The remaining waste, 4 million tonnes, is made in and around our homes. On average, each individual throws out one kilogram of household waste daily. The contents of a typical garbage can are shown in Figure A-1.

All the figures mentioned above are from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Energy and were the most recent available. Waste data is based on estimates that are affected by fluctuations in the economy, illegal burning, out of province

processing and disposal along with other uncontrollable factors. Even waste in some Ontario landfills is not properly tallied. Despite these variables, the statistics we have used are as accurate as possible.

Nearly one third of the country lives in Ontario. Most of these people are found in the southern portion of the province. Crammed in with all these people is a great deal of industry. Add in the fact that some of the country's most productive farmland is found in the Ottawa to Windsor corridor, and one can see space is at a premium.

The 10 million tonnes of waste we create has to fit in somewhere. Present landfills are quickly nearing the limit of their capacity. New landfills are becoming harder to locate and are meeting growing public opposition by neighbours of proposed sites. Waste incinerators have come under increased government restrictions, are perceived as hazards to the public and still do not eliminate all the waste. One of the solutions to our provincial problem is to follow the *waste management hierarchy* as outlined on pages A16 and A17.