

Solid Waste Management Guidelines For Places of Worship

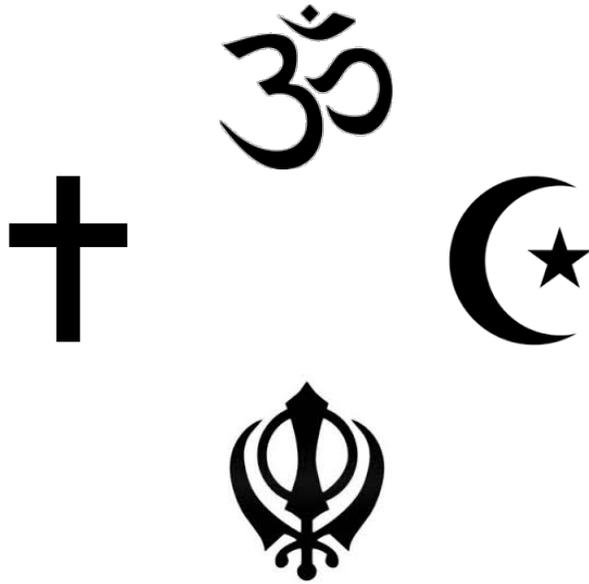


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Introduction

Temples are where we go to connect with our inner self, the sanctum sanctorum within us. While we place great emphasis on external purity when in a hallowed place of worship such as this, it is equally important that we maintain the precincts, free of garbage and litter as well. Segregation at source is very important to ensure that the waste does not end up polluting our panchabhutas or five elements. Temples have a big role in spreading this awareness to the swelling masses of devotees who visit everyday.

One big challenge is the rampant use of plastics even in temples. If we take care to avoid plastic and other non-perishable items on our temple visits, waste from our temples could be much better managed. This manual has clear and simple guidelines that make waste disposal in temples effortless.

There has been a case study already done by the “Swachh Mandir Abhiyaan” at Bangalore. 2bin1bag team with learning from the “Swachh Mandir Abhiyan” has proposed the following guidelines.

“These guidelines can be applicable for all places of worship, be it a hindu temple, mosque, gurudwara, church etc.”.

Special thanks to Mr. Ramakanth for his valuable inputs and support.

Steps to Initiate Segregation in Temples

1. Perform a waste audit to assess the category and quantum of waste generated.
2. Ban all non-recyclable items like thermocol cups and plastic covers in the temple premises. Have a clear “No Plastic Zone” policy. Instruct vendors and devotees to only bring cloth or paper bags.
3. Procure required size standard colour coded bins for all categories of waste.
4. Display segregation guideline posters near the respective colour coded bins.
5. Processing organic(wet) waste in-house is highly recommended.
6. Hire a Garbage Service Provider who can manage recyclable(dry) waste and reject waste.

Tips to Implement “No Plastic Zone”

1. Typical waste distribution in temple: 80% organic, 18% recyclable and 2% reject waste.
2. Banning plastic and non-recyclable disposable cups will make 100% segregation easy to implement.
3. Display “No Plastic Zone” boards along with penalty details in and around temple premises.
4. In case devotees bring plastic bags, Keep paper bags/basket at entry(possibly near shoe stand vendor) to replace them.
5. Use only organic plates/bowls for distributing prasad.

Guidelines for Segregation at Temples

Type of waste	Colour code	List of items	Recommended location of bins
Wet/ organic	Green	Fruits, flowers, leaves, kitchen waste, leftover oil from lamps, leaf plates and bowls, wood, ash, kumkum, turmeric, chandan, vibhuti/ash, incense sticks, camphor etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● kitchen and dining area. ● inside the sanctum where the priest can dispose compostable items. ● at the entrance and exit of the temple.
Dry/ Recyclable	Blue	Plastic wrappers, plastic covers, paper, milk sachets and any other recyclable materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● kitchen and dining area. ● inside sanctum for the priest to use ● at entrance and exit of the temple.
Reject	Red	Candles, earthen lamps, broken glass/sharps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Small Bin at the garbage collection point in the temple. There should be minimal amount of reject waste generated.
Electronic waste	Yellow	Bulbs, Tube Lights, CDs etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Small bin at the collection point. ● Need not be accessible to general public.

Organic Waste Management Solutions

Perform a thorough waste audit in order to determine quantum and category of waste generated. These two audit points, along with the space available for organic waste disposal will be taken into account for arriving at the best solution.

Following are the possible solutions for managing segregated organic waste. For dry and reject, the waste can be handed over to empanelled Vendor.

1. For big temples with few hundreds of kilograms of organic/wet waste generated daily, a biogas unit can be installed. This plan requires space depending on the size of the unit. The gas generated by the unit can be directly used in the kitchens for cooking.
2. Composting of waste using tank composting is a viable solution for medium sized temples. Requires the waste to be shredded. The temple can purchase an appropriate shredder or make use of one installed at a common location to be shared by other temples.
3. For smaller temples with only few kilograms of organic/wet waste generated, a khamba or Aaga from DailyDump.org will suffice .

***Note:-**

- Arecanut items if used at the temple, has to be shredded well before composting as it is quite tough.
- Coconut Shells – Can be collected separately and given away to vendor or made use of in the temple itself as firewood.
- Tender Coconut Shells – These can be dried and used as firewood in the temple. It can also be collected separately and disposed.
- There is a tender coconut shell and sugar cane waste processing unit coming up in next few days at “Freedom Park” in Bangalore. The segregated waste from the temple can be taken there once a week and handed over. This unit converts the waste into combustible bricks with high calorific value that can be used as firewood.



Waste Audit

Name of the establishment :

Type of waste	List of Items	Quantity in KGs/ Nos per day	Waste generated location (ex.kitchen)
Organic			
Recyclable			
Reject			
Electronic			
Disposables	Paper cups Plastic glasses Styrofoam bowls paper plates plastic cutlery Trash bags		

* This can help you to come up with a plan to reduce reject waste.

