

One for residual waste, one for organic waste and then a three-bin system for glass, paper and plastics – there are more trash cans than cook pots in my kitchen. OK, so I haven't always been so scrupulous about waste sorting, but I pursue it all the more vigorously now; I even wash my yogurt pots.

In the general day-to-day routine, this all works perfectly. But on vacation or business trips, there's still room for improvement. Yet, there is at least one principle that I stick to even when traveling: refuse doesn't belong in the environment. Many countries are already implementing waste-sorting-to-go. In Austria and Italy, for example, (my most recent travel desti-

Champions of Waste Separation – But Only at Home

nations) there are even containers for different waste types in public spaces.

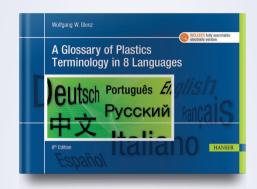
Even though we like to call ourselves "champions of waste sorting," in most German cities you will almost only find residual waste bins – at best. It is hardly surprising, then, that a new trend is growing up in many places: littering – the careless discarding of refuse in public areas. According to a study by Humboldt University, the reasons are convenience, laziness and indifference.

"The fact that these are not disposable products but valuable resources that can be recycled into new goods is not on many people's radar," commented the IK Industry Association for Plastic Packaging. This must be deliberately addressed. The Association also recommends more separate collection in public areas. And one or the other of you will know how that works whether you're at home or on vacation.

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