

RESIDENT PLATE WASTE GRAPH

STEPS TO COMPLETING THE RESIDENT PLATE WASTE GRAPH

1. The resident plate waste graph allows you to clearly see the amount of plate waste at each meal. This can show potential meal times for concern for groups of residents. Residents may eat more at breakfast because they have a bigger appetite. Giving the residents larger servings or more food options at this time may help the resident meet their dietary requirements because they are inclined to eat more.
 2. Each menu item is represented on the horizontal axis of the graph. Using the information recorded on the plate waste chart for individual residents, plot the amount of plate waste for each item on the graph for each resident. If the resident did not receive an item simply leave it blank. You will create a separate line for each resident.
 3. Repeat this process for each meal item consumed and for each resident.
 4. By plotting the pattern for each resident and comparing it against the lines of the other residents, you can see if there is a general need for food items to change. For example there may be a large amount of plate waste for a particular food item which may indicate the option is not popular with the residents.
 5. Ideally this process should be carried out for consecutive meals over a 3 day period ie breakfast followed by morning tea, lunch etc. However doing the process over one day is also useful.
- Ideally there should be a moderate amount of plate waste left over from each meal. It is best if most plate waste lies around the quarter circle level.
 - Having little to no plate waste (an empty circle) is not ideal because it may mean that residents are not being offered enough food.
 - Excess plate (more than 1/4 circle shaded) may mean too much food is being catered for and is wasted cost. It might also mean that the resident doesn't like this option and an alternative should be considered.

