



Department of
Environmental

Recycling Works!

Remember the 3 R's

Reduce:

The best way to manage waste is to not produce it. Shop carefully and be aware of a few guidelines.

- Buy in bulk. Larger, economy-size products or ones in concentrated form use less packaging and usually cost less per ounce.
- Avoid disposable goods, especially ones packed with several such as foil, paper, and plastic. They are difficult to recycle, plus you pay more for the package.
- Buy durable goods - ones that are well-built or that carry good warranties. They will last longer, save money in the long run and save landfill space.
- At work, make two-sided copies when ever possible.
- Maintain central files rather than using several files for individuals.
- Remove your name from the mailing lists of materials you no longer want to receive
- Use cloth napkins instead of paper napkins and use a dish cloth instead of paper towels.



Reuse:

It makes economic and environmental sense to reuse:

- Reuse grocery bags or bring your own cloth bags to the store. Do not take a bag from the store unless you need one.
- Plastic containers and reusable lunch bags are great ways to take lunch to work without creating waste.
- Don't throw out clothes, toys furniture, and other things that you don't want anymore. Somebody else can probably use them.
- Use all writing paper on both sides.
- Use silverware and dishes instead of disposable plastic utensils and plates
- Store food in reusable plastic containers.

Recycle:

Many of the things we use every day, like paper bags, soda cans, and milk cartons, are made out of materials that can be recycled. Recycled items are put through a process that makes it possible to create new products out of the materials from the old ones.

In addition to recycling the things you buy, you can help the environment by buying products that contain recycled materials. Many brands of paper towels, garbage bags, greeting cards, and toilet paper, to name a few examples, will tell you on their labels if they are made from recycled materials.

In some towns you can leave your recyclables in bins outside your home, and a truck will come and collect them regularly. Other towns have recycling centers where you can drop off the materials you've collected. Things like paper and plastic grocery bags, and plastic and aluminum cans and bottles can often be brought to the grocery store for recycling. Whatever your system is, it's important to remember to rinse out and sort your recyclables!