

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

When you're thinking about what you can recycle, it's also important to first think about all the three "R's": Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Reduce

5 Steps to Reducing Waste

The less demand we create for goods, the less will be produced, and therefore the less waste will be produced. Before purchasing items, decide if you really need it. If it will spend more time hanging in the closet or sitting on a shelf, perhaps it is an unnecessary item. One dollar out of every \$11 that Americans spend for food goes for packaging.

- Be a smart shopper and buy products and shop at stores that require less packaging.
- Buy products made from recycled content when possible, or items from second-hand stores.
- Buy products with packaging that can be recycled in your area.
- Buy items that last longer, even if they might cost a little more.
- Buy in bulk. You'll usually get your items cheaper, too.

Reuse

6 Steps to Reusing What You've Got

- Before purchasing something, check to make sure something you have won't work just as well. That will save you money and storage room, too!
- Reuse food containers after they have been thoroughly cleaned.
- Donate unwanted goods to charity or have a yard sale rather than throwing old items away.
- Find alternative uses for your trash, such as using plastic grocery bags as small trash can liners or lunch bags.
- Store nails and screws in used glass bottles.
- Turn used computer paper over and print on the back side, or use it as scratch paper for notes or grocery lists.

Recycle

What will be made from your recyclables? Each year, Americans throw away enough motor oil to fill 120 supertankers, enough plastic soda bottles to circle the Earth four times, and enough office paper to build a 12-foot high wall of paper from New York to Los Angeles. These items are all recyclable!

Old Newspapers become: new newsprint, boxboard, cellulose insulation, animal bedding and more.

Glass becomes: glass containers, roadbase aggregate, road surfaces, fiberglass production, glass beads in reflective paint and more.

Plastic Soda Bottles become: fiberfill for ski jackets and sleeping bags, carpeting, paint brush bristles, surfboards, sailboat hulls and more.

Plastic Milk Jugs become: flowerpots, trashcans, traffic cones, pallets, detergent bottles, drainage pipes, plastic yard furniture, toys and more

See the full list of what is made from recyclables [here](#).

What Is Made From Recycled Materials?

Only when materials are reused or returned to use in the form of raw materials or products is the recycling loop completed.

Aluminum Cans	More aluminum cans
Aluminum (other)	Aluminum auto parts, aluminum transmissions, lawn furniture, siding and gutters
Newspapers	Newsprint, gypsum wallboard liner, animal bedding, cellulose insulation, tube and core board, cat litter, recycled box-board, hydro-mulch, carpet underlaying, sub-flooring, custom fiber asbestos replacement
Magazines	Cardboard, paperboard boxes, newsprint
Phonebooks	Insulation, gypsum board (sheetrock), chipboard
Paper Bags	Cardboard, more paper bags, chipboard
Corrugated Cardboard	Paper hand towels, paper industrial wipes, folding cartons, corrugated boxes, gypsum wallboard, paper tubes, cans and drums, insulation materials, molded products: egg cartons, fruit trays, flower pots and industrial/building products
High Grade Office Paper	Toilet and facial tissue, paper napkins, paper towels, diapers, other sanitary products
Computer Paper	Sanitary products, paper plates
Steel Cans	Steel cans, appliances; refrigerators, car parts, other industrial steel products

Glass Bottles & Jars	More glass jars, beer & soft drink bottles
Mixed Glass Bottles & Jars	Glassphalt, fiberglass, road-base aggregate, storm drain filler, abrasives, glass foam and glass beads for reflective paint
Plastic Soft Drink Bottles (PET #1)	Fiberfill for ski jackets and sleeping bags, polyester carpeting, paint brush bristles, more PET containers, strapping, non-food bottles/containers, geotextiles, surfboards, sailboat hulls, industrial paints
Plastic Milk Jugs (HDPE #2)	Flower pots, trash cans, traffic barrier cones, pallets, curbside recycling bins, detergent bottles, soda bottles base caps, drainage pipes, animal pens, drums/pails, matting, milk bottle carriers, plastic yard furniture, toys
Plastic Grocery Bags (LDPE #4)	Plastic trash bags
Polystyrene (PS #6)	Egg cartons, hard plastic: electronic component casings, license plate frames, rulers, business cards, park benches, lumber, office equipment/accessories, packaging peanuts, expanded foam end packs, insulation board, reusable cafeteria trays, household products, car parts: dashboards
Used Motor Oil	Reprocessed fuel oil (boiler oil), re-refined motor oil, lubricating oil for heavy machinery
Lead Acid Batteries	Reprocessed sulfuric acid, lead ingots
Textiles	Used clothing, fiber for paper and upholstery, industrial wiping and polishing cloths