



10 Easy Recycling Tips

Reuse, Recycle, Renew

Recycling is easy. You can get the whole family involved, reuse things you already have, and reduce your carbon footprint.

1. Reuse shredded papers as packing material.
2. Keep a towel handy to wipe up spills.
3. Save plastic and paper shopping bags for reuse. Instead of using new plastic bags every time you go to the supermarkets, buy a bag for life and keep in your car, it will last much longer and hold all those items without breaking.
4. If you forget your reusable shopping bag and have to use the plastic shopping bags, return leftover plastic bags back to grocery stores where they are collected and reused to make plastic lumber.
5. **Junk Mail:** Recycle junk mail, or reuse it as scratch paper. Please make sure that there is nothing personal in it; bank and credit card statements, payment reminders, invoices and other items that include personal information should be shredded. Refer back to Tip # 1 for re-using shredded paper. Visit <http://opt-out.cdt.org/> for assistance on how to opt out of junk mail.
6. **Books:** Consider donating your used books to your local library. They might not be able to add them to their stacks but they can use them when they have book sales.
7. **Clothes:** You can donate them to a church or emergency rescue unit to help displaced people, fire victims and the homeless. If you out grew items or have a pile of clothing that you just don't wear you can call local veteran charities for them to come pick them up.
8. How many times do you watch a DVD you buy? Only a few times? Why not just rent the DVD for a night? You will save you money and cuts down on plastic use.
9. In the office try printing on both sides of paper to reduce waste.
10. **Reuse Then Recycle:** Try reusing things a few times before you recycle them. Plastic yogurt cups are great for starting plants in, Styrofoam egg crates can be used to store holiday ornaments in, glass pasta sauce jars are great for storing soups in and plastic bottles can be made into bird feeders. Reusing things a few times before you recycle them helps everyone.