

# Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

## Recycling Tips

**Recycle your technology**—Old computers, printers, cell phones, batteries, digital cameras, and chargers often contain elements that make them harmful to the environment if not properly disposed of. Rather than throwing this e-waste away, recycle it. Many companies provide a e-waste recycle service to their customers.

**Glass takes over a million years to decompose—recycle it!**

**Give things away** - Take things that you are not going to wear or use and give it to a charity or someone who will use it. There are many charitable organizations that will accept your donations of old clothes, furniture, and other household items to help people in need.

**Donate your old books to the library instead of throwing them away** – it reduces the amount of landfill area and enriches your local library system.

**Use padded envelopes more than once** – they're durable.

**Use a reusable bag** – Plastic bags take at least 500 years to decompose (probably more like 1000) - why not buy a reusable shopping bag? They cost less than \$5 and can be personalized to fit your tastes.

**Bring your own bag**—Almost 1 million plastic shopping bags are used every minute worldwide and over 20 million paper bags are used annually in the United States.

**Don't buy bottled water** - Instead of bottled water, get a reusable container to carry tap water. The water you get is the same – but bottled water costs 500 times more. If you are attached to the bottled water taste, you can buy a filter for your home tap.

## Reuse Ideas

**Plastic shopping bags can become:** small trashcan liners; storage bags; shoe containers to protect your car from dirt; swim suit containers to protect gym bags and backpacks from getting wet; doggie poop bags; motion sickness bags.

**Plastic food containers can become:** crayon and marker holders; bacon fat receptacles; bulk food storage; herb garden containers; leftover food holders; a composting bin.

**Berry containers can become:** a way to transport picnic lunches – sandwiches, fruit, and other lunch items won't get crushed; screw, nail or battery receptacles; plastic silverware organizers.

**Cardboard boxes can become:** weed-free pathways through a garden (when flattened); a way to organize your garage; forts for children; compost.



Bottled water produces at least 1.5 million tons of plastic waste each year, some of which reaches the ocean and contributes to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a patch of plastic debris that can reach 15 million square kilometers— an area equal to twice the size of the continental U.S!

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