



Tip of the Month

January 2010

31 Ways to Reuse Common Household Items

Reusing items destined for recycling or garbage is a great way to reduce the amount of waste we produce. Here are 31 ways to reuse common household items:

- Save plastic bread bags to use as sandwich bags.
- Instead of using plastic carry bags supplied by grocery stores, save up bread bags and use those to buy bulk foods.
- Reuse plastic bags as garbage can liners.
- Use glass jars (i.e. pickle jars) to store food or odds and ends.
- Take glass drink bottles and turn them into flower vases.
- Use old margarine and yogurt containers to store leftovers.
- Save mini shampoo and conditioner bottles to refill for travelling.
- Collect rain water in milk jugs to water your plants.
- Take single-sided paper, cut up into squares and make your own notepads.
- Take used envelopes, place a blank label over the address and resend.
- Use envelopes to store receipts, carry coupons or write grocery lists on.
- Cut up old greeting cards and use as gift tags.
- Cut up cereal boxes into magazine holders.
- Wrap gifts in comic strips, magazines or newspaper.
- Donate textile scraps, pens, pencils and old magazines to schools and daycares for craft projects.
- Take used aluminum foil and use as a scouring pad.
- Use meat trays as paint palettes.
- Instead of using Styrofoam peanuts, use shredded paper for packaging.
- Sprout seedlings in egg cartons prior to transplanting.
- Punch holes in tin/aluminum cans and turn them into tea light holders.
- Melt candles that are no longer usable and make new ones.
- Take non-reusable clothing, cut up and reuse as cleaning cloths.
- Revive unwearable band t-shirts by cutting out patches and sewing them onto canvas bags or plain t-shirts.
- Fill old pantyhose with homemade potpourri and place in your drawers.
- Use dryer lint to start a fire in your fireplace, wood burning stove or on your next camping trip.
- Use spent fabric softener sheets to collect dust around the house.
- To leave your windows clean and streak-free, use a vinegar solution and wipe with newspaper.
- Use old toothbrushes to clean window sills and computer keyboards.
- String together your unusable CDs/DVDs and make light catchers to hang in the yard.
- Donate old eyeglasses to an organization that distributes them to those in need, like the [Canadian National Institute for the Blind](#).
- Have a hole in your garden hose? Poke more holes throughout the length and turn it into a sprinkler

For additional information, contact the RCBC Recycling Hotline, Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm, and Saturdays 9am to 4pm at 604-732-9253 (Lower Mainland) or 1-800-667-4321 (province-wide).

Need more information?

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Recyclepedia: www.rcbc.bc.ca