



# Tip of the Month

## March 2010

### Renting over Buying

Before purchasing a new product, ask yourself, will I use this product frequently? Is it costly to maintain and store? Is it worth buying? If it isn't worth buying, you might want to look into renting.

By renting you avoid the hassle of ownership, reduce the amount of natural resources (i.e. fossil fuels and timber) needed to create more of that product, reduce the amount of waste that ends up in the landfill because you are reusing and in many cases, save money!

Here are a few things that you can rent instead of buy:

- Need a car for the day? Look into a car sharing program, like ones offered by Co-Operative Auto Network or Zipcar. In cities with extensive public transit systems and walking/biking routes, car sharing is a great alternative to owning a vehicle. Due to the popularity of car sharing programs, many cities are now looking into or have set up bike sharing programs. For example, Montreal has the largest bike sharing program in North America.
- In need of home repairs? Instead of purchasing costly tools for a project, rent professional tools from your local hardware store. Many hardware stores offer hourly, daily, weekly and monthly professional tool rentals.
- Rent infrequently used home appliances, such as pressure washers and carpet cleaners.
- Looking to take up a new hobby but don't know if it's for you? Rent sporting equipment instead of purchasing brand new ones, that way if it's not for you, it won't collect dust in your closet.
- Rent a plot at a community garden. Community gardens are open to the general public and are organized through neighbourhood groups. They provide food security by supplying communities with affordable and fresh produce. Visit City Farmer at [www.cityfarmer.org](http://www.cityfarmer.org), for a list of gardens in your community.
- Going out for a special occasion and want to look your best? Rent an outfit! More and more retail outlets are offering clothing rentals.
- Hosting a large party? Rent extra party supplies, such as utensils, plates and even decorations.

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?

Contact the **RCBC Recycling Hotline!**

Lower Mainland: 604-732-9253 | BC Toll-Free: 1-800-667-4321

Hours: Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm and Saturdays 9am-4pm

Recyclepedia: [www.rcbc.bc.ca](http://www.rcbc.bc.ca)