

RE-THINK Your Waste

The most effective way to reduce waste is to not create it in the first place!

Making a new product emits greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change and requires a lot of materials and energy - raw materials must be extracted from the earth, and the product must be fabricated then transported to wherever it will be sold. As a result, reduction and reuse are the most effective ways you can save natural resources, protect the environment and save money.

How to start?

Most Sustainable Option

 **REDUCE**

 **REUSE**

 **REPURPOSE**

 **REGIFT**

 **REPAIR**

 **RECYCLE**
OR
COMPOST

 **ROT**

Least Sustainable Option

- When you can, use items you already own!
- Borrow, rent or share items that are used infrequently, like party decorations, tools, camping gear, or household appliances.
- When shopping for items, look for durable options that will last for many uses. One high-quality, reusable item will save you money and reduce the amount of trash you make.
- Identify items in your daily life that you throw away often, or after only a single use. Such as plastic beverage containers, bags, packaging. *Are there easy alternatives that you can find?*
- Get creative in repurposing items for different uses or engage in upcycling projects.
- *One person's trash is another person's treasure!* Instead of discarding unwanted tools, art, clothes, or appliances - try regifting, donating or selling.
- Try to repair or mend damaged items before you look into discarding them. *Don't know how?* Ask a friend or a neighbor if they can help or know someone who can.
- If the item cannot be used anymore, identify the proper location to recycle or dispose of your item!



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