



RESIDENT WASTE REDUCTION GUIDE

Off-site Recycling Resources



WHAT DO I DO WITH...

Search for local recycling programs for a variety of materials using Department of Ecology's recycling hotline 1-800 RECYCLE (1-800-732-9253) or <http://1800recycle.wa.gov>

Reusable Household Items – Bring to a thrift store to give your old reusable stuff a new life and keep it out of the landfill.



Small Electronics – Electronic stores such as Best Buy will often accept small electronics such as cell phones for recycling. Visit E-CycleWashington for collection locations and information:



<https://ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Reducing-recycling-waste/Electronics>

E-Waste, batteries, syringes, and CFL Bulbs – These can be recycled by Waste Management through our mail-in program www.ThinkGreenFromHome.com



Empty Ink cartridges – These can be brought back to the retailer for recycling. Check with your local office supply store about returning empty ink cartridges for recycling.

Hazardous Waste – Materials with a “warning” or “danger” label require special disposal. Contact your local household hazardous waste facility to find out what you can do with unwanted hazardous materials such as bleach and propane tanks.



Medicines – Take Back Your Meds www.TakeBackYourMeds.org



Packing Material – Many pack & ship stores will accept packing material for reuse.



Plastic Bags – Plastic bags can be recycled at many grocery stores. Look for the plastic bag recycling container near the entrance of grocery stores. Visit www.plasticfilmrecycling.org for film dropoff locations.

Unopened pet food – Donate to your local animal shelter.

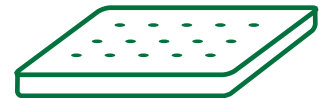


Unopened human food – Donate unopened, non-perishable items to your local foodbank.



Ripped / Stained Clothing – Take to a clothing and shoes drop-off box for recycling. Search for a drop-off box near you here: www.usagain.com/find-a-collection-bin

Mattresses – Check with your local Salvation Army or Habitat for Humanity store about donating a mattress in reusable condition.



Consider posting your old stuff on an online material exchange like **Craigslist** or **Buy Nothing**. You would be surprised who could use your old stuff!



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WASTE REDUCTION TIPS — REDUCE & REUSE

Step 1. Reduce

Reduce food waste:

- Take inventory of what perishable food you have before going to the grocery store. Consider using an “eat first” box.
- Store food properly to extend its life and prevent waste.
- Consume all of the food you purchase. Consider how ingredients purchased for one recipe can be used in another, so that leftover ingredients don’t go to waste.
- More tips on reducing food waste can be found at www.epa.gov/recycle/reducing-wasted-food-home

Reduce single-use plastics:

- Reduce waste from food packaging by shopping in the bulk section of the grocery store. Some stores will allow you to bring in your own jar or cloth produce bag to avoid using the plastic bags.
- Avoid the temptation to use disposable plates, straws, and utensils. Carry a reusable utensil set and bring your own Tupperware container “to-go box” to restaurants.
- Bring your own coffee cups, reusable bags and reusable water bottle when on-the-go.



Other reduction tips:

- Cancel junk mail at www.catalogchoice.org/
- Use cloth towels instead of paper towels for cleaning surfaces and drying up spills.
- Make your own products. From all-purpose cleaner to almond milk, you can cut back significantly on packaging by making your own products and reusing the storage container.



TIP: Keep the bags somewhere you won't forget to bring them into the store!

Step 2. When you can't reduce, reuse!

- Use old plastic dairy tubs as plant pots for growing plants from seeds.
- Instead of purchasing mason jars, consider reusing an old spaghetti sauce jar.
- Use plastic shopping bags as small garbage can liners or pet waste bags.



For more tips on ways to reduce waste, go to epa.gov/recycle/reducing-waste-what-you-can-do