

REDUCING HOUSEHOLD WASTE

How You Can Help Radnor Reduce Its
Waste

Think Before You Shop

Always Bring Reusable Shopping Bags

- Keep small ones in purse
- Keep stack of reusable bags in all household cars
- Return bags to car after unloading purchases.
- If you still accumulate plastic bags here and there, recycle them at the grocery store

Think Before You Buy

Am I sure we are going to use it? Only buy what you are going to use.

Food Waste

- On average, households waste 14 percent of their food purchases.
- Fifteen percent of that includes products still within their expiration date but never opened.
- An average family of four currently tosses out \$590 per year, just in meat, fruits, vegetables and grain products.
- Household food waste alone adds up to \$43 billion.

<http://www.foodnavigator-usa.com/Financial-Industry/US-wastes-half-its-food>

Avoid excessive packaging

- Buy Local
- Buy frozen foods in bags not boxes (59% less expensive and 98% less waste)
- Buy loose fruit and vegetables forgo the plastic bag (dark green)
- Buy concentrated laundry detergent or powder detergent in large boxes
- Avoid pump toothpaste.
- Buy inexpensive, biodegradable cleaners like vinegar, baking soda, lemon juice and borax. There are many recipes on the web. Try:
<http://www.care2.com/greenliving/make-your-own-non-toxic-cleaning-kit.html>

Buy products made from recycled materials This is a key step in supporting recycling programs.

- Resources are saved only when recycled products are purchased. This is referred to as "closing the loop."
- Sorting your materials into your recycling bin is only the first step.
- Once the materials are collected and processed, they are sent to a buyer, or an end-market.
- This market takes the recyclables and processes them into the new products that return to store shelves.
- When you buy a product with recycled content, you are creating a demand for this product and ensuring that the recyclers always have somewhere to sell their materials.
- Visit <http://www.ecocycle.org/ebrn/index.cfm>

Fix it, don't throw it away

- Before you throw something out, make sure it can't be fixed. Even if it is broken, you can donate it.
- Look in the yellow pages.
- Can you reuse it for something else?
- Buy quality, it lasts longer

Other Alternatives

Pass it On-- One person's trash is another's treasure

- FreeCycle.com
- Local Charities :Good Will, St. Mary's, Alley door, Purple Heart, et.al
 - St. Mary's will take clothing and shoes in any condition; the fabric and shoes will be reused to help people in Africa.
- Donate books to the library
- Donate magazines to nursing homes or thrift shops.
- Sterling Optical near the Farmer's Market will take your old eyeglasses.

Make some Money

- Consign in town, EBay, Angie or Craig's List.

Avoid Buying/ Using Disposables

- Buy products that are not designed to be quickly thrown away
- Do not buy water in plastic bottles.
- Determine the best way to filter your water and use reusable containers.
- Use washable cleaning rags and cloth napkins.
- Bring your own refillable coffee mug – saves you money, too.
- Make sure you have reusable storage containers for what you need. Reuse container from other purchases or buy reusable containers that will last and you will enjoy.

Buy in Bulk

- Buy product refills that come in larger containers
- Don't buy individually wrapped items for lunch boxes.
- Don't buy large quantities of small items packaged together

Recycle Everything You Can

Develop system for collecting recyclables. Make it just as easy to recycle as to trash it.

- Ample Room—don't have containers that are too small.
- Have recycle bins where you need them –office, bathroom....
- Clearly Designate Separate Bins—everyone in house needs to understand

Most paper can be recycled—every bit counts.

Check every single plastic package to see if it can be recycled in the township. Radnor only recycles #1 and # 2

Don't forget to recycle plastic bags that you can't avoid

Grocery stores are one of the only places to recycle.

Radnor Trail will take your bags for pet poop.

Recycle dry cleaning, bread bags, newspaper bags, etc.

Every year, Americans throw away some 100 billion plastic bags after they've been used to transport a prescription home from the drugstore or a quart of milk from the grocery store. It's equivalent to dumping nearly 12 million barrels of oil.

Where Can You Recycle The Other Stuff?

- Search on the Web. Start with <http://www.coopamerica.org/pubs/caq/articles/21Things.cfm>
- Find out more about Pottstown Recycling Center
- Local schools have started collecting batteries, juice bags, etc.
- Grocery Stores for plastic bags -- not just bags from the store
- Ikea, Home Depot, UPS, et al
- Dry cleaners will take hangers back
- Take it back to the store where you bought it. But be careful, just because they take it, does not mean they recycle it.

Compost

- Make a compost pile for kitchen scraps and yard waste.
 - Great for your yard –rich fertilizer
 - Great for your wallet – Don't have to buy mulch/ Saves the township on tipping fees. Could save you from tax increase.
 - Great for the environment – food and yard waste are a large % of landfill
- The Sierra Club's new Green Home website has a short video on how to start composting: <http://www.sierraclubgreenhome.com/videos/sierra-club-composting-video2/>
 - According to a study by the University of Arizona Garbage Project, each American throws away 1.3 pounds of food a day, which amounts to 474.5 pounds per year per person.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn.
 - Recycles nutrients (1/4 lb. of organic nitrogen per bag), does not produce thatch.

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