



Easy Green: 20 Ways to Reduce, Reuse and Rethink Waste

Between growing landfills and plastic trash in our rivers, lakes and oceans, we can all use some waste reduction tips for diverting and reusing stuff. It can be hard to know where to start if you want to make a difference. Thankfully, it's actually easy to cut way down on your household trash by making small changes in your daily routines and shopping habits. These 20 tips will help. They are all easy to implement and add up to a reduction in waste that makes a difference!

Switch to digital downloads of movies, music and books if you haven't yet.

Stop junk mail and paper bills, and **cancel subscriptions** that you don't read.

Mend, sew and tailor clothes; when able **shop vintage**.

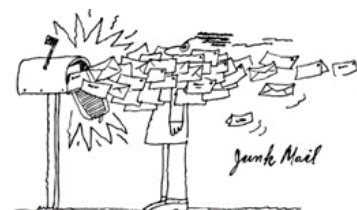
Bring cloth shopping bags... every time you shop and wash often.

Buy key items in bulk and decant it into reusable containers.

Cut-up old towels or T-shirts and keep lots of cloth towels on hand to use instead of paper towels.

Reuse aluminum foil several times as long as it is relatively clean.

Avoid buying or using single-serving packages. Pick the larger containers instead.



Keep plenty of reusable bags around. If you have trouble remembering to bring bags, try keeping stashes of them in your car or by the front door.

Use real dishes and cloth napkins every day.

Try an alternative to plastic wrap. Place a plate on top of a bowl when storing leftovers or purchase reusable dish covers.

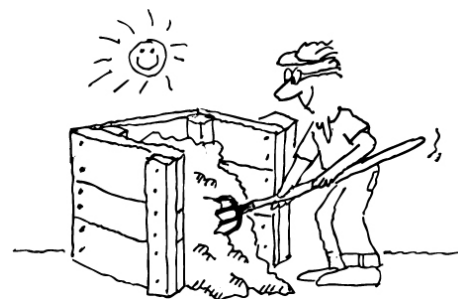
Use microfiber cloths instead of paper towels for cleaning.

This time of year is a good time to start a **backyard compost pile**. [Click here to get started](#)

Simplify your beauty routine — fewer products means less waste

Print double-sided copies. Set up your documents for printing double-sided and cut your paper usage in half.

Reusable Filters — purchase reusable filters to replace disposable ones (i.e. coffee, furnace, air conditioner).



[How to Use a Bottle Cap to Seal a Plastic Bag](#) - Lorain County Solid Waste Management District

Easy Green Tips – continued

Reuse old candle wax to make new candles – instructions below


Less is More - Keep things simple and stick with a few favorites.

Rethink leisure time. Relax in your backyard, cook dinner instead of ordering take-out, walk in nature, go for a bike ride or read a book — **remember to social distance with others at this time!**



Reuse Old Candle Wax to Make New Candles


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1 Purchase a package of wicks.
Votive size — 2 ½" wick
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2 Heat-up old wax from used candles.
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3 Meanwhile, place a wick straight up inside your container.
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4 Once wax is melted, carefully pour into new candle container.
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5 Pour ¼ hot wax in container. Straighten & center wick by leaning it against a knife or stick. Let cool. Add remaining hot wax.
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6 Let set and harden.

Do you have any reduce or reuse tip? Email it to: Recycle@cityofoberlin.com