



Did You Know?

Diapers in the landfills have always been one of the most common items to be listed as an ever growing problem. After all, the numbers are staggering. Tens of millions of disposable diapers enter landfills each day, where they sit for hundreds and hundreds of years. This problem could be seriously reduced if people just took a moment to comprehend the issue and do something about it. The question is cloth or disposable? Parents can choose to go back reusable cloth diapers with washable diaper covers. We encourage all parents to research the alternatives.



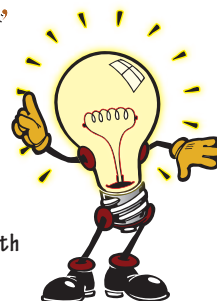
Hazardous Waste Prevention Tips

- Buy only what you need, then use it up.
- If you end up with products left over, share them with family, friends and neighbors.
- Read the labels before you buy. Watch for words like "danger," "warning" and "caution." Follow the directions carefully.
- Whenever possible, consider using a safer alternative.
- Dispose of these items safely – at our Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Events.



Here's Some Ideas!

Pre-Cycle Tips



- ✓ **Bring reusable bags to the store with you.** Cloth or paper will do!
- ✓ **Buy Large Quantities.** If you buy products in bulk or in large sizes and quantities, you can put them in smaller containers as you need them and this uses less containers.
- ✓ **Buy products with the least amount of packaging or none at all.** Items packed in multiple containers may look nice, but they are a waste!
- ✓ **Buy products packed in recycled packaging.** If you have to use a container, it might as well be green. Additionally, you help support green corporations. (Important: make sure you look for the recycled symbol)
- ✓ **Don't buy disposable items.** (plates cups, pens, diapers, batteries, etc.) They only fill the landfill more.
- ✓ **Buy less paper towels and napkins or none at all.** Use cloth ones - they can be washed and used over and over again.
- ✓ **Buy long life and concentrated items.** (batteries, bulks, etc.) This saves on packaging as well as product.
- ✓ **Don't purchase styrofoam.** It contains polystyrene, which is the most difficult material to break down in our landfill and is considered a hazardous waste.
- ✓ **Buy items in cardboard, aluminum, steel, glass, and plastic containers marked 1 and 2.** (They are stamped on the bottom 1 and 2). These containers can be recycled more easily.
- ✓ **Read the labels for contents.** Stay away from chemicals that harm our plant and animal life and poison our land.

Obviously, there are times when disposable items or buying in bulk are not as practical, such as traveling or picnics. The trick to all this, is to limit. We can take responsibility by changing our daily habits. Recycling may take a little more work in some cases...but an ounce of prevention is the main ingredient here!



Southern Oregon Sanitation Inc.

www.SOSanitation.com

What Is Product Life Cycle?



A New Way Of Thinking...

What is Pre-Cycle?
What is Re-Purpose?



Southern Oregon Sanitation Inc.

Product Life Cycle:

Product Life Cycle is the "time cycle" a product is being used before it is recycled or discarded. It all starts from the natural resources it originated from. For example: A newspaper has a very short life cycle. It is produced one day and after it's read, it's either discarded or recycled (*we can only hope you are recycling*). In contrast, a family heirloom like a grandfather clock that is passed down through generations has a very long life cycle.

Extending A Product Life Cycle:

When a product is close to the end of its usefulness, you can extend the life cycle by using it in a different way. This is what we call "re-purpose." For example the front of this brochure shows how an old pair of boots have been re-purposed and used for a garden flower vase. With a little creative thinking, products all around us can be used in many alternative ways. Another way of extending a product's life is to donate it or trade it for another. Garage sales and resale shops are great ways of capturing extra value of a product life cycle.

So What is Pre-Cycle?

This fits right in with new thinking. Pre-cycle are ways to not only reduce waste, but to never have generated it in the first place. For example: paper plates, plastic utensils, styrofoam cups and napkins can be completely eliminated by using non disposable dishes, silverware and cloth napkins. Another way of Pre-Cycle thinking is to use reusable bags when you go to the grocery store. And, while you are there, look for packaging that can be recycled or the least amount of packaging. Buying bulk items are a great way of eliminating packaging and it generally will save you money.



An old tire makes a great swing. Be sure to drill some holes in the bottom to drain rain water.

Eliminating and Reducing:

Reusable Bags

When you shop are you leaving with extra bags you don't need? Take a few reusable bags and leave them in the car, so the next time you shop, you will have them handy.



Low Cost LED Lights



LED lights are becoming more affordable these days and they certainly offer a lower operating cost. Newer styles of LED lights are replacing all types of lighting from soft ambient light to hi-powered spot lights. Some of these new technology lights claim to last for up to 20+ years.

Reusable Containers Work For Lunches

If you pack a lunch, you're probably eating healthier than if you were eating fast food everyday. Using reusable plastic containers will keep your lunch fresh and, you can even have last night's leftovers! If you must take a bag, use one of the plastic bags you received from the grocery store and use it over and over again.



During The Holidays You Can Make A Difference

Just say no to conventional gift wrap. Use gift boxes or gift bags that can be used over and over.

Packages don't always need to look so fancy. Save your newspaper funnies and use that for gift wrapping instead.

Children want to give their family gifts, too, but limited budgets often make purchases difficult. Let them know what you really want doesn't come from a store - their time is even more valuable. Give volunteer coupon gifts! For example: Hugs and kisses; commit to extra chores; offer to cook some meals; walk the dog for a week after school.

Shop for gifts at antique stores, estate sales or flea markets, since one person's trash is another's treasure.

Donate unwanted gifts, along with last year's gifts that the kids have outgrown, to charity.

