



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Division of Solid & Hazardous Materials  
Bureau of Waste Reduction & Recycling

## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, COMPOST and BUY RECYCLED!

### Garbage is a Mixed Bag!

At home and at work, New Yorkers turn out a lot of trash - and it's a mixed bag. We were all in the habit of throwing trash into one receptacle with cans, bottles, paper, garbage, etc., mixed up together.



### What's Wrong With That?

First, we're throwing things away that can be used again, such as paper, glass, aluminum, metals and other useful materials. Second, we're making too much trash!

We had plenty of landfills, more than 1600 in the 1960's, now New York has approximately 30 landfills accepting waste across the entire state



### Well, What Are We Supposed To Do With Our Trash?

In four words...**REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE and COMPOST!**

### That Sounds Like Too Much Trouble!

Not really - just a matter of learning new habits. Reducing, reusing, recycling and composting our solid waste will benefit our communities and the environment. Besides, it's the law.

### Okay, How Do I Go About It?

First, **REDUCE**...

Waste reduction requires a little forethought because the aim is to bring home less materials that will wind up as trash and to reuse as many items as possible.

Analyze your trash for a few days to get familiar with the stuff you throw out. (It might surprise you!) Then, decide how you might reduce your trash by changing some habits.

Here are some suggestions to reduce the amount of material that requires disposal.- you will think of more:



- ✓ Buy bulk-packaged items to cut down on individual packaging.
- ✓ Buy products in reusable or recyclable containers.
- ✓ Don't buy disposable products when you can avoid them.
- ✓ Patronize restaurants and other businesses that use recyclable or biodegradable wrappings.
- ✓ Have your name removed from lists that send you unwanted mail. Several services are available to do that - here is one:



Direct Marketing Association  
P.O. Box 9008  
Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008

### Second, **REUSE**...

- ✓ Reuse items as many times as possible.
- ✓ Give old magazines, books and catalogs to neighbors, hospitals and nursing homes.
- ✓ Give unwanted clothing and repairable appliances to other or donate them to charity. Churches have annual rummage sales.
- ✓ Get together with neighbors, collect unwanted items and have a garage sale.
- ✓ Organize or suggest a community-wide garage sale and promote community spirit and recycling.



### Third, **RECYCLE**...

You need to recycle what your community program requires. If you are not sure what those materials are, contact your local recycling coordinator. Call us at (518) 402-8704 if you do not know your recycling coordinator's number.

All you need is about a 3-foot by 3-foot area for boxes, bags, or plastic containers that will hold items to be recycled.

It's important to keep recyclables clean and dry.

### Fourth, **COMPOST**...

Food and yard wastes can be composted - Nature's way of recycling!  
Check out our Backyard Composting pamphlet.

And don't forget..., **BUY RECYCLED!**

We need to close the recycling loop by buying products made from recycled materials. Look for recycled content information on the products you are buying.

### That Doesn't Sound Too Difficult - Maybe I'll Try It.

Good! Because successful recycling depends on you - and on every one of us. Recycling won't work without individual participation.

### What if I need help?

Help is available. For more details ask for these pamphlets and tip strips:

- ✓ Let's Precycle
- ✓ Waste Reduction And Recycling At The Supermarket
- ✓ Waste Reduction At The Supermarket Coloring Book
- ✓ So You Get Too Much Junk Mail
- ✓ Reuse It
- ✓ The Reusable Lunch Box
- ✓ Plastic Recycling, It's As Easy As 1,2,3
- ✓ Easy Backyard Composting
- ✓ Leave It On The Lawn
- ✓ Buy Recycled

contact:

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