



How To Be Environmentally Friendly — Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

We all share responsibility for the environment, and that extends into every aspect of our lives. Here are a few simple ways to make environmentally protective choices.

- **Buy water-efficient fixtures and products.** The WaterSense label helps shoppers identify water efficient products and programs. And try drinking tap water instead of bottled water, so you aren't wasting all that packaging as well. If you must drink bottled water, recycle the bottle.
- **Reduce your carbon footprint.** Use public transportation, carpool, walk, or bike whenever possible to avoid using your car. If you must drive, combine your errands – hit the post office, grocery store and shoe repair place in one trip. It will save you gas and time.
- **Buy or switch to energy efficient lighting fixtures and bulbs.** Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) last 10 times longer than a standard bulb and use at least two-thirds less energy. Turn off lights when you're not in the room and unplug appliances when you're not using them. It only takes a second to be environmentally conscious.
- **Be a star.** If you're shopping for new appliances or even home electronics, look for ENERGY STAR products, which have met EPA and U.S. Department of Energy guidelines for energy efficiency.
- **eCycle.** Take your old computers or other electronics to a local recycling center. This helps keep lead, cadmium, and other substances out of the landfill.
- **Take reusable bags on shopping trips.** Keep them in your car or near your door to remember.
- **Maintain and repair products.** Keep appliances in good working order. Follow manufacturers' suggestions for proper operation and maintenance. More ways you can reduce waste.
- **Compost.** Reducing the amount of solid waste you produce in a year means taking up less space in landfills. Plus, compost makes a great natural fertilizer. When you're mowing your lawn, allow grass clippings to stay on the lawn instead of bagging them. The cut grass will decompose and return to the soil naturally.
- **Recycle.** You can help reduce pollution just by putting that soda can in a different bin. If you're trying to choose between two products, pick the one with the least packaging. If an office building of 7,000 workers recycled all of its office paper waste for a year, it would be the equivalent of taking almost 400 cars off the road

Source: EPA