



## REDUCE

**It's simple! Using less stuff = less waste produced!**

All the “stuff” we use can be traced back to a natural resource. Like paper napkins are produced from trees and a plastic zipper is produced from petroleum (oil). When we use less stuff, we help conserve our natural resources and prevent pollution.

### Examples:

- Take only the amount of paper napkins you need.
- Choose products that produce minimal waste.
- Take your lunch in a lunch box, not plastic bags.
- Use a cloth bag at the store.
- Buy durable items. They have a longer life which means it would need replacement less often. Like a durable backpack that lasts all year or more!

## REUSE

**Extending the life of an item by reusing it again as it is or creating a new use for it.**

By extending the life of an item, you accomplish 3 things:

1. You keep it out of the landfill.
2. You produce less waste because you don't have to use new “stuff”.
3. You avoid using our natural resources.

### Examples:

- Reuse plastic shopping bags for future trips to the store.
- Use a reusable drink bottle instead of a new bottle or carton each day.
- Donate old clothes, books, and toys to a charity.
- Reuse paper for art projects.
- Be creative!

## RECYCLE

**Some used materials can be made into new items of the same thing, or new things!**

Remanufacturing used items into new items, accomplishes 3 things:

1. Reduce the amount of raw natural materials needed to make it.
2. Reduce the amount of energy required to produce the new item.
3. Keep materials out of the landfill.

### Examples:

- Recycled glass can make new glass bottles.
- Recycled plastic bottles can make new fleese, carpets, etc.
- Recycled aluminum cans can make new cans.
- Recycled writing paper can be made into toilet paper.
- Recycled cardboard boxes can be made into new cardboard boxes.



## COMPOST

**Composting is using the natural process of decomposition to improve soil amendment.**

Composting food scraps and yard waste helps reduce waste by keeping them out of landfills. It's also nature's way of recycling. The term soil amendment refers to any material mixed into a soil that helps plants grow. It can be done in the yard with a compost pile or bin and by using worms that eat vegetable scraps.

### Examples:

- Compostable organic material:
- Fruits and vegetable trimmings
  - Grass clippings
  - Paper napkins
  - Leaves
  - Bush prunings



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