

ATHABASCA WASTE & RECYCLE NEWS

Prepared by: Athabasca Regional Waste Management Services Commission

Part 2: " The 3 R's " Step Two: REUSE

Reusing items by repairing them, donating them to charity and community groups or selling them also reduces waste. Reusing when possible, is preferable to recycling because the item does not need to be reprocessed before it can be used again.

Reuse bags, containers, paper, boxes and other items

Many everyday household goods can have more than one life. After being emptied and cleaned, common items can be used in countless money saving and practical ways.

- ✓ Reuse paper and plastic bags and twist ties.
- ✓ Bring a string, mesh, or canvas bag to the store. If you buy only one or two items and didn't bring your own bag, carry your purchases without a bag.
- ✓ Reuse scrap paper. Staple together scrap sheets to make note pads.
- ✓ Save and reuse gift boxes, ribbons, tissue, and wrapping paper.
- ✓ Reuse polystyrene peanuts & blister-wrap for packaging fragile items.
- ✓ Turn used lumber into birdhouses or use it for firewood if unpainted.

Borrow, rent or share things you use infrequently

Try these suggestions to rent, borrow or share large expensive or infrequently used items rather than purchasing your own:

- ✓ Rent, borrow or share party decorations and supplies.
- ✓ Rent tools such as ladders, chainsaws, floor buffers, rug cleaners and garden equipment.
- ✓ Before discarding old tools or equipment, ask friends, relatives, neighbors or non-profit groups if they can use them.
- ✓ Share newspapers and magazines.
- ✓ When you have leftover paint, driveway sealer and other materials check with your friends, relatives and neighbors.

Second Hand Goods are "first rate"

Instead of discarding unwanted appliances, tools, clothes, try selling or donating them to groups and organizations that accept used goods. When deciding to purchase an item, consider used and "irregular items. They are less expensive than new or "first quality" goods and are often just as good.

- ✓ Donate or resell items to thrift stores.
- ✓ Buy and Sell secondhand items at garage sales, swap meets and flea-markets.
- ✓ Encourage area merchants to donate damaged goods or food items that are still useable or edible, to local charitable organizations, such as food banks, shelters and groups that care for the needy.

Waste & Recycle Facts

- The energy saved by recycling one glass bottle will light a 100 watt bulb for four hours.
- Making new cardboard from recycled cardboard takes about 25% less energy than using fibre from new wood.

PLEASE REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE!

- 715,000 litres of Household Hazardous Waste was collected in Alberta in 1999.
- It takes 75,000 trees each week to produce the Sunday edition of the New York Times.
- It takes 40,000 trees each day to produce newsprint for Canada's daily newspapers.
- One pound of recycled steel saves enough energy to light a 60 watt bulb for 24 hours.
- 54 million litres of used oil was recycled in Alberta last year.
- Compostable materials make up 40 - 60% of the waste stream.
- Over 70% of residential waste can be recycled.

Next Issue: Part 3 " The 3 R's " Step Three: RECYCLE