

DO MORE BY CHOOSING LESS

To do more for the environment, start by putting less packaging in your cart. Here are some examples that will start you thinking of ways to reduce waste while you shop.

WASTE FRIENDLY

EXCESS PACKAGING

Condensed soup

82% less expensive
46% less waste



VS.



Microwave single

1-gallon water jug

87% less expensive
80% less waste



VS.



6-pack 12 oz. plastic bottles

Pudding in a box

64% less expensive
75% less waste



VS.



Pudding in plastic cups in cardboard carton

Large box

45% less expensive
50% less waste



VS.



Snack packs (shrink-wrapped)

Fresh peppers

31% less expensive
85% less waste











VS.



Shrink-wrapped peppers in plastic container

More Waste Reduction Shopping Tips:

-  Purchase durable, long-lasting goods.
-  Reuse products and packaging.
-  Bring polystyrene packing peanuts and bubble wrap to a shipping store for reuse.
-  Use washable mugs at work or school instead of paper cups.
-  Use both sides of paper, and then recycle it so it can be used again.
-  Use direct withdrawal for paying bills. A statement verifying the charges is sent for review before the money is withdrawn from your account.
-  Avoid packaging made with mixed materials, such as paper laminated with plastic or foil. This packaging is usually not recyclable.
-  When buying produce, avoid placing your fruits and vegetables in a plastic bag. Since most produce is washed and peeled anyway before use, a plastic bag is unnecessary and just creates more waste.

SHOP SMART



SAVE RESOURCES & PREVENT WASTE

A consumer guide to buying products that help conserve resources and reduce waste



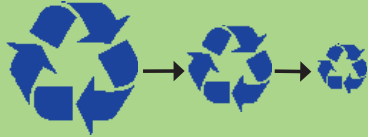
City of Davis Public Works
Recycling Program
757-5686
www.davisrecycling.org

Preventing Waste: The Smart Shopping Decision

Whenever we create waste, we're throwing away valuable resources. Every day each resident of California generates about six pounds of garbage. Even though recycling is a step in the right direction, it's not enough.

Fortunately, it doesn't take much effort to reduce waste.

Approximately one third of our household waste comes from the packaging of products. If we think before we buy, and buy just what we need—with reuse in mind—we can help conserve resources while we shop.



The Packaging Game: Less vs. More

Packaging is now the fourth largest industry in the U.S. It's true that some packaging is necessary for health and shelf-life reasons, but some manufacturers over-package products. Excess packaging also costs you more money.



For every dollar you spend, 10 cents pays for packaging.

So, take a little extra care before you buy and send a message that you don't like waste.

The next time you go to the grocery store, look at the products on the shelf. Pick the ones without packaging or with the least wasteful packaging. Avoid single-serving items and products that are overly wrapped.



Recycled vs. Recyclable

Choose recycled products. Fewer natural resources and less energy are needed to make recycled products. When we buy recycled, we're helping to conserve and we create a demand for recycled products which keeps recycling programs strong. Take a look at the label before you buy. Make a point of buying products with the familiar three-arrow logo. There are two versions:



Recycled: Products made with recycled materials.



Recyclable: Products that can be recycled, but may not have recycled content.

Bulk vs. Single

When it makes sense, buy in bulk. You'll avoid over-packaging and save money too if you stay away from over-wrapped, single-serving packages. Give up a little bit of convenience to benefit the environment. Buy concentrates such as drink mixes, cleaners and detergents. There's far less packaging and they are often much cheaper.

Paper or Plastic?

Have you ever wondered which type of bag to choose at the grocery store? It's actually a trick question. The correct answer to the paper or plastic quandary is **NEITHER ONE!** B.Y.O.B.—Bring Your Own Bag! Leave less behind for the future and bring your own shopping bag to the store, whether it be reusing the plastic or paper bags from previous shopping trips, or using a cloth bag. Don't be fooled into thinking you only have two options available—another option exists besides paper or plastic!



Reusable vs. Disposable

Disposable products may be more convenient, but they create more waste, filling landfills. Look for products you can reuse. For example:



Use a sponge instead of paper towels.



Buy rechargeable batteries.



Buy cloth napkins you can wash instead of paper you throw away.



Buy washable plates and cups for picnics instead of disposable ones.



Buy razors with replaceable blades.



Seek out reusable or refillable containers.

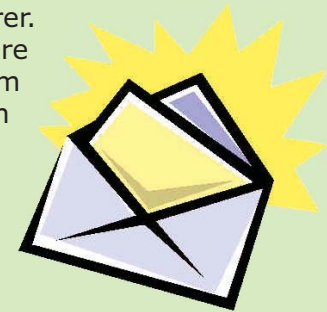


Use plastic containers with lids instead of aluminum foil, plastic bags or plastic wrap.

Your Actions Count!

If you see a product that's over-packaged or not made from recycled materials, tell the store manager or write to the manufacturer. Your preferences are important to them and your opinion counts.

When enough consumers pressured a large fast food chain to stop using polystyrene, the fast food chain listened and stopped using polystyrene. So take a minute to write a note. The address can often be found on the back of the package.



Your efforts won't go to waste.