

Welcome to the Tuesday Tree Huggin' Tip!

Tip 9: Reuse before you Recycle.

We have already stressed that it is important to Reduce (2-sided copies anyone?) and Recycle, but the third R is also crucial for a successful Greening Program. Reuse is often confused with recycling, but they are really quite different. Reuse in the broadest sense means any activity that lengthens the life of an item. Recycling, on the other hand, is the reprocessing of an item into a new raw material for use in a new product — for example grinding the tire and incorporating it into a road-surfacing compound. Reuse is nothing new – it's using the same item over again either for its original purpose or in a completely new way. Here are some examples:

- ★ When you get a plastic bag at the store, reuse it as a garbage can liner, a dog/cat litter disposal bag, a travel dirty laundry bag, or as packing material. (New Use)
- ★ Instead of immediately recycling your cans from vegetables, etc., fill them with dirt and start your garden seedlings in them. (New Use)
- ★ Don't throw away rubber bands, paperclips, or binder clips – make sure you collect them and return to the office supply drawer. (Original Use)
- ★ Don't throw away those packing peanuts and plastic poppers – save them until you need to send out packages. (Original Use)
- ★ Purchase a reusable water jug and refill it from a pure water source instead of purchasing pre-bottled water. (Original Use)
- ★ Donate things that you no longer use to thrift stores, etc., so others may reuse the items you no longer need!
- ★ Reuse sturdy to-go food containers from restaurants as a Tupperware substitute, or to store sewing supplies, nails and other hardware, craft supplies, etc. (Original and New Use)

Challenge: Can every property come up with a way to reuse something that they normally recycle or throw away? Be creative!

👍 Team Woodlake has already implemented a fabulous Reuse idea: First, they offer to collect the moving boxes used by new residents and the maintenance staff stores these boxes and packing materials on site. Then, when other residents are moving out, the leasing team coordinates with the maintenance staff and they provide the departing residents with packing boxes and materials. This plan is brilliant in its simplicity and is GREAT customer service! Way to go, Team Woodlake!

Yours in crunchiness,

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