

# Managing & Minimizing Household Waste

Trying to manage and minimize our household waste is crucial for the future of our environment. Remember to do your best to **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle** when using/purchasing products.

**Reduce:** try to reduce your usage of single-use products that end up directly in a landfill.

**Reuse:** being able to reuse a product multiple times saves money and resources.

**Recycle:** when a product cannot be reused, make sure you find out the best way to recycle it.



## Here are some tips:

- Buy local to reduce transportation and packaging.
- When sorting through items you no longer need, make sure to donate them to charities or secondhand shops so they can be put to a second use.
- Want to save money and help the environment? Purchasing items from a secondhand shop or garage sale is a great solution. This could be clothing, furniture, toys, sports equipment, etc.
- Limit purchases with lots of packaging.
- Invest in high quality items that will last for years to come (example: food storage containers).
- Know where/how to recycle and what is recyclable.
- Look for opportunities in your community to recycle/properly dispose of household hazardous waste, tires, and electronic waste.
- Don't forget your reusable bag(s) at the store.

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# Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition

[www.owsc.org](http://www.owsc.org)



Check out our website to learn more about the Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition. Our calendar will stay updated with local recycling opportunities throughout Ontario and Wayne County.

## Composting

- Composting is an amazing way to take household waste and turn it into a rich source of nutrients for your garden.
- Lots of communities are now offering composting programs through their transfer stations and there are local businesses available to pick-up compost containers.
- You can compost vegetable and fruit scraps, paper products, yard waste, eggshells, tea and coffee, shredded newspaper, and the lists goes on.



## Recycling

- Did you just receive a large box from an online purchase? The cardboard can be recycled through your curbside pick-up or at your local transfer/recycling station. The shipping pillows or bubble wrap can be recycled at your local grocery store's plastic bag collection container.
- Do you have old batteries? Those can be recycled at your local household hazardous waste event. Some companies offer mail in options too.
- Do you have old computers or televisions that you no longer use? Find out when your local electronic recycling event is or find a local company that accepts e-waste.
- How about paint, old pesticides, or cleaning chemicals? A household hazardous waste event will be able to help.
- Make sure you take metal to your local scrap yard. You can make a little money and avoid putting that in a landfill.
- Do you have old power tool batteries? Check back with the hardware store you bought them from to see if they will take them for you.
- What do you do with used motor oil? Most auto parts stores will take your used motor oil and recycle it. Make sure you put the oil in a proper container. These stores usually take car batteries as well.



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