# Reduce, REUSE, Recycle



As Earth Day approaches, many of us become more aware of the environment with which we live in, and become inspired to do our part in caring for it. One of the simplest ways we can do that is by reusing items in our home that have outlived their originally intended purpose. Reduction and reuse are the most effective ways you can save natural resources, protect the environment and save money. Information on repurposing items can be found by going to the following websites:

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management

There are countless ways to reuse and repurpose items in your home. Get creative! If moving is in your future, make sure to save old newspapers to wrap up any fragile items. Also, consider picking up reusable plastic totes instead of carboard boxes. Even old toothbrushes can be used to clean those hard to reach spots in your home.

Another way to reuse an item is by using your paper towel and toilet paper rolls as a first home for seedling plants. This is a great alternative to buying small, (mostly) unrecyclable, plant pots.



Image courtesy of Earth 911

Old clothes have a multitude of reuses. If they are still wearable, make sure to keep them to the side to wear during cleaning or messy products, or find a local textile donation box. You can also shred them and turn them into cleaning rags.



Virtually **ANY TEXTILE** can be reused, repurposed, or recycled!

Rugs

Sound Insulation

One person's trash is another person's treasure. Instead of discarding unwanted appliances, tools or clothes, try selling or donating them. Not only will you be reducing waste, you'll be helping others.

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