

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle...Refill?

Single use plastics are a key component in packaging at any traditional retail store. It's relatively inexpensive to make and easily accessible. However, once that plastic has satisfied its intended purpose, it is placed into the waste stream, and vastly contributes to the global problem of pollution.



Photo Courtesy of Jodianne Lindh

Innovative new businesses are emerging, that are incorporating sustainable practices and purchasing in their business models. These retailers are known as refill stores. The items for sale are stored in more sustainable containers, as opposed to bags and plastic wrapping. The consumer places the desired amount of product in a container brought from home, or the refill store will provide first time shoppers with sustainable, reusable take-away containers.

Along with reducing the need for plastic, Jodianne Lindh, owner of REfill REstore in Beacon, NY describes the benefits of shopping at refill stores, "Environmentally we are minimizing single use plastic, eliminating synthetic ingredients & toxic chemicals. Economically we are saving money, investing in our community and supporting the circular economy."



Photo Courtesy of Jodianne Lindh

The variety of items available for purchase range a great deal. As Jodianne explains, "We offer eco essentials such as cleaning, hair and tooth brushes, unpaper towels, napkins and wipes, recycled toilet paper, mason jars, mason jar tops and reusable straws. Along with bulk personal care & cleaning products such as hand, dish and laundry soap, tooth tabs, mouthwash tabs and refillable, compostable dental floss, peroxide, alcohol, deodorant... all by the ounce." Not only do refill stores sell cleaning products, many also offer food items such as grains, spices, nuts, candy and even baking essentials like flour.



Photo Courtesy of Jodianne Lindh

While some items may cost slightly more than average, the products are made with more ecofriendly ingredients and more concentrated, therefore longer lasting and healthier. To find out more about [REfill REstore](#) follow them on Instagram, and be sure to research other refill stores in Dutchess County.