

How can we Re-use Waste?

We are promoting zero-waste

1. Glass Jars, Containers or Cans

Glass and metal are easily recycled, but why not cut down on excess packaging and waste by reusing them? Glass jars and old coffee canisters make great containers for bulk pantry items, desk organizers or bathroom containers. And there are a million ways to [reuse mason jars](#) beyond food [canning](#) — even many pasta sauce brands use jars that are ideal for food preservation. Got a lot of leftover narrow necked beer bottles? Make them into a [set of drinking glasses](#)! Or how about a [wine rack](#), or display shelves out of coffee cans?

2. Gallon Jugs, Plastic Soda Bottles, Takeout and Other Plastic Containers

- ✓ Beyond using jugs and bottles to store homemade natural cleaners, with a little modification, you can turn those plastic containers into useful household items like the [plastic bottle broom](#)! Make [bird feeders](#) out of old soda bottles, or food bins, shoe cubbies and dustpans/scoops out of [plastic jugs](#). How about making reusable [self watering seed pots](#) or a [cell charging station](#) out of a shampoo bottle? And don't throw out the takeout containers! Many are sturdy, dishwasher safe and excellent for reuse in the kitchen.
- ✓ Milk Jug Planters: Create easy to transport planters for your garden, particularly useful when relocation [indoor plants](#) to the outdoors.
- ✓ Milk Jug Watering: Use gallon jugs for a DIY watering system for your garden. Poke a few holes in the bottom, fill it with water, and bury it, and it will slowly seep out into the garden.
- ✓ Plastic Soda Bottles Bird Feeder: Making a bird feeder in the backyard is easy with an upside-down bottle; plus, you can decide if you want to use the bigger size or smaller.
- ✓ Plastic Soda Bottles Science Projects: Reuse soda bottles to learn and experiment in safe and creative ways. Help kids create a science project exploring volcanos or vortexes.
- ✓ Plastic Soda Bottle Coolers: Use small frozen bottles to keep lunch bags cool, and larger ones for long days at the beach.
- ✓ Keep any empty glass jars you use, wash them out, and remove the labels. They make great flower vases that you can use around the house!
- ✓ Use an empty glass jar to collect cooking grease. It's not good to put it down your sink! Just collect it a little at a time, and then when the jar is full, you can just toss it in the trash.
- ✓ Use an empty jar to make a beautiful water candle. These will look great around the house, or as decor for your dinner table!
- ✓ Use old wine bottles as candle holders to make for an enchanting effect.

- ✓ One of the best uses for empty plastic soda bottles is as a planter for flowers and herbs. Take an empty 2-liter pop bottle and cut off the top two thirds, leaving the bottle's bottom third. Wash it thoroughly and voila! You have a reusable flowerpot. In addition, empty glass and plastic jars make excellent kitchen storage and can be used as mixing containers for marinade or salad dressing. And, if you're a shoe shopper, keep in mind that empty shoe boxes make great storage bins for sundries like jewelry, toiletries and household items.

3. Newspapers, Magazines, and Paper Bags

- ✓ Overrun by paper? There are lots of [great ways to re-purpose all the paper in your life](#). Get creative and create amazing and useful woven [baskets](#) and [trays](#) out of [magazines](#) and [newspapers](#). Recycle newspapers, grocery bags and magazines as wrapping paper. How about some compostable [seed pots](#)? Or [DIY envelopes](#) out of outdated calendar pages? And if you're really ambitious, make a gorgeous [wood-like flooring with paper bags](#).
- ✓ If you park outside in the winter, you can use old newspaper to prevent icing on your windows. Just lay a few pieces of newspaper over your windshield at night.
- ✓ Newspaper is surprisingly good at absorbing odors! Stuff a balled-up piece of newspaper in shoes, a diaper bag, or even your fridge to help eliminate yucky smells.
- ✓ Use old newspaper as packing material when moving, or to protect a package you're shipping.
- ✓ Newspaper Cleaning: Newspaper is amazing for cleaning things up. Use them for wiping down windows, or to wipe off paint from brushes, or grease from tools.
- ✓ Newspaper for Protection: Keep sensitive areas safe by adding newspaper. Great for under tablecloths for another layer of protection.
- ✓ Newspaper Bags as Boot Pulls: Love wearing knee-high boots, but hate getting them on? Equestrian athlete that has to pull them over sweaty pants? Newspaper bags can be slipped over the foot and calf to make pulling boots on and off super easy.
- ✓ Newspaper Bags as Boot Protectors: They're also great to carry around just in case of rain, as a way to protect your shoes.
- ✓ Newspaper Bag Gloves: Need to wash dishes but don't want to ruin the manicure? Slip on a bag as an easy way to protect your hands.
- ✓ Newspaper Bags for Animal Waste: If you have a pet, you probably have to pick up their waste at some point. Use newspaper bags to easily scoop out litter boxes, or to pick up after dogs when out on a walk.
- ✓ Use newspaper as a paper towel when cleaning glass and mirrors! Newspaper won't leave behind any fibers or residue, just a streak-free shine!
- ✓ And finally, don't toss out paper bags either. Use them to ripen fruit faster, make homemade popcorn, serve snacks, and more!
- ✓ If you're one of the few people who still gets a print newspaper delivered to your home, be aware that there are several ways to reuse that newspaper once you (and the rest of your family) have read it. You can use it as packing paper for fragile china, wrapping paper for gifts or as a cleaning aid. Simply dip crumpled newspaper in water mixed with a splash of white vinegar and clear up those windows in an instant, without harmful chemicals.

4. Clothes, Towels, and Bedding

- ✓ Don't toss out old towels, clothes and bedding! Cut them up into washable cleaning rags! Or check out excellent Pinterest ideas for ways to [upcycle old clothes](#) into new! Why not turn those torn t-shirts into beautiful [braided rugs](#)? If you've got sewing skills, turn old flannels into [resuseable dusters](#).
- ✓ Old textiles such as sheets, towels and cotton shirts can easily be turned into wash rags with a good pair of scissors. Throw the old items into your next load of laundry to make sure they're clean before they take on new life, then simply cut them up into rectangles with a sharp pair of scissors. Store them with your cleaning supplies and they'll be ready for your next spring cleaning.

5. Seeds

At the end of the growing season, let a couple of your veggies and flowers go to seed, collect the seeds and save them for next season for free! Here's [everything you need to know about harvesting and saving seeds](#) to reuse again and again!

6. Laundry Waste

If you use them, don't toss out those old dryer sheets! They make excellent dusting rags, especially for sucking up pet hair. They work great for scrubbing off soap scum and polishing chrome too! You can even make them into a [dress](#) if you're really determined. Collect the lint from the dryer to make [recycled paper](#) or [paper mache](#), or even [compostable seed pots](#).

7. Plastic Bags

- ✓ When the box of cereal is empty, save the inner bag, wash, dry and cut to wrap sandwiches. Plastic bags can be used as pet waste bags, or trash bins, or you can reuse them at the grocery store. Better yet, upcycle those plastic bags into nice-looking, sturdy [reusable grocery totes](#)!
- ✓ You already know how to keep plastic shopping bags contained in an empty paper towel roll. Now put the bags to use by lining bathroom waste cans with them. If you collect enough, plastic bags make excellent packing material in place of those awful packing peanuts. They're also great for keeping flour and sugar from spilling all over your pantry shelves.
- ✓ Paper Grocery Bags For Totes: [Reusable bags are best](#), but if you already have paper ones, fold them up and reuse them the next time you go shopping.
- ✓ Plastic Grocery Bags for Pet Waste: Cat owner? Save your plastic grocery bags for cleaning up after Fluffy.

- ✓ Plastic Grocery Bags for the Car: Keep [plastic bags](#) as an easy-to-transport garbage can for your car.

8. Bathroom Items

Save old toothbrushes to scrub hard to reach places, like grout and underneath the fixtures on faucets. Or clean old toothbrushes and reuse as eyebrow brushes, hair color applicators or for cleaning tools, electronics or other delicate or hard to clean items. Empty toothpaste tubes can be re-purposed as a funnel by cutting off the bottom, or as a frosting tube for icing cakes. Empty deodorant bottles are perfect for refilling with this [DIY Deodorant Recipe](#)!

9. Broken Dishes

Collect broken china to re-tile outdoor tables, [flower pots](#), paths, or as a unique border for your garden. Use broken china to make a [key fob](#) or jewelry. Plant small plants in old stained coffee mugs.

10. Old Furniture

- ✓ Refinish or repair rather than tossing old furniture. Re-purpose broken furniture or disassemble and [reuse the wood](#). Hang drawers on the wall to create shelves, shadowboxes or bulletin boards.
- ✓ With just a little ingenuity, you can cut down on your ecological footprint, save your pennies and re-purpose your trash! What clever home items can you think of to recycle and reuse?

10. Mesh Vegetable Bags

- ✓ Use a mesh vegetable bag as a yarn holder. Place your yarn inside the bag, thread the end through one of the holes, then pull it through.
- ✓ Use it as a scrubber for cleaning jobs around the house. Just wash it up and use it to scrub dishes, countertops, and more!
- ✓ Stretch the mesh bag over an old picture frame, staple it in place, and use it as an organizer for your earring collection.

11. Butter Wrappers

- ✓ Once you remove the wrapper from a stick of butter, place the wrapper in a Ziplock bag and keep it in the fridge. You can use the wrappers later to grease baking pans!
- ✓ Use individual butter wrappers to separate burger patties in your fridge or freezer. They won't stick to the patties, and you'll save space in your fridge!
- ✓ When a bread or roll recipe calls for a final brush of butter on top, use a butter wrapper! Just lay it butter-side down on top and let the butter residue on the wrapper melt into the surface.

12. Disposable Razors

When your disposable razor gets too dull for shaving, you can still use it to remove pills from sweaters! You can also use it to remove pills from hats, scarves, t-shirts, and more.

13. Egg Cartons

- ✓ Keep any of those clear plastic egg cartons. They make the perfect packaging for mini cupcakes and muffins!
- ✓ If any of your friends or family have chickens, ask if they'd like your old egg cartons. They could usually use the extras! (And who knows, you might get a few fresh eggs for your efforts!)
- ✓ Paper egg cartons can be split up and used as seed sprouting containers. Once the seedlings get big enough to plant, just wet down the whole egg carton cup and plant it right in the ground. The soggy paper will break down over time in the dirt.
- ✓ Use an old egg carton to organize and protect small Christmas ornaments.
- ✓ Egg Carton Seed Starters: You only want to use paper egg cartons for this, but they can be great to plant your seedlings in because the paper is biodegradable.
- ✓ You can also use an egg carton to organize other small stuff. Use one for jewelry, beads, office supplies, buttons, nuts and bolts, and more!

14. Tissue Boxes

- ✓ Use an empty tissue box to store your plastic grocery bags. And there's even a way to make them pop up just like tissues! Slide the bottom of each bag into the handles of the next bag, then insert them all into the box.
- ✓ Use an empty tissue box as a tiny trash receptacle on your desk. You can also place one in the living room as a handy place for discarded treat wrappers.
- ✓ Cut the tops off a few old tissue boxes and use them as drawer dividers. They can help keep smaller stuff more organized instead of rolling around in your drawer.
- ✓ Use an old tissue box as a small trash receptacle for your bathroom counters. It's the perfect place to toss out cotton swabs, cotton pads, and other single-use cosmetic items.
- ✓ Use a tissue box as a trash receptacle in your car! You can either toss it out when it's full or empty it and reuse it again.

15. Cardboard Tubes

Don't toss out the tubes from toilet paper and paper towel rolls! Use them to keep pants crease-free, make fire-starters, and organize extra cables.

16. Coffee Grounds Cleaner: They can be an excellent non-abrasive way to help clean dishes that need an extra bit of scouring power.

- ✓ Coffee Grounds Fertilizer: Use them as fertilizer in your outdoor gardens, or for indoor plants that could use a bit of nourishment.
- ✓ Coffee Grounds Deodorizer: Dry out used grounds and place an open container in the fridge and freezer to keep them odor-free.
- ✓ Tea Bag First Aid: The tannins in tea bags will also help reduce swelling and pain related to burns and bites.

17. Cereal Liner Bags

- ✓ Make a piping bag for frosting. Rinse and dry the bag, then scoop frosting into one of the bottom corners. Snip the corner off with a pair of scissors, then pipe!
- ✓ Cut the bag into small squares and use the squares to keep burger patties separated in a stack. Stacking up the patties like this is an easy way to save space in your fridge or freezer!
- ✓ Use the bags to wrap up homemade bread, rolls, and buns before storing them in your freezer.
- ✓ Use the bag to store leftovers or to portion out other foods. Seal it with a Food saver or other vacuum sealer to keep it fresh.
- ✓ Use a cereal liner bag to crush up crackers, cereal, nuts and more without making a mess. Cereal liner bags are thicker than regular Ziplock bags, which makes it less likely that any sharp bits will tear through it.

18. Dish Soap Bottles

Use an old, thoroughly cleaned dish soap bottle (or any squeeze bottle) to dole out a perfect amount of pancake batter onto a hot griddle. You can also use a squeeze bottle as a convenient way to fill an iron with water or water out-of-the-way plants.

19. Floor Tiles

- ✓ Make a beautiful piece of mosaic art. Gather up unused remnant tiles (or ask for some from your local home-improvement store), break carefully into pieces in a cloth bag, and arrange in a pattern on any solid surface. Adhere with floor-tile adhesive and use a putty knife to push grout into the cracks after the adhesive dries. Wipe excess grout away with a damp cloth before it sets. You can also make a mosaic table or use large tiles to [make an old tabletop new](#). Smaller tiles can be used for trivets.
- ✓ Extra or broken floor tiles make for great art projects. Create a beautiful mosaic piece of art with different colors and patterns of tiles. Decorate an outdoor wall or re-purpose an old nightstand with a new mosaic top.

20. Old Socks

Use the lone socks that the sock gnome left behind to keep small toys organized or to keep odds and ends like screws and paper clips in one convenient location. You could also put old socks over your shoes when doing something messy (like painting), or when your shoes are a wreck, but you need to run inside for a minute. Feel free to hand them out to maintenance men and repairmen who tromp through your house, too. Try using others as dog or cat toys — put a tennis ball in one for the dog, or catnip in the cat's, and sew closed.

21. Old T-Shirts and Jeans

- ✓ When your husband's fraternity T-shirts have more holes in them than the family colander, it's time to retire the man-jersey. Pay homage to his favorite tees by sewing them into a pillow (for the man-cave), or just throw them into the dog's crate. Better yet, use those babies for cleaning rags or to wrap breakables when moving. Your husband will appreciate his old shirts being given new life.
- ✓ A unique way of using old T-shirts is tearing them into strips and then "weaving" them into a unique rug.
- ✓ Old T-Shirts for Cleaning: Save your old T-shirts for cleaning towels; you'll be reusing trash and reducing your purchase of paper towels.
- ✓ Old Jeans, New Skirt: Jeans are particularly easy to turn into skirts, particularly if they already have holes in them.
- ✓ Old Jeans, New Bag: Cut up old and torn jeans and sew them haphazardly into a unique bag. No need for skill, the more jagged and messier, the more bohemian the look.

22. Paper Towel Rolls

Keep your plastic bags contained by stuffing them in an empty paper towel roll. And while you're at it, keep extension cords untangled by rolling them up and putting them through a paper towel roll. You can also organize hair bands and hair clips, roll your linens around paper towel rolls to keep them crease-free, or make boot trees so your over-the-knee boots won't get unsightly creases in them after spending the summer slouched over in the back of your closet.

23. Shoe Boxes

Being a small-time shoe diva myself, I've collected more than my fair share of empty shoe [boxes](#) over the years. I put the boxes to good use by making them into storage bins for my closet — rather than spend a fortune on matching boxes, I've wrapped them all in similar wrapping paper and printed off labels for easy identification. I also use empty shoe boxes as dresser-drawer organizers. You might also want to use your empty shoe boxes for, well, shoe storage. Take pictures of your inventory and tape them to the outside of the boxes to quickly spot the pair you're looking for in the closet.

24. Shower Curtains

I know this is a surprise, but I have somehow accumulated a number of old shower curtains over the years. I plan on using some as tablecloths for an outdoor gathering, while others I'll use as drop cloths the next time, I paint the walls. Another will be reused as a windshield cover to prevent frost build-up. Simply cut the shower curtain to the size of your windshield and hem in magnets to keep the cover in place. The magnets should stick to your car's metal windshield frame (see this [windshield cover](#) for an idea of how it should work).

25. Wine Corks

- ✓ Don't just toss all the wine corks you've accumulated over the years! Make a floating keychain to keep track of your keys the next time you set sail, or use another to safely store knives in a drawer. Use some to make a [stylish wreath](#) for your front door. You could also make an actual [cork board](#) to hold messages and important pieces of paper.
- ✓ Wine Cork Key Rings: They make great key rings – easy to grab but also able to float! Perfect for boaters and watersport enthusiasts.
- ✓ Wine Cork Sharp Safety: Wine corks are also great for some of their oldest reuse purposes – on the end of needles, pins, or other sharp items to protect fingertips
- ✓ Wine Cork Drawer and Cabinet Pulls: For a unique décor item, use larger sized corks, or reinforce corks with a resin sealer, and use them on your cabinets.

26. Toilet Paper Tube

- ✓ Toilet Paper Tube Pet Toys: Small pets like hamsters? Toilet paper tubes are awesome to give them tunnels to burrow in.
- ✓ Toilet Paper Tube Packing Materials: Tear them up and use them to give your shipped items a bit more protection without needing to buy peanuts or bubble wrap.
- ✓ Toilet Paper Tube Planters: You can use tubes to start off your seedlings by directly planting them. Paper is biodegradable, meaning you have an easy and [environmentally-friendly](#) way to get started.

27. Old CD

- ✓ CD Coasters: Reuse old CDs as coasters by sealing with a protective coating.
- ✓ CD Ornaments: CDs make great ornaments for Christmas trees, looking awesome when they catch the light.

28. Old Books

- ✓ Transform Old Books into Journals: You can replace pages in old books as journals, or even write over the words if that's your thing.
- ✓ Transform Old Books into Sketchbooks: "Altered" books are an art form in themselves, so try your hand by using an old book as a sketchbook, or even as a scrapbook.

29. Silica Packets

Silica Packets for Storage: You can't eat them, but you can use them for what they are designed for – protecting items from moisture. Use in storage with paper items and documents to keep them safe, or with old printed photos to make sure they are preserved.

30. Empty Pill Container

- ✓ Empty Pill Container Organizers: Use them to hold herbs, jewelry items, or other little objects that could use some organization.
- ✓ Empty Pill Container Sewing Kit: An easy-to-find and all-inclusive mini sewing kit is a must to have around the house.
- ✓ Empty Pill Container First Aid Kit: In the same vein, fill your bottle with Band-Aids, small packets of disinfectant, and other first-aid items that is easy to carry with you on the go.

31. Styrofoam

Styrofoam Packing Materials: Save old fast food containers to create packing peanuts, and if you receive some of the latter, try and save them for your next shipping need.

32. Old Pantyhose

- ✓ Old Pantyhose Orchid Planters: If you have the climate, outside orchids are beautiful to hang from your trees. For an easy installation, secure a new plant in some pantyhose, and wrap it around the tree for support as it grows.
- ✓ Old Pantyhose Rags: They're also great to use for cleaning up sensitive areas that may be prone to scuffs or scratches.

33. Others

- ✓ Old Dice Jewelry: You can use dice for several awesome ideas, such as punching holes in them, making them unique "beads" for jewelry.
- ✓ Old Typewriter Key Cufflinks: You may want to keep your old typewriter in one piece, but if not, repurpose the old keys by transforming them into cufflinks. Unique, and an awesome gift for any occasion.

How can we Recycle or donate or sell Waste? (make better use)

We are promoting zero-waste by encouraging donations

Websites

(Montreal specific)

Selling and Recycling

- ✓ <https://montreal-west.ca/en/resident-services/environment/recycle-reduce-and-reuse/>
- ✓ <https://montreal.ca/en/collections/recycling-collection?arrondissement=C%C3%B4te-des-Neiges%E2%80%93Notre-Dame-de-Gr%C3%A2ce>
- ✓ http://ville.montreal.qc.ca/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/ENVIRO_FR/MEDIA/DOCUMENTS/DEPLIANT_PELEMELE_ANG.PDF
- ✓ <http://local.rcienvironnement.com/quebec/waste-management-Montreal>
- ✓ <https://recycling.kruger.com/>
- ✓ <https://www.varagesale.com/downtown-montreal-qc-buy-and-sell>

<https://www.letgo.com/en-ca>

<https://www.sellmystuffcanada.com/>

<https://empiremtl.com/about>

Donating

- ✓ <https://www.211qc.ca/en/material-assistance-and-housing/used-articles-donation>
- ✓ <https://www.lesupport.ca/en/collects-of-clothing-and-objects/home-pick-up/>
- ✓ <https://www.renaissancequebec.ca/en/give-articles/where-to-drop-off-your-donations>
- ✓ <https://habitatqc.ca/restore/donate/?lang=en>
- ✓ <https://sunyouthorg.com/material-donations/>
- ✓ <https://salvationarmy.ca/quebec/home/locations/montreal/>

How to Get Rid of Hazardous Waste

- ✓ <https://westmount.org/en/environment/management-of-residual-materials/household-waste/>
- ✓ <http://mcgill.ca/hwm/recycling>