

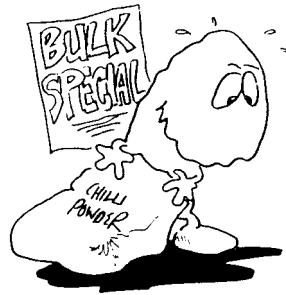


Reducing the amount and toxicity of the waste we produce is the most important thing we can do to help conserve resources and reduce pollution. When we think of ways to minimise waste, we should think **Reduce** first!

## Tips for Reducing Waste

### 1. Reduce Unnecessary Packaging

- Buy products you use often, such as flour, pet foods, shampoo in large or economy size.



- Consider purchasing concentrated products such as washing powder. These products usually require less packaging and less energy to transport to the supermarket, saving money as well as natural resources.

### 2. Maintain, Mend and Repair

- Keep appliances in good working order. Follow manufacturers' suggestions for proper operation and maintenance.

- Whenever possible, purchase long-lasting tyres, clothing, luggage, appliances and other goods. This means less waste and more efficient use of resources.

- Mend and darn before buying a replacement.

### 3. At the Supermarket

- Always bring your own shopping bag.



- Avoid 'disposable' items.
- Choose products with minimal packaging.

- Buy products in reusable, refillable or recyclable containers.
- Avoid packing fruit & veges in plastic bags.
- Buy recycled products.

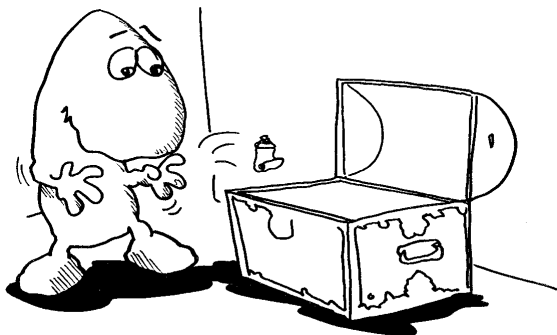
#### 4. In the Letterbox



- Tired of all that junk mail? If you don't want to receive any, put a clear sign on your letterbox 'No Junk Mail'.

#### 5. Use It Again Box

- Keep reusable items such as plastic containers, paper, string, cardboard, ribbons, wrapping paper, fabric scraps in a box for future use.



#### 6. Say It In Writing

- If you think a product has too much packaging, let the manufacturer know. Suggest an alternative...

#### 7. NO Impulse Buying Please!

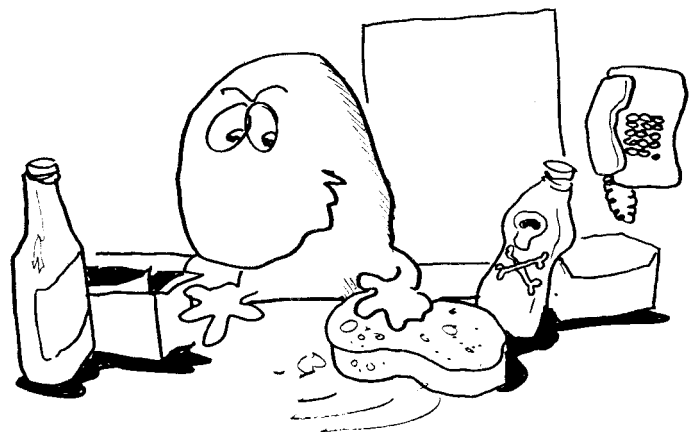
- Think before you buy. Do you really need it? Will it end up as needless rubbish?

#### 8. Compost It!

- Fruit & vege scraps, tea bags, grass and plant clippings and dried leaves are perfect for making compost! Ring (09) 366-2070 for a 'how to' compost brochure.

#### 9. Think Toxic Free

- A number of the household cleaning products on the supermarket shelves contain toxic chemicals. These chemicals can end up as hazardous waste. Why not avoid these products when possible? Here are a few safe alternatives:
  - Use baking soda to clean toilets, sinks, benches and tubs
  - Vinegar can be used to clean bottles, glass, and get rid of mould



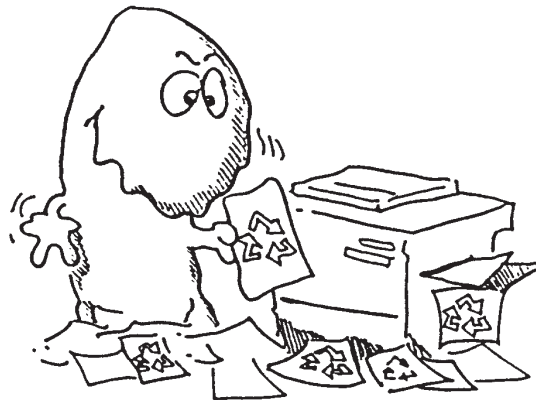
## Remember:

- Make or buy non-toxic cleaners.
- Read labels carefully.
- Buy only what you need.
- Take leftover household hazardous waste to a local drop off centre. Contact the ARC Wasteline on (09) 366-2070 for drop off centre locations.

For a list of safe alternatives for the home, garden, garage and boat, ring the ARC Wasteline (09) 366-2070.

## 10. At the Office

- Make double-sided photocopies.



- Use both sides of office paper.
- Use ceramic cups instead of plastic or paper ones.

## Think Before You Shop

### Instead of

- ✗ disposable batteries
- ✗ paper towels
- ✗ tissues
- ✗ tea bags
- ✗ plastic wrap
- ✗ paper napkins
- ✗ styrofoam cups
- ✗ plastic cutlery
- ✗ disposable nappies

### Why Not Try

- ✓ rechargeable batteries
- ✓ washable tea towels
- ✓ handkerchiefs
- ✓ loose tea
- ✓ reusable containers with lids
- ✓ washable cloth napkins
- ✓ washable cups
- ✓ washable cutlery
- ✓ cloth nappies



Auckland  
**Regional**  
Council

*For further information*

Regional Waste  
Private Bag 92 012  
Auckland

ARC Wasteline (09) 366-2070

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