

## BE THE SOLUTION TO POLLUTION: REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, RESPOND

**REDUCE** the amount of trash discarded.

- Reduce the amount of unnecessary packaging.
- Adopt practices that reduce waste toxicity.

**REUSE** containers and products.

- Consider reusable products.
- Maintain and repair durable products.
- Reuse bags, containers, and other items.
- Borrow, rent, or share items used infrequently.
- Sell or donate reusable goods.

**RECYCLE** and use recycled materials.

- Choose recyclable products and containers and recycle them.
- Select products made from recycled materials.
- Compost yard trimmings and fruit and vegetable scraps.

**RESPOND** to wastefulness by reconsidering waste-producing activities and by expressing preferences for less waste.

- Educate others on source reduction and recycling practices. Make your preferences known to manufacturers, merchants, and community leaders.
- Be creative - find new ways to reduce waste quantity and toxicity.

*For more information about what to do with your waste, contact your tribe's environmental office, or see the following website:*

***[www.epa.gov/osw/](http://www.epa.gov/osw/)***

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9  
Waste Management Office, WST-7  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

## WHERE YOUR WASTE GOES: A WASTE MANAGEMENT GUIDE



### What to do with:

- Recyclables
- Yard waste and food scraps
- Tires
- Appliances
- Furniture
- Cars
- Ink jet cartridges
- Car batteries
- Motor oil
- Household hazardous waste and
- Electronic waste



## WHAT TO DO WITH RECYCLABLES AND COMPOSTABLES

### Paper

To help save paper and trees:

- 1) Use both sides of each piece of paper.
- 2) Buy paper with the highest post-consumer recycled content available and processed chlorine-free.
- 3) Decrease your junk mail by writing to the Direct Marketing Association: [www.dmachoice.org/MPS](http://www.dmachoice.org/MPS)
- 4) Recycle your used paper. To find out where, call your tribe's environmental department or check with your local waste hauler or transfer station. Recycled paper can be made into gift-wrap, paper, newspaper and paper towels.
- 5) Make your own paper from old newspaper or office paper. See: [www.makestuff.com/recycling/paper.html](http://www.makestuff.com/recycling/paper.html)

### Clothes

Don't send clothes to a landfill. Instead:

- 1) Donate your used clothes to a local thrift shop.
- 2) Sell your clothes online or at a consignment store.
- 3) Try your hand at sewing.
- 4) Host a swap party. Ask each partygoer bring items to swap.

### Glass, Plastic and Aluminum

**Recycled glass** can be made into new bottles, glassphalt (a type of asphalt made of crushed glass), and ceramics.

**Recycled plastic** can be made into new toys, trash bags, automobile bumpers, and flowerpots.

**Recycled aluminum** can be made into new cans, pie tins and furniture.

To find out where you can recycle your glass, plastic, and aluminum, call your tribe's environmental department or check with your local waste hauler or transfer station.

### Food Waste and Green Waste

Turn your food scraps and yard clippings into new soil by starting backyard composting bin. For more information, see US EPA's composting website:

[www.epa.gov/compost/backyard.htm](http://www.epa.gov/compost/backyard.htm)



## WHAT TO DO WITH BULKY WASTE

### Tires

Recycled tires can be made into asphalt and playground material. Improperly disposed of, waste tires can create a breeding ground for mosquitoes and create a fire hazard. Help recycle scrap tires and prevent them from ending up in the wrong places:

- 1) Buy durable tires.
- 2) Take proper care of tires by checking air inflation, rotating the tires, balancing the wheels, and maintaining proper wheel alignment.
- 3) Purchase used tires and/or buy retreads.
- 4) Support the recycled product market by looking for products made with scrap tires/recycled rubber.
- 5) Return surplus tires to either a tire retailer or a local recycling facility that accepts tires. Some tribes or municipalities will also conduct "tire amnesty days" where citizens can bring a limited number of tires to a drop-off site free of charge. For more information, contact your tribe's environmental department or check with your local waste hauler or transfer station.

### Appliances and Furniture

Donate or sell your operable appliances and furniture in good condition. Check with your tribe's environmental department or your local waste hauler or transfer station for what to do with inoperable appliances and unusable furniture.

### Cars and Mobile Homes

Don't let your yard become an auto wrecking site:

- 1) Sell your working car or mobile home through a private buyer or a used car dealer. When shopping around, get offers in writing.
- 2) Donate your vehicle to charity. Try calling your favorite charity to see if they have a car donation program.
- 3) For non-working vehicles, try selling the parts online or to a local scrap metal dealer.

### Electronic Waste (E-Waste)

(Including computers, TVs, VCRs, stereos, and copiers)

- 1) See if a local repair shop or electronics training program could use it for parts or practice.
- 2) Check Earth 911 for ways to donate used electronics: <http://earth911.org/electronics/reuse-electronics-through-donation/>
- 3) Check with your tribe's environmental department or your local waste hauler or transfer station to see if they offer electronics recycling.

## WHAT TO DO WITH HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

### Ink Jet Cartridges

Up to three quarts of oil are needed to produce a single printer cartridge. Leaking ink from used cartridges can pollute the environment, and the plastic they're made of will take many generations to decompose.

1. Set up your own inkjet cartridge and cell phone collection program. [www.freerecycling.com](http://www.freerecycling.com) or [www.planetgreenrecycle.com](http://www.planetgreenrecycle.com) will pay you for cartridges that you collect.
2. Check with your ink cartridge manufacturer to see if you can have your cartridges refilled or recycled.

### Car Batteries

Car batteries contain lead and can be hazardous if disposed of improperly. Take back your used car batteries for recycling to the nearest car battery retailer.

### Motor Oil

Used motor oil can be re-refined into new oil. If you recycle two gallons of used oil it can generate enough electricity to run a house for 24 hours.

**Tip 1:** Oil is toxic and can pollute drinking water. Never spill oil on the soil or pour down the drain.

**Tip 2:** Antifreeze contaminates motor oil. Do not mix the two. Never place oil in a container that has contained other chemicals.

- 1) If you change your own oil, take it to a collection center for recycling or call your tribe's environmental department.
- 2) If you take your car to a service station to have the oil changed for you, you can be fairly certain they recycle the oil. If you are not sure, ask.

### Other Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

(Including paints, pesticides, automotive products, cleaning products, batteries, mercury thermometers, and fluorescent light bulbs).

Chemicals in household hazardous waste can be released into the environment and contaminate our air, water, and the food we eat. By throwing hazardous waste in the garbage, you can cause additional hazards to your garbage handler. To find out where you can safely dispose of your HHW, call your tribe's environmental department or check with your local waste hauler or transfer station. For more information on HHW, see EPA's website at: [www.epa.gov/garbage/hhw.htm](http://www.epa.gov/garbage/hhw.htm)