

## RECYCLING FACTS



**REUSE**

Energy saved from recycling helps the environment by reducing energy-related air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally:

- For every ton of paper recycled, we save 4,100 kilowatts of electricity for three hours.
- Half of all polyester carpet made in the United States is made from recycled plastic (PET) and
- Aluminum cans produced in the United States can contain at least 50% recycled content.

According to EPA figures

### WATER CONSERVATION IN YOUR KITCHEN

There are several ways to save water in your kitchen. A running faucet can waste 2.5 gallons of water each minute. A dishwasher uses 11 gallons of water per use. Each time you wash dishes by hand and rinse them under running water, 35 gallons of water is typically used. Clean vegetables in a pan of water rather than under running tap water. Run only full loads in your dishwasher and scrape your dishes without water before loading the dishwasher instead of running the pre-rinse cycle. Use your food disposal sparingly. This will also keep your plumbing from becoming clogged by foods and greases, which is an added benefit in addition to saving water.

Remember, water is one of our most valuable resources. Saving water is everyone's business.

## CONSERVATION TIPS



### General Paper Facts

- 4,100 kilowatts saved per ton-recycled
- 60 pounds of air pollution reduced per ton recycled

### By recycling 1 ton of paper you save:

- 17 trees
- 6,953 gallons of water
- 463 gallons of oil
- 587 pounds of air pollution
- 3.06 cubic yards of landfill space
- 4,077 kilowatt hours of energy

Source: Weyerhaeuser

### Top consumers of paper and paperboard per person in pounds for 2003

Countries	Weight (pounds)
U.S.	850
Finland	769
Belgium	656
Japan	626
Canada	605
Singapore	603
Taiwan	592
Switzerland	496
Denmark	471
New Zealand	469
Brazil	87
China	58
Indonesia	39



Sources: Worldwatch Institute, Pulp & Paper International, International Institute for Environment and Development

## Did You know?

- Americans throw away enough glass bottles and jars every two weeks to fill the 1,350-foot towers.
- Most bottles and jars contain at least 25% recycled glass.
- Glass never wears out -- it can be recycled forever. We save over a ton of resources for every ton of glass recycled -- 1,330 pounds of sand, 433 pounds of soda ash, 433 pounds of limestone, and 151 pounds of feldspar.
- A ton of glass produced from raw materials creates 384 pounds of mining waste. Using 50% recycled glass cuts it by about 75%. We get 27.8 pounds of air pollution for every ton of new glass produced.
- Recycling glass reduces that pollution by 14-20%.
- Recycling glass saves 25-32% of the energy used to make glass.
- Glass makes up about 8% of American municipal garbage.
- About 75% of America's glass is used for packaging. The average American can save six pounds of glass in a month.
- As late as 1947, virtually 100% of all beverage bottles were returnable.
- Every day, Americans recycle about 13 million glass jars and bottles.
- Germany recycles almost 40% of its glass.
- States with bottle deposit laws have 35-40% less litter by volume.

Source: The EarthWorks Group Recycler's Handbook



## **Aluminum**

In 2003, Californians recycled 10.6 billion aluminum cans and raised the State's aluminum can recycling rate to 2 out of every 3 cans.

Aluminum can recycling saves 95% of the energy needed to make aluminum from bauxite ore. Energy savings in 2003 alone were enough to light a city the size of Inglewood for 10 years.

Source: Can Manufacturing Institute

In America, 1,500 aluminum cans are recycled every second. In 2003, Americans used 90 billion aluminum cans. We recycled 65% of aluminum cans in 2003.

Making cans from recycled aluminum cuts related air pollution (for example, sulfur dioxides, which create acid rain) by 95%. Americans throw away enough aluminum every three months to rebuild our entire commercial air fleet. A quarter of all aluminum goes into packaging. The all-aluminum can was introduced in 1964. A paper grocery sack holds about 1.5 pounds of empty aluminum cans.

Source: The EarthWorks Group Recycler's Handbook

## **Steel**

Scrap steel reduces related water pollution, air pollution, and mining wastes by about 70%. It takes four times as much energy to make steel from virgin ore.

Annually, recycling steel saves enough energy to supply the City of Los Angeles with almost a decade worth of electricity.

Source: National Polymers, Inc.

The steel industry recycled nearly 19 billion steel cans into new products; about 600 cans recycled every second.

## **Non-Recyclable Styrofoam - Polystyrene**

It is un-recyclable—you can't make it into new Styrofoam. The industry wants you to assume it is—don't BUY it!

Each year American throws away 25,000,000,000 Styrofoam cups.

Source: Green Consumer

Even 500 years from now, the foam coffee cup you used this morning will be sitting in a landfill.

Source: The Recycler's Handbook

For more information about conservation and recycling visit: [www.ciwmb.ca.gov](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov)