

5 Cool Ways to Rev Up Your Recycling Habit

Once you have reduced waste as much as possible and reused everything you can, it's time to recycle. The third R is defined as *"taking a product at the end of its useful life and using all or part of it to make another product."* Here are five ways to get into the habit.

1. Make a COMMITMENT to recycle one more thing.

Most families already do some recycling, so thanks for everything you do. But think: *Is there one more product we could easily recycle?* If you already do plastic bottles and aluminum cans, how about junk mail or magazines? If you already do newspaper, what about cardboard? Need help? Go to <http://earth911.com/> and search for recycling locations by item and zip code.

2. Put recycling boxes and bins in CONVENIENT places.

We are creatures of habit and more likely to develop a habit when it is really easy to do. Want your family to recycle more? Make it super easy for them to do! Think about where people are using an item or throwing it away. Make collection points as close as possible, like a compost container near the dishwasher or a basket for old magazines near the couch.

3. Get CREATIVE with recycling-on-the-go.

Many of us are good about recycling at home where it is convenient, but we get careless when we are out-and-about. To get into an on-the-go recycling habit: (1) Keep a box or bag for recyclables in your car or truck. Toss everything in and separate when you get home; and (2) Make a family game out of finding public recycling bins in malls, airports, and hotels.

4. COLLECT the recyclables at work, school, or church.

If you're already in a recycling groove, work to get others involved. If a major program is more than you want to take on, it's easy to start small and see where things go. Put out a box or bin for one item (bottles, cans, newspapers, or office paper) and bring it home to add to your usual recycling. If that item goes well, start a green team to share the recycling load.

5. Support a COMMUNITY recycling effort.

Have a bit more time to commit to recycling? Get involved with others working to increase recycling in your community. .