

## **Repurpose 101**

According to the [Solid Waste Generation study](#) done by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the average American produces about 4.5 pounds of solid waste every day. This includes food waste, sustainable goods (like furniture), and non-sustainable goods (like paper and packaging). Even when a large portion of this waste is recycled, the majority still ends up in landfills. You can lessen the trash in the landfills by repurposing your items.

**What does it mean to repurpose an item?** Repurpose is defined as “to give a new purpose or use to;” to reuse the (waste) material on its original state, but with a different purpose

**Where does repurpose fit in with recycling?** Repurposing keeps waste out of landfills and reduces land, water, and air pollution. Repurposing also limits the need for natural resources such as timber, water and other materials.

**What does Repurposing mean for me?** It can inspire creativity and save you money by using already owned products.

**How can I make a difference?** The most effective tool in making an environmental difference for the future is education and spreading awareness.

### **Ways to help the environment by Repurposing Items**

- Using tires as boat fenders
- Creating feeding troughs from steel or plastic drums
- Creating plant containers from metal cans or buckets
- Repurpose wood crates into benches or shelves
- Using material shavings to help clean up spills
- Create a new storage bench by using an old chest of drawers
- Egg cartons can be turned into a place for seed starting
- Peanut butter jars make excellent bird feeders
- Turn old milk jugs into watering cans or for winter sowing containers

**Below are some websites to help you with ideas!**

<https://www.familyhandyman.com/list/79-old-items-totally-fit-for-repurposing/>

<https://feltmagnet.com/crafts/upcycling/>

<https://thefullheartedhome.com/repurposed-and-upcycled-home-decor-ideas/>