



# ecoaction teams

## ...for reducing waste at the cottage

Reducing the waste you create and dispose of at the cottage doesn't have to be a lot of work, it just takes a little bit of pre-planning...

### Reduce

Think about the food, drinks, toileteries and other purchases you take to the cottage and select those with less packaging. Buy in bulk and refill your containers.

Also, try to buy only the perishable items you think you'll need so that you have less to throw out.

And remember: don't buy disposable plates, cups, cutlery and napkins; if you've got a sink, hose or tub, you have no excuse!

### Recycle

Recycling diverts up to 30 percent of your household's waste from landfills. Remove excess packaging from products that you can't do without, *before* you head up to the cottage and put the packaging in your recycling bin at home.

Better yet, remove all packaging from food items and transport them in reusable containers. This also makes for easier stacking and storage in small cottage refrigerators.

Bring beverage containers with a return deposit on them instead of metal cans.

### Repair

Repair old furniture and other items instead of throwing them out.



### Share

Share magazines and newspapers with neighbours before you throw them into the recycling bin.



### Hazardous Waste

Be especially careful with the disposal of hazardous waste.

This includes:

- batteries
- household cleaners and the bottles after they're empty
- pesticides, herbicides



Better yet, only use environmentally-friendly cleaning products at the cottage such as newspaper and vinegar for cleaning windows and baking soda and salt for sinks.

### Compost

When you compost your food scraps, grass clippings, leaves and other yard debris, you can cut your household garbage by a third or even in half. A composter convert food waste into rich organic material that you can then use in your garden.

Composting at the garden doesn't have to create wildlife worries. Avoid adding meats and cheese to your compost and wildlife problems will be minimized. Select a convenient location for an outdoor compost bin that is away from the cottage.

For more information on how you can reduce home energy and water use, waste production, transportation fuel use and for tips on green shipping and gardening, check out Earth Day Canada's EcoAction Teams program at: [ecoactionteams.ca](http://ecoactionteams.ca)