

Why Reduce, Reuse, Recycle?

Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling all help to limit the amount of waste that gets thrown away, only to end up in the local landfill. Thus, the three R's help save energy, conserve natural resources, and minimize the size of the region's landfill, which also helps save MONEY!



REDUCE - limit waste by not producing it!

- Buy in bulk
- Avoid over-packaged goods
- Make 2-sided copies
- Use cloth napkins & towels instead of paper

REUSE - reuse products whenever feasible!

- Reuse paper or plastic grocery bags
- Rinse and reuse plastic baggies
- Buy used clothes or donate some to charity
- Use plastic plates instead of paper plates

RECYCLE - process old materials into new ones

There are many products that can be recycled:

- Paper
- Batteries
- Plastics
- Glass
- Used Motor Oil
- Tires

PROPERLY DISPOSE of Hazardous Wastes -

Instead of openly discarding on the ground or into a storm drain, take all hazardous materials to Roanoke Valley Resource Authority's Household Hazardous Waste Collection facility.

- What types of household products are hazardous?
- What should I do with leftover products like paints and pesticides?
- Is it legal to pour hazardous products on my yard?
- Is there someplace I can take used motor oil and old automotive batteries?

See inside. . .

For more information, contact:

Community Development
Stormwater Management Division
(540) 772-2065

<http://www.roanokecountyva.gov/>



COUNTY OF ROANOKE
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Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Properly Dispose of Hazardous Wastes in and Around Your Home



A Guide for Roanoke County Residents

Hazardous Products

There are many ordinary household products that are highly toxic to fish, wildlife, plants, domestic animals, and humans if improperly handled or improperly discharged. Some of the products that can be toxic to the environment may surprise you. Here is a partial list:

- Bleach
- Ammonia
- Paint
- Antifreeze
- Motor Oil
- Car Cleaners
- Battery Acid
- Pool Cleaners
- Lawn Fertilizer
- Drain Cleaner
- Detergents
- Insecticide
- Weed Killer
- Herbicide
- Deck Cleaner
- Charcoal
- Cooking Oil
- Gasoline
- Glue
- Hair Spray
- Rat Poison
- Flea Killers
- Televisions
- Light bulbs

If these products are poured onto the ground or into the storm drain, they may pollute groundwater and local receiving waters, like the Roanoke River. The result: **DEAD FISH** and other unhealthy conditions.



Reduce

You can help reduce waste that is headed to the local landfill by simply buying and using less. Be frugal, probably much like your grandparents lived. *Buy what you need and use what you buy!* Then, make sure that you dispose of the containers in a proper fashion, depending upon what they contained. And remember, when disposing of hazardous items, like those listed above, do not dump or pour them onto the ground or into a storm drain, as they hurt the environment.

Reuse

Reuse by selling your unwanted but useable items or by taking them to a donation center. You can donate used clothes, toys, books, appliances, furniture, vehicles, building materials, and many other items. And there are a host of organizations that will gladly accept donated items like Goodwill, Salvation Army, Purple Heart, Habitat for Humanity, schools, churches, and many other organizations. Find one you like and check to see which specific goods it needs and/or accepts.

WHY DONATE? There are several very good reasons to give away your stuff:

- Keeps useable items out of the landfill
- Helps out those less fortunate and in need
- Possible tax benefits

Also, when you need something, try to buy used items instead of new ones. Usually, you will find that used items are less costly and are just as good as the new ones.

Dumping trash, household chemicals, and other toxic materials is illegal, and it's unsightly! Not only does it pose a risk for the environment, it is also harmful to plants, animals, and humans.



Recycle

Have you ever heard the old saying that "one person's garbage is another person's treasure?" Well that is sort of the idea behind recycling. Recycling is the process of collecting and processing materials that would otherwise be thrown into the trash and then turning them into new products. There are many familiar items that can be made from recycled materials, including egg cartons, aluminum cans, motor oil, nails, and trash bags, to name a few.

To help keep waste out of the landfill and conserve natural resources such as timber and water, buy items that can be easily recycled and items that have recycled content.

Proper Disposal

Dispose of hazardous household waste products, **for FREE**, at the Roanoke Valley Resource Authority's (RVRA's) Household Hazardous Waste Collection (HHWC) facility. This is a permanent facility located at the Tinker Creek Transfer Station, and it serves residents of Roanoke County, Town of Vinton, and City of Roanoke ONLY.

RVRA's HHWC facility routinely takes some items during normal operating hours, such as aerosol cans, latex paint, used antifreeze and motor oil. Also, RVRA has free monthly collection events on the third Saturday of each month, during which they accept additional products such as bleach, degreasers, batteries, pool chemicals, pesticides, and many other items. For more information, **contact RVRA at**

(540) 857-5820

<http://rvra.net/>