

## Reducing Waste by Reusing

There are many ways to reduce waste. It's better not to create garbage in the first place, so there is nothing to throw away.



Buy only what you need. If there are things you will only use once or twice, you can rent them or borrow from friends. You can also buy used items. If you buy used items and shop at garage sales you are helping other people reduce waste by reusing it yourself.



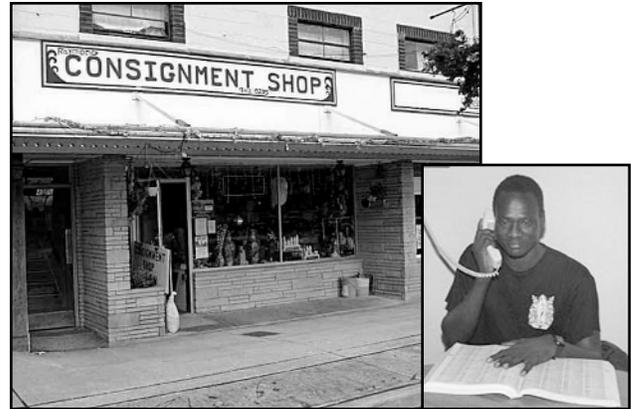
A great way to reuse items that you no longer need is to give them away to someone else. Clean, useable household goods, clothing, toys, and other items can be donated to many non-profit groups. Some thrift shops like the Salvation Army and the Disabled Veterans will even come to your house to pick up a donation. If you are not sure if a thrift store will accept a certain item, call and ask.



You can also sell these things at a garage sale. You will need to prepare for the sale by organizing and pricing the items, and putting up signs in your neighborhood to help people find your sale. Some people pay to advertise their sale in a local newspaper. The money earned from selling used items is always helpful.



Consignment shops take items in excellent condition and sell them for you. Merchandise is organized like a department store. Some consignment shops specialize in children's clothing and furniture, women's clothing and accessories, sporting goods, exercise equipment, music, or furniture. Call the shop and ask if they will accept your items.



If you have a larger item that you want to give away you can use the Internet to advertise it. If you live in the Metropolitan area [www.twincitiesfreemarket.org](http://www.twincitiesfreemarket.org) will advertise your used items. The FREEMarketSM is a listing service for residents who want to give or get free reusable goods for the home, garage and garden. The person who wants the item has to pick it up. This site helps reduce the amount of items being thrown away by reusing them.



By reducing and reusing we can put less waste in our landfills, and keep our air and water cleaner.



For more ideas on reducing and reusing go to [www.GreenGuardian.com](http://www.GreenGuardian.com)

