



# RETHINKWASTE GUIDE

a project of the environmental center 

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Rethink Waste Project and The Environmental Center bring you this publication in partnership with the Deschutes County Department of Solid Waste.

## **Rethink Waste Project**

A program of the Environmental Center providing waste prevention and reduction education and responsible materials management information to Central Oregonians. Available for educational community presentations, outreach, and assistance with waste reduction.

**[RethinkWasteProject.org](http://RethinkWasteProject.org)**

## **The Environmental Center**

A regional, nonprofit organization whose mission is to embed sustainability into daily life in Central Oregon. We translate sustainability into practical, local action to create a healthy future for people and the planet.

**[envirocenter.org](http://envirocenter.org)**

**541-385-6908**

16 NW Kansas Avenue  
in downtown Bend.

## **Deschutes County Department of Solid Waste**

Overseers of solid waste management in Deschutes County, including Knott Landfill and Transfer Facility, and four other transfer stations throughout the County.

**[deschutes.org/solidwaste](http://deschutes.org/solidwaste)**

**541-317-3163**



A program of the Environmental Center 

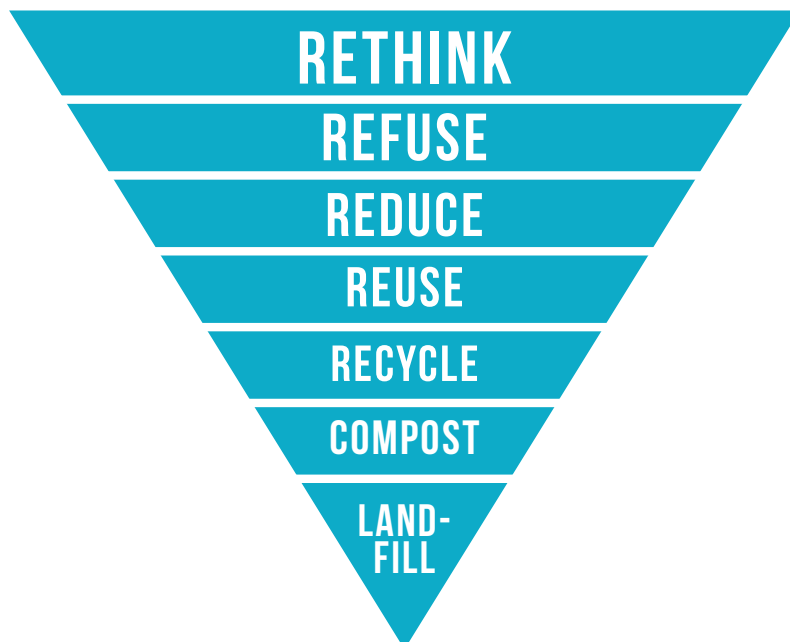
# WELCOME TO THE RETHINK WASTE GUIDE

The Rethink Waste Guide has the tools and resources you need to help reduce your waste and rethink your relationship with stuff. Learn about composting, using nontoxic alternatives, and buying local. And take steps towards a community-driven goal: reduce, reuse, recycle, and rethink.

## Our landfill is filling up.

We have momentum on our side! Together we can protect the environment and extend the life of Knott landfill, our county's lowest cost disposal option, **projected to be full by 2029.**

LET'S DO THIS!  RETHINKWASTE



## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Rethink and reduce your waste in Deschutes County with these easy services:

- Yard debris service with food waste pickup at the curb.
- A Habitat Restore in every community.
- Our volunteer-led Repair Cafés where you can get your broken stuff fixed for free.

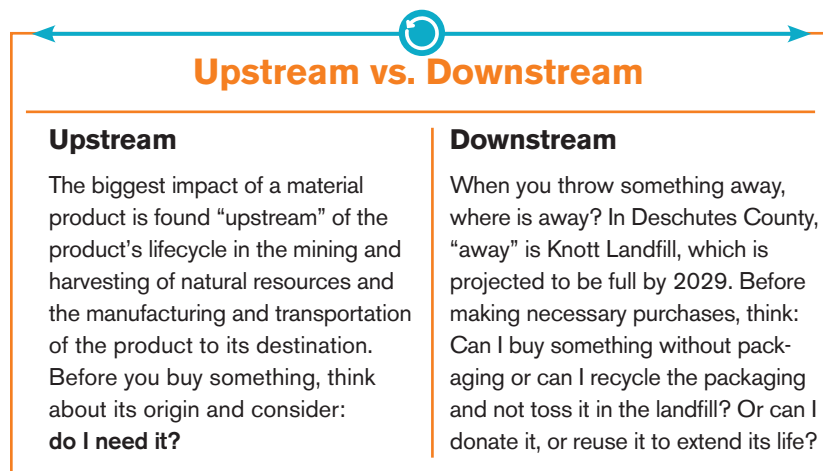
Helpful services are all described here and at **RethinkWasteProject.org**

Keep this guide handy and reuse it every day to start making a difference at home, at work, and at school.

# WHY RETHINK WASTE?

Everything we touch on the planet comes from somewhere (upstream). And even after those things are out of our sight, they still exist in some form or another (downstream). Think about the energy, water, and materials that go into making and transporting every product we consume and enjoy.

Rethinking waste is about changing our relationship with stuff. It's about taking time to recognize the upstream and downstream effects of our consumption and avoiding waste in both directions.



How can we close the loop: keep things in a cycle of use rather than waste and disposal?

## A few useful facts:

- **Deschutes County’s Knott Landfill is projected to be full by 2029.**
- Preparing the landfills for waste – and once they’re full, constructing new ones – costs millions.
- Existing landfills produce methane gas that is 21 times stronger than carbon dioxide.
- Landfills account for 16% of the nation’s methane emissions.
- Keeping materials in the loop through “reduce, reuse, and recycle” conserves natural resources by preventing the unnecessary harvesting of new materials.
- Minimizing toxic substances promotes healthier environments and happier communities.



# RETHINK WASTE CAN HELP!

You're not alone! We provide free presentations, consultations, and resources to the community. We're here to help you reduce waste, no matter who you are or what you're doing. See yourself in the list below? Give us a call or send an email and we'll share ideas you can easily implement to make a huge difference. Reach out with any questions.

- ☐ **I'm throwing a party.** How can I make it look special but still be conscious of reducing waste?
- ☐ **My community group, work cohort, book club, etc. wants to learn more.** Can you answer our questions?
- ☐ **I'm an event organizer and I see a lot of waste while I work.** What can I do about it?
- ☐ **I'm an AirBnB host and regularly prepare for out-of-town guests.** What can I do to not only reduce waste personally, but encourage them to reduce it as well?
- ☐ **I'm a student.** How can I reduce waste at my school?
- ☐ **I'm a business owner.** What can be done about waste?
- ☐ **I'm an apartment complex / property manager.** How can I expand recycling and engage tenants?
- ☐ **I see a lot of wasted food in my restaurant/hotel/home etc.** Can you help reduce food waste?



## CONTACT US



541-385-6908  
16 NW Kansas Ave.  
Bend, Oregon



# RETHINK WASTE AT HOME

What we surround ourselves with at home makes a statement. It changes how we feel and how we interact.

## What can be done at home?

- Simplify. Often, the things we cherish most aren't for sale. Spend time discovering activities such as outdoor recreation, handmade hobbies or crafts, and visiting with family and friends.
- Repair broken or damaged items whenever possible. You'll save money, resources, or support local business.
- Pack your lunch or snacks in reusable containers.
- Kick the bottled water habit by drinking delicious Central Oregon tap water from a refillable bottle.
- Learn a few simple sewing tricks like mending or hemming or take things to a tailor for clothing repairs.
- Replace disposable items such as napkins and paper towels with cloth napkins and dish towels.
- Consider switching to cloth diapers – wash at home or use a service. Even if it's part of the time.
- Invest in rechargeable batteries and a charger.
- Growing or raising your own food, from fresh herbs to healthy chickens for eggs, can curb kitchen waste.
- Waste free bathrooms: Cut down on single use plastics by refilling what you have or by trying bar shampoo and bar soap.

## Go paperless.

- No more single-sided printing.
- Create scratch pads by reusing the backsides of used paper.
- Utilize technology. Scan, email, and use online programs for document storage, banking, bill paying, and other routine transactions.
- Consider subscribing to digital online versions of newspapers, magazines, and online journals.
- Opt out. The average home gets 41 lbs. of junk mail each year. Call the mail's 800 number or visit **dmachoice.org** to opt out of junk mail. Go to **catalogchoice.org** to stop receiving unwanted catalogs. Stop receiving phone books at **yellowpagesoptout.com**. Opt out of credit card offers with **OptOutPreScreen.com**.

TRY REUSABLE  
**FILTERS**  
FOR COFFEE  
MACHINES.



# RETHINK FOOD WASTE

**How much?** In Deschutes County, an estimated 26% of our Knott Landfill (the one that is projected to be full by 2029) is comprised of wasted food.

**Why does it happen?** In the household, food can be wasted by over buying, over preparing, or over ordering. About 1/4 of what we bring home gets tossed.

## Why care?

- Social impact: 1 in 6 people in Deschutes County are food insecure.
- Financial impact: Wasted food is wasted money.
- Environmental impact: Food in the landfill breaks down into methane-potent greenhouse gas.

## Pledge to waste less food.

### Here are some simple ways you can reduce your food waste:

**Learn:** Sign up for our free Rethink Food Waste 4-week email series. We'll send you weekly emails with food waste prevention tips and resources. Those who have already signed up have reduced their food waste by 40%!

**Use an "Eat First" basket:** A space for leftover and need-to-use food bits in your fridge.

**Shop Smarter:** Make a meal plan for the week but shop your kitchen first!

**Prep Smarter:** Chop your veggies now for easy use in cooking or snacking.

**Store Smarter:** Learn the best ways to store food so it lasts longer.

“**Having our food waste go down so much in the last two weeks has really inspired me! I understand now how meal planning and proper storage is improving our food wasting habits.**”

- Rethink Food Waste participant



## MAKE A MEAL PLAN



# COMPOSTING: AT HOME

Over a quarter of our nation's household garbage consists of yard trimmings and food waste. It is best to prevent food waste in the first place, but composting is the best way to dispose of wasted food. Composting harnesses nature's process of decomposition to create something that benefits our yards and gardens!

## In a nutshell, composting ...

- Diverts thousands of pounds of waste from the landfill.
- Is the ultimate closed loop system – turning garbage into something we can reuse.
- When used in the yard, boosts plant health, helps soils retain water, and reduces the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

## Three great ways to compost at home:

**Backyard Composting.** If you have a fair amount of yard debris, consider creating a compost pile in your yard. There are many options that range from a basic open pile, to store-bought tumbler style bins.

**Worm Composting.** Worm composting is great for households that only have fruit and vegetable scraps, or for those who live in smaller spaces such as apartments or condominiums.

**Grasscycling.** Grasscycling refers to leaving your grass clippings on the lawn when mowing. Grass clippings decompose quickly, releasing up to 40% of the vital nutrients back into the lawn, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers.



## OK FOR BACKYARD COMPOST!

**Fruit and vegetable scraps**

**Eggshells**

**Coffee grounds, filters  
and tea bags**

**Shredded paper, but just  
a bit**

**Leaves and plant  
trimmings**

**Grass clippings**

**Bark and wood chips**

**Anything else is a “NO”**

### Compostable vs. Biodegradable

#### Compostable:

Something which can be composted within a designated amount of time in a human-controlled composting facility.

#### Biodegradable:

Can break down over time when exposed to sunlight, air and moisture or other organisms, but not in a determined time frame.

*Not all biodegradables are compostable.*



# COMPOSTING: CURBSIDE PICK-UP/DROP-OFF

Can't compost at home? Turn your organics into soil and close the loop by composting through your yard debris subscription service and buying back from Deschutes Recycling!

## Residential organics collection:

**Redmond and Sisters city limits:** You can sign up for organics collection including yard debris, raw fruit and veggie scraps, and coffee grounds all in your yard debris cart. In Sisters, your yard debris cart is included in your monthly fee. Contact your garbage and recycling provider for more information.

**Bend city limits:** Now accepting all food waste with yard debris. This includes all kitchen scraps: meat, dairy, bakery items, and produce. Contact your garbage and recycling provider for more information.

**Commercial composting is also available within city limits.**

## Drop-off options for yard debris:

For a fee, you can also drop off yard debris materials including grass clippings, brush, weeds, plant prunings, branches, stumps (12" diameter or smaller), pine needles, pine cones and sod. (See pg. 22 for drop-off locations)

## Buy local compost:

Deschutes Recycling sells several compost products for all of your landscaping needs. Visit [deschutesrecycling.com](https://deschutesrecycling.com) or call 541-388-1910 for information and pricing. Available in bulk or in cubic foot bag.



## **REDUCE WASTE**

Do you really need to own it? Don't buy what you don't actually need and you'll save on clutter, waste, and pollution. When making any purchase, think first: what are the upstream and downstream impacts?

### **When shopping:**

- Shop second hand first.
- When you can, purchase items with minimal packaging.
- Buy local! Locally made goods generally consume less packaging and don't require shipping.
- Buy in bulk or "value pack" when possible, or purchase products in large containers or in concentrate.
- Purchase durable products that can last a lifetime. Research by reading online reviews.
- Purchase products that are refillable and reusable.
- When buying clothes, buy things that truly fit and that are made well to last longer. And, if you don't love it, don't buy it.

### **Holidays and gift giving:**

- Give gifts that are resource friendly, like a multipurpose lunch box or bag, or a beeswax wrap.
- Find ways to gift experiences, such as a unique trip or event.
- Get creative with wrapping by using comics, old maps, fabrics or reusable bags to wrap gifts. Wrap in old boxes rather than new ones.
- Make a charitable donation in the name of the person who will receive your gift.
- Handmade gifts are always great!

### **Entertaining:**

- Say no to single use plastics: cups, plates, utensils, etc.!
- Borrow plates, utensils, or cups if you don't have enough, or ask people to bring their own.
- Rent from event companies.
- Buy from a thrift store then take your purchases back for someone else to use – consider it a cheap rental cost!
- Use cloth napkins.

**GIVE THE  
GIFT OF AN  
EXPERIENCE**



# REPAIR, BORROW, SHARE

Ask yourself. Can you fix what you already have? Chances are you can – either by yourself or with a little help.

## Repair Café

A Repair Café connects people with broken stuff to people who like to fix stuff. Bring clothes, small appliances, electronics, jewelry, outdoor gear, and more – and someone will either fix it for you or teach you how to fix it.

The Rethink Waste Project has been organizing these free events since 2013. Over six years the program diverted over 500 items from the landfill thanks to our fabulous volunteer fixers! Join the Rethink Waste Project e-mail list for event updates.



Photo credit: KM Collins

## What do you really need: A drill, or a hole in the wall?

- Share or rent tools, machines, or supplies with friends, neighbors, or coworkers such as: lawn care equipment, tables and chairs, power tools, tents and tree trimming equipment.
- Make a shared online spreadsheet so you can check items out from each other.
- Check out books, CDs and DVDs from the Deschutes Public Library. They've also implemented a "Library of Things" that may include a GoPro, a ukulele kit, a birdwatching kit, an Instant Pot and more. Check out [deschuteslibrary.org](http://deschuteslibrary.org) or call your local branch for details.



## LEARN TO FIX AND REPAIR

- Attend a Repair Café to talk to a fixer.
- The DIY Cave is a makers space offering membership to use tools for metal working, wood working, welding and lots more! For more info and to sign up for classes go to [diycave.com](http://diycave.com).
- Gear Fix has occasional fixer classes too. [gearfix.com/events](http://gearfix.com/events)
- [ifixit.com](http://ifixit.com) for free how-to-repair guides.




# REUSE: REPURPOSE & UPCYCLE


Before you toss something think: can you find another purpose for it?

## Turn something old into something new.

- Old pallet into a headboard.
- Old bicycle wheels into a trellis.
- Old tires into a tire swing.

This was some bits of old shelving, a topless coffee table, and some repurposed paint – all found at Habitat ReStore. Check out ReStore's annual Furniture Flip event. 



 This unique creature was created at Trashformations—an upcycle event in Bend.



 This group made reusable bags out of old t-shirts.



**OLD  
TIRES**  
CAN BE TURNED INTO  
SUMMER FUN

## REUSE: PASS IT ON

**“One man’s trash is another man’s treasure,” right?**

Check out Facebook’s Buy Nothing Project. Find a home for anything! If you don’t need it anymore, pass it on rather than sending it to the landfill.

### SIX RULES OF REUSE

- 1 - Bring your own.** Put together an On-The-Go kit.
- 2 - Repair – Refurbish – Recover,** whenever possible.
- 3 - Upcycle.** Find a different use for it.
- 4 - Give it** to someone who needs it.
- 5 - Make a charitable donation –** or leave it on the curb with a FREE sign.
- 6 - Sell it.** Sites like Craigslist and eBay provide an easy way to sell or buy used goods.

**Don’t need it anymore? Pass it on downstream.**

**Building.** Construction and demolition materials make up a large portion of our overall waste. Reuse lumber, doors, windows, and fixtures by checking with your local Habitat for Humanity ReStore or visit [restorebend.org](http://restorebend.org) for information. (See pg. 21)

**Outdoor gear.** Ready to part ways with your old bike or skis? Donate them to a second hand store, sell them on Craigslist or to one of our local replay sporting goods stores

**Clothing.** Donate clothing you don’t wear to a resale shop, hold a clothing swap with friends, hem or alter your favorites – or make old clothing into rags or upcycle into fun accessories when they can no longer be worn.

**Books.** Donate old books to the library, a local used bookstore, or second hand shop.



# RECYCLING: EVERY COMMUNITY IS DIFFERENT

Being a wishful recycler means you put items in your cart even if you are unsure, or if you think it'll make the recycling system change. This makes things worse by jamming up the system! Are you recycling right? – the way we do it in Deschutes County?

## What does the symbol mean?



The universal recycle symbol does not inherently indicate that a product is recyclable; there is no regulation around its use. A number inside correlates to what type of plastic resin is used in the product. A % inside indicates how much of the product is made from recyclable materials. In Deschutes County, we do not recycle by number.

**Remember: just because it has the logo doesn't mean it is recyclable in your curbside cart!**

## Buy recycled – closing the “loop”

Recycling is most effective when we purchase products that are made from recycled materials. When purchasing, look for the recycle symbol that indicates the highest percentage of post-consumer recycled content you can find.

## Not sure what to do with something?

Use our **Find A Recycler or Reuser** tool when you aren't sure. Look for this logo at the top of all our web pages.



## Who is your recycling provider?



# RECYCLING ONE ALUMINUM CAN

# SAVES ENOUGH ENERGY TO RUN A TV FOR TWO HOURS.



# RECYCLING Q & A

Recycling puts materials that would have ended up in the garbage back into the manufacturing loop. This means less virgin material has to be mined or harvested.

## CURBSIDE COMMINGLED RECYCLING Q&A:

**Q:** *If I can't recycle it in my curbside cart, does that mean I can't recycle it anywhere?*

**A:** No! There are lots of places that accept a variety of items for drop off recycling. Use our Find a Recycler or Reuser tool (See pg.14)

**Q:** *Why can't I put plastic lids in my commingled recycling?*

**A:** Lids and caps are small and flat and can end up in places they shouldn't be, such as in the folds of cardboard or newspaper, contaminating those materials when they are sorted and sent off to be recycled.

**Q:** *Why can't plastic bags be recycled in my curbside cart?*

**A:** Plastic bags get caught in the conveyor belts and gears used in the recycling sorting process and jam up the whole system. You can, however, recycle plastic film such as grocery bags, bubble wrap, case wrap, bread bags and more. Learn more at **PlasticFilmRecycling.org**



*This is why we don't recycle plastic bags in curbside bins. They get caught up in the conveyor belt wheels and jam the system.*

**Q:** *Why are there so many plastics, but we can only recycle a few types of plastic containers?*

**A:** There are over 100 different types of resins used to make plastics, not all of which can be easily sorted or recycled. Here in Deschutes County, the plastics that are accepted include bottles, tubs, and jugs. Other plastics such as bags, shrink wrap, and clamshell produce and take-out containers are often either made of multiple types of material that are difficult to separate or they are made of low grade or hard to recycle material. Try to reuse these plastics that cannot be recycled, or try not to buy them in the first place.

**Q:** *I heard the recycling system is broken. Doesn't our recycling end up in the landfill anyway?*

**A:** No! The items accepted in our curbside cart in Deschutes County are recycled (see pg 16). Know what goes in and what stays out to make sure the recycling system goes as smoothly as possible. Vote with your dollar by buying items in packaging that is reusable or recyclable. Recyclability is controlled by the demands of the market.

**Q:** *Why can't glass bottles be put in with the rest of my recycling?*

**A:** Because glass breaks easily, is difficult to sort and can harm workers, damage equipment, and cause problems in the recycling and sorting, glass is kept separate in most Oregon communities. Never put glass in your commingled cart.

# THE CYCLE OF CURBSIDE RECYCLING

Recycling keeps materials in the loop! It is driven by a combination of state and local ordinances working with local, national, and international recycling markets and programs. Many countries overseas have stopped taking our recycling because it has been contaminated with garbage. Now much of our recycling stays in our country or region.

## What happens to my mixed recycling after it leaves the curb?

Recyclables get baled up and trucked over the mountains to a Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) where they are sorted mechanically and by hand. From there, materials are sold to markets where they get recycled into new products.



# CURBSIDE RECYCLING: WHAT GOES IN?

If available to you, curbside is the easiest way to recycle. Check out the guidelines below for acceptable curbside recyclables and contact your garbage and recycling hauler for information. If you don't have curbside pick up, see pg. 22 for drop-off locations!

## Deschutes County's curbside carts: What goes?

### Clean Paper

The following types of paper are accepted:

- **Newspaper** – And anything that comes in it, can be recycled.
- **Mixed paper and junk mail** – Paper, envelopes, white and colored paper, paper bags, computer paper, wrapping paper (no foil or ribbon), shredded paper (strips, no confetti) is OK in a paper bag stapled shut to avoid litter.
- **Paperboard** – cereal/cracker/shoeboxes (discard liners), soda and beer cartons, paper egg cartons, paper towel tubes.
- **Magazines, catalogs and phonebooks.**
- **Corrugated cardboard** – Flatten. No waxed or slick coated cardboard.

*\*\* Unacceptable paper – paper ream wrappers, tissue paper, slick or wax coated cardboard, soiled pizza boxes, candy wrappers, snack food bags, frozen food boxes, paper cups/plates/towels/napkins, pet food bags, or to-go containers.*

**Tin and aluminum** – Cans, jar lids, clean foil, TV dinner trays, beverage cans. Rinse clean. No need to flatten or remove labels.

**Clean plastic** – Bottles, tubs, and jugs only (see side bar).

Within the City Limits of Bend or Redmond:

**Motor oil** – Pour into an unbreakable, one-gallon maximum, leak-proof container with a tight fitting, screw-type lid. Clearly label container "motor oil" and place next to your recyclables.

**Glass** – Put clean (clear and colored) glass into separate bin provided by your collector – NEVER in the comingled cart. Labels on the glass are OK.



## CLEAN PLASTICS YES, PLEASE

- Bottles, tubs, and jugs 6 oz. or larger
- Rigid plastics such as yogurt containers, butter, sour cream, and cottage cheese tubs
- Nursery rigid plant pots 4 in. or larger
- 5 gallon plastic buckets

## NO, THANK YOU

- Plastic bags and film: see **PlasticFilmRecycling.org** for places you can recycle these
- Clear, rigid plastic clamshells (produce, bakery containers, and salad containers)
- Bottle and tub lids
- Cups, plates or utensils
- Foam or Styrofoam
- Large items, eg. toys or tools
- Any plastic containers smaller than 6 ounces
- Blister packaging
- Dirty or food contaminated items
- "Biodegradable" or "compostable" plastics
- Trays
- Plastics that contained hazardous substances such as motor oil, pesticides or fertilizers



# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE AND ALTERNATIVES

## What is household hazardous waste?

Everyday household products contain hazardous chemicals such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, and pesticides that require special care during their disposal. By understanding what household products are hazardous and what alternatives are available, you can create a safer and healthier home environment. All hazardous waste needs special attention.

## What's it matter to me?

### Dangers of hazardous products:

- It can cause human health hazards such as dangerous vapors, fumes, skin burns, and other illnesses.
- Repeated exposure to certain chemicals such as pesticides has been found to cause cancer or birth defects.
- Indoor air pollution from certain chemicals can have significant effects on our health. Indoor air can be at least five times more polluted than outdoor air.
- Pesticides are intended to kill destructive insects, but they can also harm beneficial insects as well as birds.
- Fertilizers and pesticide runoff enters storm drains, polluting rivers and streams.

## What can I do about it?

- **The safer alternatives.** Fortunately there are many nontoxic options for use around the house and in the yard. Check **EWG.org** for great tips.
- **Simply don't dump it.** Please dispose of it properly.
- **Read the label!** You can learn a lot by looking at the labels of your favorite cleaning products, although you can't learn everything. Federal laws don't govern labeling of cleaning products unless there is a chemical of known concern. Still, take note of words like CAUTION, WARNING, DANGER or POISON, the latter two being the most hazardous and the former two posing a medium hazard, usually in the form of skin or eye irritants.



### Easy recipes for general cleaners

1

Use a mixture of  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup vinegar and 1 cup to 1 quart of warm water. Add lemon juice for natural fragrance.

2

For an abrasive cleaner, use baking soda with a little bit of water to make a paste.

3

Rubbing alcohol works as a natural disinfectant, although take care to use in a well-ventilated area.

## Yard and garden alternatives:

- Plant native plants that thrive in Central Oregon. This can be one of the most effective ways to ward off pests and diseases as native plants are generally disease and pest resistant, allowing you to use fewer chemicals.
- Identify pests carefully as many insects are either harmless or even beneficial.
- Use compost in your yard and on your lawn as a great alternative to chemical fertilizers.
- Use “organic” labeled fertilizers as they tend to last longer in the soil and are less likely to migrate to other areas or waterways.

## Household Hazardous Waste Facility

Located at the Knott Landfill Recycling and Transfer Facility in Bend (see pg. 22), the HHW Facility is open the second and fourth Friday and Saturday of each month from 9am to 3pm. Call 541-317-3163 for more information.

### **The HHW Facility accepts the following hazardous wastes from households for drop off recycling:**

- Paints, stains, and solvents
- Fuels and thinners
- Oil filters and antifreeze
- Aerosols
- Household cleaning products
- Poisons
- Pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers
- Batteries: auto, rechargeable, lithium, and nickel cadmium
- Fluorescent light bulbs and tubes
- Pool and spa chemicals
- Thermometers, mercury thermostats and switches

**The HHW Facility also accepts hazardous waste from businesses through a separate program.** Businesses must pre-register to participate. Contact 541-317-3163.

**Medical sharps.** Contact Knott Landfill, pg. 22.

**Household pharmaceuticals and medicines.** Household pharmaceuticals and medicines (not Rx!) can be disposed of in the garbage. Do not dispose of down a drain or in the toilet. Deschutes County Sheriff's office also has a destruction program. Call 541-388-6655 for more information.

## PAINT CARE



- **Buy only what you need.**
- **Buy “Paint Green” products from ReStore.**
- **Whenever possible, use latex paint.**
- **Save leftover paint.**
- **Donate unused paint to ReStore.**

# **ELECTRONIC WASTE: DROP OFF RECYCLING**

Every year, Oregonians dispose of millions of pounds of electronics that contain hazardous substances such as lead, cadmium and mercury that can harm our health and environment. It's important to do this properly through approved programs.

## **Computers and computer peripherals**

Oregon E-Cycles program makes it free to drop off electronic items including:



Many other collection sites are available in Deschutes County.

To find an Oregon E-Cycles collection site near you, call 1-888-5-ECYCLE (532-9253) or go to [deq.state.or.us/lq/ecycle/](http://deq.state.or.us/lq/ecycle/).



**There are MANY electronics that are also recyclable at local retailer establishments!**

- Cell phones
- Large appliances
- CD players
- Speakers
- Digital cameras

For specifics, check the find a recycler/reuser tool at [www.rethinkwasteproject.org/find-a-recycler-or-reuser](http://www.rethinkwasteproject.org/find-a-recycler-or-reuser).

ELECTRONICS CONTAIN  
**VALUABLE  
MATERIALS**  
SUCH AS COPPER, GOLD  
AND ALUMINUM  
**THAT CAN BE  
RECYCLED**  
AND USED IN NEW STUFF





# CONSTRUCTION WASTE

The EPA estimates that 548 million tons of construction and demolition debris (concrete, asphalt, steel, wood products, drywall, brick and clay tile, etc) was generated in the U.S. in 2015 alone – more than twice the amount of generated municipal solid waste. The reduction, reuse, and recycling of C&D can be accomplished through deconstruction and reclamation. Keeping the materials in the loop is an important part of reducing waste in Deschutes County.

## Deconstruction and Reclamation

### Deconstruction

Systematic disassembly of a building with the purpose of recovering its materials for reuse, renovation, or new product use.

### Reclamation

Stripping of usable building materials for the purpose of reuse without affecting the structural elements or integrity of the building.

The Bend-Redmond ReStore has free reclamation services! They also accept building materials for donation. Visit **[RestoreBend.org/Reclamation](https://RestoreBend.org/Reclamation)**.



## Rethink construction:

- When remodeling and deconstructing, can you remove materials carefully so you can pass them on to someone else?
- When building, can you purchase materials from your local ReStore before buying new to help close the loop?
- Are any of your deconstruction materials recyclable if they aren't reusable? (Think unpainted, untreated wood, electric waste, paint, or scrap metal)
- Not sure if it's reusable? Ask ReStore before you toss it!



## KEEP THESE IN THE LOOP:

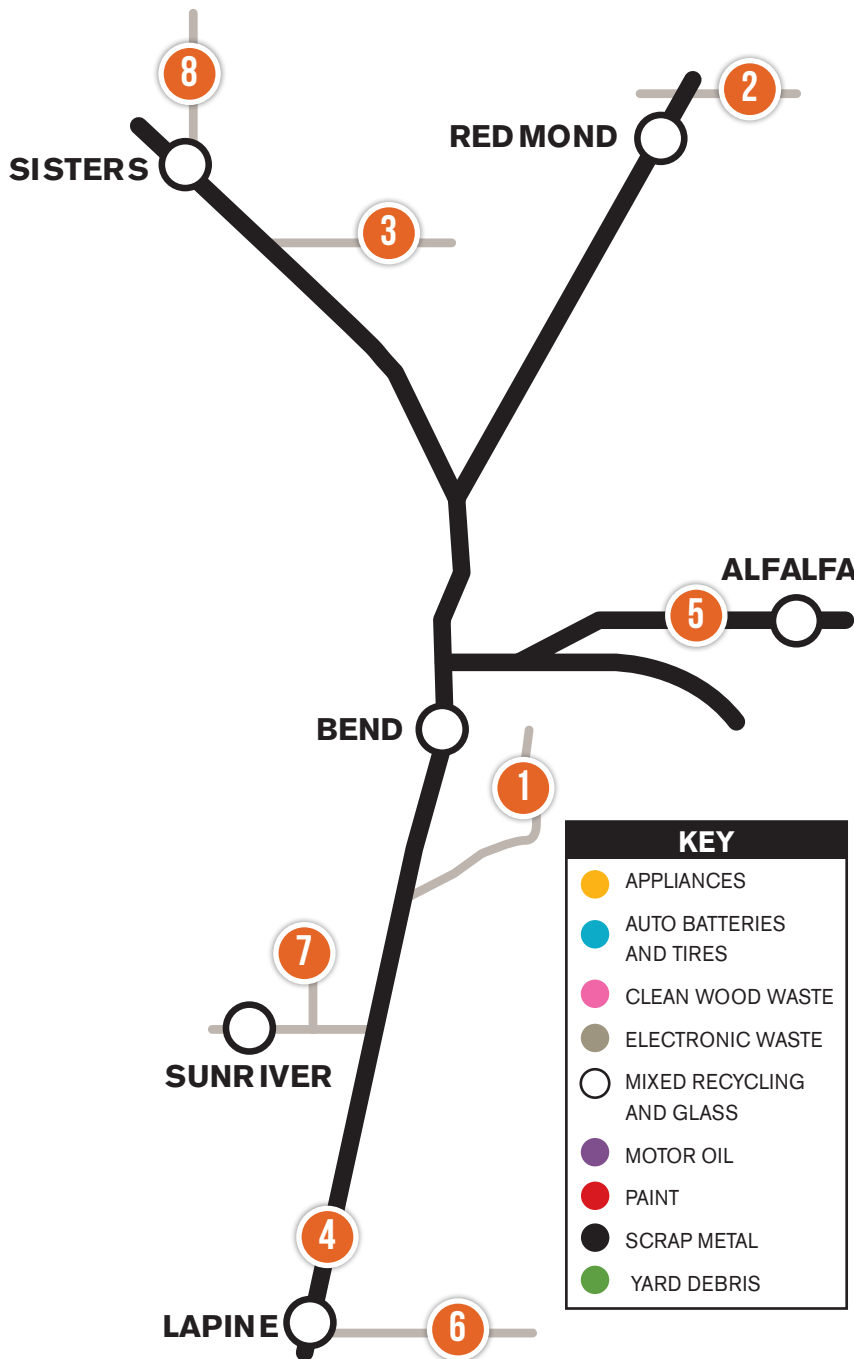


- Furniture and home décor
- Functioning appliances
- Building materials
- Cabinets
- Countertops
- Doors (with frames)
- Vinyl windows
- Tools
- Electrical supplies
- Lighting fixtures
- Flooring and tile
- Plumbing
- Paint
- Architectural items
- Hardware
- Salvage from deconstruction
- Garden tools and décor

# RECYCLING DEPOTS

## Drop-off recycling depots in Deschutes County

Contact one of the following recycling depots for location-specific information and hours of operation.



- 1 Deschutes Recycling at Knott Landfill**
  - 61050 SE 27th Street
  - Bend, OR 97702
  - 541-388-1910
  - [deschutesrecycling.com](http://deschutesrecycling.com)
- 2 Negus Transfer Station**
  - 2400 NE Maple Way
  - Redmond, OR 97756
  - 541-548-7232
  - [deschutes.org/solidwaste](http://deschutes.org/solidwaste)
- 3 Northwest Transfer Station**
  - 68200 Fryrear Road
  - Sisters, OR 97759
  - 541-548-3437
  - [deschutes.org/solidwaste](http://deschutes.org/solidwaste)
- 4 Southwest Transfer Station**
  - 54580 S. Highway 97
  - La Pine, OR 97739
  - 541-317-3163
  - [deschutes.org/solidwaste](http://deschutes.org/solidwaste)
- 5 Alfalfa Transfer Station**
  - Walker Rd, near Alfalfa
  - 541-317-3163
  - [deschutes.org/solidwaste](http://deschutes.org/solidwaste)
- 6 Wilderness Garbage La Pine**
  - La Pine Industrial Park
  - 51420 Russell Road
  - 541-536-1194
  - [wildernessgarbage.com](http://wildernessgarbage.com)
- 7 Sunriver**
  - Public Works Yard
  - off of Sun Eagle Lane
  - 541-593-2483
  - [sunriverowners.org](http://sunriverowners.org)
- 8 Sisters Recycle Center**
  - 328 West Sisters Park Drive
  - Sisters, OR 97759
  - [highcountrydisposal.com](http://highcountrydisposal.com)

# GLOSSARY

**Biodegradable products:** Break down over time when exposed to sunlight, air and moisture or other organisms, but not when they are buried under a landfill or not exposed to the elements necessary for biodegradation. Since there are currently no specific standards for what is considered “biodegradable”, some products may take centuries to decompose or break down. NOTE: not the same as compostable.

**Commingled (mixed) recycling:** A recycling system where most recyclable items such as tin, aluminum, plastic and mixed paper, including newspapers, cardboard and junk mail are put in a larger container for the recyclers to sort and process.

**Compostable:** Labeling that identifies something which can be composted within a designated amount of time in a composting facility. Compostable items are made from plant materials such as corn, potato, cellulose, soy and sugar. NOTE: not the same as biodegradable.

**Composting:** Breaking down organic matter such as yard waste or food into useful products. A variety of materials may be used for composting, including leaves, grass, weeds, and some kitchen scraps.

**Contamination (in recycling):** Occurs when a batch of recyclables includes items that cannot be recycled such as diapers, clothing or food waste. These materials that are not part of the recycling program must be hand sorted and disposed of as garbage which is very costly.

**Garbage:** Anything considered worthless and disposed of rather than reused, recycled or composted.

**Grasscycling:** Leaving grass clippings on the lawn when mowing. Grass clippings decompose quickly, releasing up to 40% of the vital nutrients back into the lawn, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers.

**Household Hazardous Waste (HHW):** Any residential waste that contains hazardous substances which may pose a threat to the environment, wildlife or human health.

**Landfill:** A disposal facility at which solid waste is placed on, or in, the land.

**Material Recovery Facility (MRF):** A facility where commingled recyclables are received, separated and prepared for proper recycling.

**Organic:** As a material, refers to matter that has come from a once living organism that is capable of decay or is composed of organic compound.

**Recycling:** Processing used materials into new products to prevent waste and reduce consumption.

**Reduce:** (also referred to as prevention): To reduce the amount of solid waste generated or resources used. Purchasing items with less packaging is an example of reducing waste.

**Reuse:** Using an item to the full extent of its lifecycle by repairing or repurposing. Reuse also refers to purchasing used goods rather than new ones. Remember, one person’s trash is another person’s treasure.

**Transfer station:** A holding facility where waste and recyclables are loaded for more cost efficient transportation to landfills and recycling facilities.

**Upcycle:** Converting waste materials or useless products into new materials or products of better quality or with a higher environmental value. An example is creating new home furniture from old barn siding lumber.

**Vermicomposting:** Using worms, usually “red wigglers,” to produce compost for use as a soil amendment.

# THE RETHINK PLEDGE

The Deschutes County Rethink Waste Guide is all about providing the tools and resources you need to help you reduce waste – and rethink the way you think about “stuff.” From learning easy ways to reduce waste at home, such as composting and simple non-toxic alternatives, to purchasing greener products and understanding what it means to buy local, we’re all taking steps toward the same goal: **reduce, reuse, recycle, and rethink.**

**Think First:  
Do you really  
need it?**

*Pg. 10*

**Choose  
durable  
before  
disposable.**

**Buy local  
and buy in bulk.**

*Pg. 6*

**Give a friend  
a Rethink tip you learn!  
Share your knowledge.**

**Use safer (and fewer)  
cleaning products in  
your home.**

*Pg. 18*

**Rent, borrow,  
share things  
like tools,  
books or  
common  
supplies.**

*Pg. 11*

**Repair, refurbish,  
and recover as  
much as possible.**

*Pg. 11*

**Don't be a wishful recycler.  
Recycle right!**

*Pg. 14-17*

**Try out  
backyard  
or worm  
composting  
and  
grasscycling.**

*Pg. 8*

**Ask your garbage hauler  
about curbside service for  
easy recycling, composting,  
and yard debris options.**

*Pg. 14*

**Rethink Food Waste:  
eat what you buy and  
buy what you eat.**

*Pg. 7*