

## Being Resourceful

### Why we care

In our culture of convenience, many new products promise to make life easier. On the other hand, we can gain great satisfaction from doing more with less. Being resourceful can be both cost-effective and creative, and it minimizes our impact on the earth. Before you purchase an item, take a moment to think about what had to be taken from the earth to make it and where it will end up at the end of its life.

### Simple, positive steps

#### Lengthen the life of your stuff.

- **Buy it to last.** Buy wood items that can be refinished or repaired. Buy quality clothing that is durable and timeless.
- **Care for it.** Treat stains immediately. Wash clothing/towels only when they need it. Hang dry.
- **Fix it.** Patch worn knees and elbows and replace broken zippers. Darn socks. Take shoes and small appliances to a [repair shop](#).

#### Reuse paper.

- **Save it.** Collect and save used wrapping paper. Reuse one-sided paper in the printer; make a “notebook” with binder clips; cut full sheets into quarters for note taking. Save envelopes and cover the address with new labels.
- **Be creative.** Wrap gifts in old maps, sheet music, or children’s drawings. Make your own greeting cards.

#### Simplify personal care.

- **Use it up.** Soak an old bar of soap in water to affix to a new one. Use a lipstick brush to get all the lipstick out of the tube.
- **Make your own.** Use baking soda for tooth powder. Make deodorant with equal parts of baking soda and cornstarch and apply with a powder puff.

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