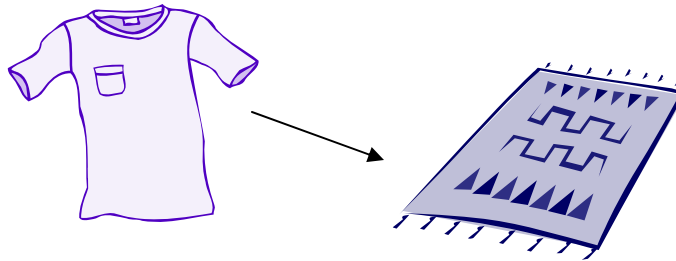
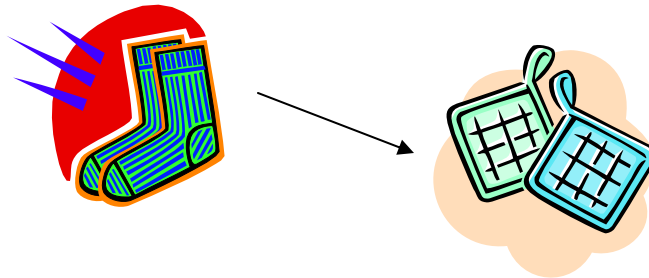


This file has been modified from how it was originally formatted by Anoka County for printing. Modifications were made to make this publication to be more printer friendly when downloaded and printed from our web site.

Reuse Ideas



T-shirts into a rug



socks into potholders

and more. . .

Canisters*

Supplies: paperboard (oatmeal, raisin) or plastic carton
paper (your choice)
scissors
white glue or paste
cork coasters and stoppers (optional)

Mix and match paper, using old maps, wrapping paper, wallpaper borders, or play bills.

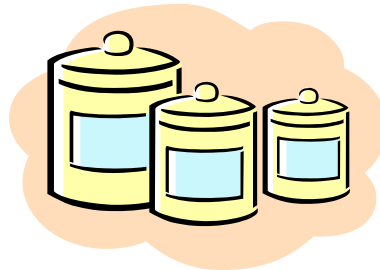
Cut paper to wrap around the container with about ½" overlap. For containers with a cardboard edge, cut the paper an inch taller than the height of the cylinder so the paper can fold over the top. For those with metal edges, cut the paper to fit between the metal rims.

Brush the wrong side of the paper with diluted white glue or paste. Position it even with the bottom edge and press around the cylinder, smoothing out wrinkles as you go. Press the paper firmly with the heel of your hand.

Clip the overhanging paper back perpendicular to the canister edge to make folding tabs. If necessary, brush them with an extra dab of glue before folding inside the canister.

Cork coasters work well as lids. Thread a wood screw up through the bottom of the coaster (or plastic lid), then wind a wine cork onto the screw until tight.

Plastic coffee canisters can be reused for food storage. A clear label or picture of the contents, applied to the front indicates what is inside.



*Instructions courtesy of *Natural Home* and *natural home & garden* magazines. Used with permission.

Crafty Reuse

A fun craft to reuse old CDs that you no longer need or received in the mail.

Supplies:

2 CDs
colored construction paper or thin craft foam
sheet (available at any craft store)
glue
2 wiggly eyes
yarn or fishing line
scissors



Use your scissors to cut the shapes of a tail, mouth, bottom fin, 2 top fins, and a 5 x 6 inch piece for the side fins that fits in the hole of the CD. Glue the mouth, tail, bottom fin and one of the top fins to the side of the CD with the writing on it. Set aside the other top fin.

Cut a piece of yarn or fishing line 3 to 4 feet long. Tie a knot in one end. Run a line of glue from the hole in the center of the CD up to the top edge of the top fin that is glued onto the CD. Lay the yarn or fishing line on top of the glue so the knot is in the hole in the CD. Glue the extra top fin on top of the other top fin to cover the yarn. Spread glue all over the side of the CD that everything else is glued to. Set the other CD on top of the glue and match up all the edges. Make sure you have the side of the CD with any writing facing down into the glue.

Glue a wiggly eye on each side of its head. Accordion fold the 5 x 6 inch piece and slip it through the hole in the center of the CD. Center the paper in the hole and unfold the ends a bit to fluff them out. Your CD fish is now complete.

*It really isn't garbage,
just some resources waiting to be reused!*

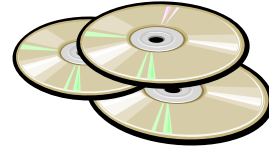
CD Scare Crows*

Supplies: CD
scissors
bead or button
ornament hanger or piece of wire

Cut the CD, starting at the outside edge and spiraling in to the center. Take tiny, short “bites” with the scissors so you don’t break the CD. A large bead or button strung on an ornament hanger or a piece of wire threads easily through the CD’s large hole. Hang it on a garden string or directly on the plant.

The scattered light from the highly reflective surface of the CD will help keep unwanted visitors from your garden.

*Instructions courtesy of *Natural Home* and *natural home & garden*.
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Getting Organized through Reuse

Reuse shoe boxes or similar type boxes with a lid. Cover with leftover fabric, wrapping paper or contact paper. Use the covered boxes as decorative storage for papers on your desk or napkins on the counter.

Reuse clean empty coffee or paint cans as "mail boxes" for each family member.

Reuse empty baby wipe containers to organize socks, scarves, hair accessories or jewelry. Also good for storing action figures or puzzle pieces.

Cover a small empty box with wrapping paper or contact paper. Cut a hole in one side large enough for your hand to fit through. Use to store your plastic grocery and produce bags for later reuse.

Reuse glass and plastic jars to organize small items like buttons, paper clips, pens or cotton swabs. Decorate the jars using glass paint.

Potholders*

Supplies: old cotton socks
mini-peg loom
crochet hook

Cut narrow strips from cotton socks, starting at the top and working down to the heel to make loops; cut additional strips from the instep.

Stretch the loops vertically across the loom on the pegs. Use a crochet hook to weave the horizontal loops, alternating up and down through the verticals, looping over the pegs at either side.

To finish the edge, pull one corner loop off its peg and stretch it over the next peg, pulling the next loop through. Work like this all the way around the loom. The last loop becomes the hanger.



Scrubber*

Supplies: plastic net bags
rubber band or fishing line

Collect a few plastic net bags that are used to package produce at the market. They come in all sizes and varying degrees of softness. Cut off all tags, seams, metal tabs, and knots, leaving flat open-ended tubes.

Stack three or four on top of each other and fold them lengthwise, accordion style. Once you have a tight stack of folds, use a rubber band or fishing line to tie them in the middle. Open up the folds. to make a fluffy but hard-working scrubber.

*Instructions courtesy of *Natural Home* and *natural home & garden*. magazines.
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Soap On A Rope*

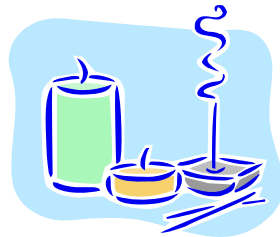
Supplies: two small net bags
soap scraps

Cut off the end of the net bags. Put one bag inside the other for a double layer. Tie one end of the bag closed with cotton string or cord. Fill the bag with soap scraps. Tie it closed with another longer length of string. Tie the ends of this string into a loop.

Stemware Reuse

Supplies: pillar candles
assorted stemware

Turn the stemware upside down and place a pillar candle on the bottom. Cluster three or five to make an impact.



Tea Light Holders

Supplies: tea lights or votive candles
assorted drinking glasses

Use a variety of old glass drinking glasses to hold little votive candles or tea lights. By using a variety of shapes and sizes you can create an attractive arrangement for a table centerpiece or mantle.

To further coordinate the assortment, you could tie each with some ribbon.

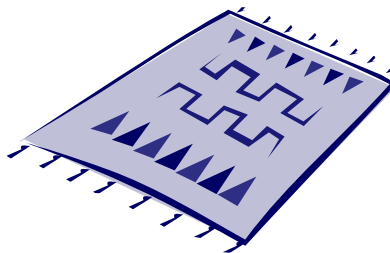
T-shirt Rug*

Supplies: wood for frame
hammer and nails
7 or 8 medium and large T-shirts

Make a 23" x 32" frame from 2" x 2" wood. For the loom posts, use 2" finish nails spaced 1" apart. This will make a rug about 18" x 23". To weave a bigger rug, you'll need bigger T-shirts as the loops cut from them must be able to stretch across the frame.

Cut the body of the T-shirts horizontally into 3" wide strips. Don't cut the side seams, as these strips are the loops you weave with. Stretch the T-shirt loops on the longer axis (the warp) of the frame. Hook loops on nail posts. Working on the shorter axis (the weft), weave the end of a loop under one string, then over the next string, then under again all the way across the warp strings. The next loop should go over where the previous one went under, and under where it went over. Place the loop on the nails.

Slip the warp loops off their nails. For the weft loops, work from left to right. Start by slipping the first two loops off their nails. Push the loop on the right through the loop on the left. Hold onto that loop while slipping the next loop off its nail. Now this new loop goes through the one on its left. Continue this pattern across the frame. Cut the last vertical loop. One cut end should be pushed through the next peg. Tie both ends in a knot. Clip and tuck them away.



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Tireless Trug*

(garden carryall)

Supplies: truck-size tire inner tube
tape measure
scissors
grommet kit
hammer
 $\frac{3}{8}$ " wooden dowel

Start with a truck-size tire inner tube. (Note: A larger inner tube yields a larger trug.) With scissors, cut the inside edge of the inner tube open. Next, cut out a section that's about 14" at the top and 18" - 20" at the bottom.

Lay the section open flat and measure for the placement of grommet holes. The holes should be centered on the top edge about two inches down and eight or nine inches apart. Mark the spot, then cut a small "x" with the scissors and round it into a hole about $\frac{3}{4}$ " across. There will be four holes, two at the top edge of each side of the trug.

You can buy a grommet kit at the hardware store that contains all the tools (the anvil and the punch) you need, plus an assortment of grommets. We used #4 grommets with a hole size of $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Follow your grommet kit's instructions to reinforce the holes in the rubber. Work on a solid surface. With the anvil under the hole place the grommet post up through the hole, place a grommet washer (rounded side up) over the post, then place the punch in the hole and tap it firmly and repeatedly with a hammer until the grommet is sealed. Repeat for all holes.

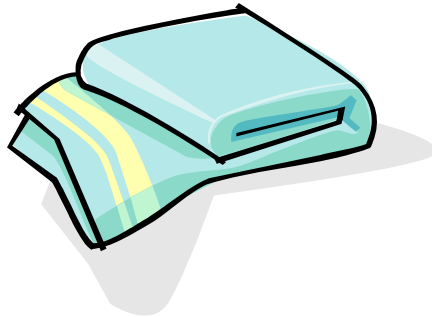
Feed a 14" section of $\frac{3}{8}$ " wooden dowel through the grommets on each side to form the handle. The dowel should go in the first hole from the outside and then out the next hole at the other end. The handle will then be "inside" the trug when you're carrying it to protect your knuckles.

Towel/Coat Rack*

Supplies: 1" x 8" x 42" board
3 black and white photos
3 jewel cases
3 handles, hooks, or knobs
exterior-grade mounting tape
2 screws for mounting to wall

Remove all paper inserts from the jewel cases. Cut black and white photos to fit: $4\frac{3}{4}$ " wide by $4\frac{7}{8}$ " tall. Insert them into the jewel cases with the hinge at the bottom.

Cut a 1" by 8" board about 42" long. Paint or stain as desired. Exterior-grade mounting tape works well to attach the jewel cases to the board because it is strong and resists water. Space the jewel cases evenly down the length of the board, leaving extra space on either end. Align the top edge of the jewel case to the top edge of the board and press firmly into place. Drill a hole for a handle, hook, or knob to hang the towel under each photo. Mount the towel rack to your bathroom wall with screws at each end.



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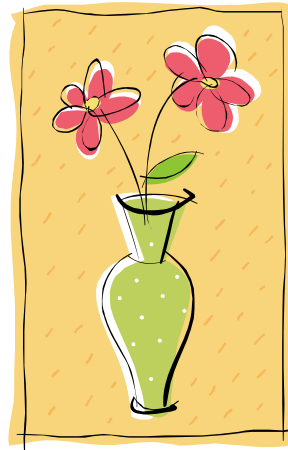
Vase Paint*

Supplies: glass bottles (various shapes & colors)
narrow masking tape
paper stickers (if desired)
scissors
white or cream acrylic, tempera or low-VOC paint
small paint brush

Remove labels; wash in soapy water and dry the bottles thoroughly inside and out. Apply narrow strips of masking tape and/or paper stickers to the bottles in an attractive pattern of your choosing. Wide tape will not adhere smoothly to the bottle's contours. The areas you cover now will be the areas of exposed glass later. The masking tape or stickers must be applied firmly with no corners sticking up, which would allow paint to get under them and obscure the pattern.

Use acrylic, tempera or low-VOC wall paint in a white or cream color. Apply with a small brush, over the bottle's entire surface. Holding the bottle by the top of the neck, begin immediately to remove the tape. Pull the tape off slowly and discard. The tape must be removed before the paint dries.

A craft blade may help loosen the edges of the tape or stickers to make removal easier. Set the bottles on newspaper to dry.



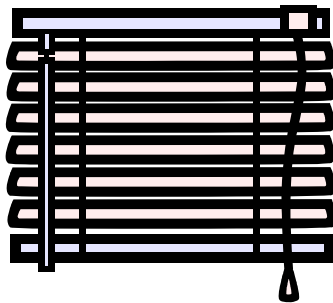
Window Shade*

Supplies: plastic milk jugs
scissors
fine grade sandpaper
small hole-punch
“S” hooks (two sizes)
small dowel

Triangle, rectangle, or circle shapes can be used to make the shade from plastic milk jugs. Cut a template from cardstock. Put a piece of rolled-up tape on the back of the template to stick it to the jug and cut the shape out of the plastic with scissors. Move the template around to get as many plastic shapes as you can out of each plastic milk jug.

Rough up the surface of the plastic shapes with sandpaper so they diffuse the light. Using a small hole-punch, pierce the plastic shapes at the top and bottom center. Small holes of less than $\frac{1}{8}$ " work best.

String the shapes together to a length appropriate to your window using closed “S” hooks. We used $\frac{3}{4}$ " zinc-plated hooks. The edge of the plastic will just be able to fit in where the “S” doesn’t close completely. Use a larger “S” hook for the topmost triangle and slide it onto a small dowel.



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Elegant Home Made Cards

Supplies: wallpaper or heavy wrapping paper
scissors
ruler (optional)

On the wrong side of the paper, mark and cut a rectangle twice the length you desire the finished card to be. Fold in half and place in an envelope of the appropriate size and color.

The paper may need to be placed under a heavy book overnight if it does not lay flat.

No Waste Gift Wrap

Supplies: fabric scraps or samples
scarves
ribbons
yarn or rope
wallpaper or heavy wrapping paper
scissors
cardboard and wooden boxes
fake flowers

Almost anything can be used to create a pretty package for someone special without spending a fortune! Simply wrap as you would with traditional wrapping paper and ribbon.

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