

# A quick guide to greening your waste

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Recycling can help save materials and energy, but cutting down on waste in the first place is even better. Even when you have finished with something, someone else will often be able to use it.

## Recycle

- Visit the DoLGE recycling website for more info: <http://www.gov.im/dlge/waste>
- Or visit Ask Buck's website (Paddy is based in Baltyane Industrial Estate, Ballasalla): <http://www.askbuck.com>
- There's a surprisingly wide range of products made of recycled materials, including: newspapers, clothing, including fleeces made of recycled plastic, glassware, furniture, play materials, & tiles and bathroom fittings.

## Reducing waste

18 per cent of household waste is packaging from retail purchases. Shopping carefully, avoiding disposable bags, and choosing re-usable products are some of the ways in which you can avoid waste in the first place. Some tips include:

- taking your own bag when you go shopping can help reduce the 10bn plastic bags that are handed out by supermarkets each year
- registering with the Mailing Preference Service allows you to avoid unwanted junk mail being sent to your home
- try not to waste food - the average UK household spends £424 a year on food which is thrown away uneaten (for example buying things and not using them, or cooking too much for a meal and then throwing it away)
- buying re-usable nappies can help cut waste; washing these in bulk, for example through a nappy laundry service helps to reduce the energy used - many councils offer schemes providing subsidised nappies or laundry services, which could save you money
- avoiding products with unnecessary packaging

## Repair

Household items including computers, electrical equipment and furniture can be repaired or re-used by others. Search online or in your local phone book for repair services in your area.

**Re-use**

Many items can be re-used, including mobile phones, computers, printer cartridges, left-over paint and clothes. Even if you have finished with something, someone else will often be able to use it. National charity organisations, local charity shops, internet auction sites and free exchange schemes, may be able to re-use your unwanted items.

**Furniture**

Unwanted or broken furniture can be re-used, mended, recycled or given to a local charity shop. Vintage and second-hand furniture is often a popular choice if you are looking for new furniture or want to get rid of old furniture in good condition.

**Paint**

Try not to buy more paint than you need - more than 300m litres of paint are bought each year and a significant amount never gets used. Left-over paint can be donated to a national network of paint re-use organisations, or disposed of safely through your local council.

**Books, DVDs, CDs**

Second hand books, CDs and DVDs can be bought and sold on-line, or taken to your local charity shop.