

RECYCLE ON-THE-GO TIPS

Lots of places have started to add new recycling bins, but until our dream of having recycling bins next to every trash can is realized, use the easy no-nonsense tips below to recycle when bins aren't around. Intertwined with the concept of recycling is the concept of reducing. It is important to recycle the materials we consume while out and about, but it is equally important to reduce how much we consume in the first place.

Overcome obstacles to recycling and waste reduction on-the-go by following these tips:

- At your child's next game, tie a bag labeled "Recycling" to the bleachers. Eventually, other parents will catch on and start throwing in their bottles and cans. At the end of the game, toss the bag in your trunk, and empty it into your curbside recycling bin at home. Think about where else this could work, the possibilities are endless!
- Place a bag or bin in your car to collect recyclables while on the road. It's like a litter bag, but better! Simply empty it into the recycling bin at home when you clean out your car.
- Adopt a pack it in, pack it out mentality. Whether you are at the beach, on the trail, or even at the mall, take ownership of your recyclables until you can put them in the proper bin.
- Be a role model. If you are hosting an event like a family reunion picnic or an end-of-season party for the team, plan ahead to have recycling stations and lead by example.
- Instead of finding yourself in the predicament of not having a place to recycle your water bottle while at the park, take a reusable bottle from home, eliminating the predicament all together.
- Did you notice how much packaging came with your last take-out order? Heavy plastic bowls with plastic lids, plastic utensils and a paper bag with a plastic handle? Dine-in, or decline the plastic cutlery and bags if you are taking it home.
- Instead of taking your lunch in containers that can't be recycled where you work, pack your PB&J in a reusable container.
- Next time you're at the store, decline a bag if you can carry the items out. If you do need bags, opt for reusable shopping bags instead of using plastic bags. If you do end up with some plastic bags, reuse them around the house or take them back to the grocery store to be recycled. Many stores have a receptacle at the front of the store for your plastic and paper bags and other plastic film like bread bags, dry cleaning bags, and shrink wraps.

Recycling and reducing waste is something you can do no matter where you are; it may just take a little bit of effort. Which of the above tips do you think you could implement in your life? Adding a few of these to your routine will make a huge difference over time!

