



Newspaper

- Shredded—to protect packed breakables, mulch for the garden, or emergency kitty litter.
- Get a grip — several thicknesses under the car's rear wheels provides traction.
- Duster—roll tightly, secure with a rubber band and fringe one end with scissors to get rid of cobwebs.
- Dustpan—fold several layers to scoop dirt or dry spills.
- Gift wrap—use the comic section to wrap a present for a child.

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Reuse

People who lived through the Great Depression understood the concept of reusing items in a new way. Call it frugal, cheap, waste-not-want-not, repurposing or sustainability, but it worked for them and it can work for us today. Reusing means taking an item and employing it in a new way. Creative thinking is a good start when you are faced with a need and vow not to go shopping to fill that need. Here are a few suggestions that may be helpful:

- Cut up towels or receiving blankets for cleaning or dusting.
- Use small photo albums to organize coupons, stamps, stickers, etc.
- Make a pen holder from a juice can or coffee mug.
- Utilize a glass jar, bottle or salt shaker as a vase.
- Convert a wine rack into a towel holder.
- Rest old wine bottles and other heavy objects as bookends.
- Turn the old aquarium or fish bowl into a terrarium.
- Organize small office supplies, jewelry or buttons in egg cartons or ice cube trays.
- Freeze extra pesto, cooking wine, broth or sauces in ice cube trays. When frozen bag them until ready to use.
- Place old plates under flower pots and planters.
- Convert a vintage suitcase into a side table or hassock.
- Place soda tabs on the back of a picture frame for a replacement hanger.
- Shred paper for packing material, gifts bags and Easter baskets.
- Organize and display necklaces, scarves, towels, pot holders and keys on a horizontally mounted tie rack.
- Slit a hole in the top of a pillowcase and slide it over a hanger for a durable slipcover.
- Make a natural plant fertilizer from used coffee grounds or tea bags.
- Cut the fronts of old cards for postcards or gift tags.



There is always more than one way to creatively use common items—address stickers, brown paper bags, coffee filters, kitty litter, paper clips, shoulder pads, twist-ties, vinegar, wax paper...

Google the words “repurpose” or “reuse” and see how many interesting sites appear. Now is a good time to start thinking about green living. It is a way of life that is inexpensive and highly sustainable.