

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Green Tip: Ways to Save Money!



Disposable items can be incredibly convenient, but if you stop and think about it..... it's not convenient for your pocket book.

While it might be quicker to throw something in the trash when you're done using it than washing it and putting it away, you do have to spend time going to the store and buying the same products all over again. The cost of buying products again and again can really add up.

DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR HARD EARNED MONEY
DON'T DISPOSE OF RESOURCES
DON'T ADD TO THE LANDFILL

Below are some easy cost saving ideas¹:

Paper Napkins & Towels

- Try cloth napkins. Worried about the laundry piling up? Assign a different color napkin to each family member. The idea is that if the same person uses the same napkin at every meal, you can wash napkins less often. Also, Wipe up spills with cloth towels. Use rags for cleaning. You can make your own by cutting up old sheets, T-shirts, towels, etc., or buy microfiber towels. For windows try crumpling up old newspapers.
- **Potential savings:** approximately \$57 a year if everyone in your family uses one napkin at every meal and another \$83 a year if your household uses one roll of paper towels each week. Total savings = \$140. You'll also save 4,368 paper napkins and 52 rolls of paper towels from being tossed in the landfill each year.

Plastic Storage Bags

- Reuse them by washing them out and letting them air dry. (It's not a good idea to reuse bags that were used to store raw meat.) Switch to reusable sandwich and snack bags that are now widely available, or try storing leftovers in reusable containers.
- **Potential savings:** approximately \$78 a year if you stop using throwaway plastic bags for weekday lunches and leftovers.

Paper Coffee Filters

- Try a reusable coffee filter or make coffee in a French press (no filter required).
- **Potential savings:** approximately \$15 a year if you make one pot of coffee every day.

Single-serve Bottled Drinks

- Carry a reusable stainless-steel bottle to transport water and other drinks when you're on the go.
- **Potential savings:** approximately \$2,187 if each member of your family consumes one bottled beverage a day.



Aluminum Foil

- Save leftovers in reusable plastic or glass containers. Avoid using foil to line baking sheets.
- **Potential savings:** approximately \$64 a year if you use six rolls of foil (200 square feet each).

Single-use Batteries

- Switch to rechargeable. Rechargeable batteries and chargers, necessary for TV and gaming remotes and kid's toys, are widely available today. Added bonus: You don't have to run to the store when your remote runs out of juice. Just recharge the batteries and you're good to go.
- **Potential savings:** approximately \$28 a year if you use around 25 AA batteries a year. You can also feel good about not unnecessarily sending batteries to the landfill.



Information for this Tip provided by Lori Bongiorno's Concious Consumer Blog, "Stop throwing Money Away".

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¹ Savings based on a family of four.