

Recycling Resources and How You Can Help the Environment



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Waste is a major problem for our communities and our planet, whether we're talking about overflowing landfills or polluted oceans. We can all do our part to help protect the planet by making smart choices like recycling, caring for plants and animals (and the forests and oceans they live in) and being mindful in the ways we live and play.

To help make our world cleaner, you can take advantage of the below recycling resources and participate in simple activities that can make a big difference. For select Mattel toys specifically, you can give new life to the items that your kids have outgrown that have reached the end of their useful life by recycling them through the Mattel PlayBack program. Please visit [Mattel.com/PlayBack](https://www.mattel.com/PlayBack) for more information.



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Recycling information and resources

Reduce, reuse, recycle – the three Rs. It's classic advice, and it works. The U.S. Government's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a great description of the three Rs that covers the basics that you can find here.

The best way to reduce waste is to not create it in the first place and to reuse what's available. For example:

- Donate your old clothes and other items to charity so that other people can use them.
- Buy items that are reusable instead of disposable.
- Take care of and fix products so that they'll last longer before you have to replace them.
- Borrow and share items, including your toys. It's a great way to spread the fun.
- Look for products that use less packaging, so there will be less waste to recycle or throw away.

Want to learn more about recycling?

- For facts and issues about the importance of recycling in the U.S., visit recyclingacrossamerica.org
- Parents can find information for their kids from NIH on recycling at kids.niehs.nih.gov/topics/reduce
- And, most state and local government websites have a recycling section with information specific to your community.

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Simple changes you can make to help the environment

Recycling is a great start, but there are many other ways we can help protect the environment, including:

Reducing Plastic

- Bring your own...
 - Shopping and grocery bags to the store.
 - Sealable water container when you're outside.
 - Reusable, portable cutlery.
- Just say no to...
 - Single use straws and utensils.
 - Plastic produce and storage bags.
 - Plastic water bottles.



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Saving Energy

- Save gas by...
 - Walking.
 - Riding your bike.
 - Sharing rides with friends and neighbors.
- Save electricity by...
 - Turning off the lights when you leave a room.
 - Turn off toys when you finish playing.
 - Replacing old-fashioned light bulbs with LEDs.
 - Use rechargeable batteries (and properly recycle them).

Spend Time in Nature

- Start a garden.
- Plant a tree.
- Pick up litter.
- Participate in Earth Day activities in your community or at school.

Promoting Sustainable Eating Habits

- Buy locally and organically produced food.
- Eat less meat and more vegetables.
- Compost food scraps.