

## Useful Tips to Minimise Waste in Households

- Make a shopping list
- Keep your reusable bags with you
- Buy as much as you need – buy more and you might have to throw it out
- Don't over prepare food – use smaller plates encourages smaller plates
- Drink tap water instead of bottled water
- Compost food preparation residues such as vegetable peelings etc
- Buy loose fruit and vegetable – weigh separately and put them all in the one bag.
- Grow your own vegetables
- Keep it local food is fresh and risks of spoilage are reduced.
- Reduce storage temperature to prevent spoilage of food.
- Buy glass instead of plastic, where possible.
- Purchase refills where possible.
- Leave newspaper and magazine supplements you are not going to read in the shop.
- Use reusable napkins, not disposable ones.
- Send emails instead of paper memos wherever possible.
- Return all junk mail to sender
- Bring household batteries to collection points, can be found in local libraries and local council offices.
- Donate books, old clothes and toys to charity shops or jumble sales.
- Use reusable nappies/eco nappies.
- Use broken crockery as drainage in plant plots
- Try to buy items that are durable and will last.
- Bring a lunchbox to school/work instead of using foil/cling film.

## Hazardous Waste

Household hazardous waste covers a range of materials that householders tend to store in garages, gardens sheds, and under the sink.

Items include:

- Paint – enamel or oil based paint, water based paints, rust paint
- Furniture or paint strippers, thinners & turpentine
- Wood preservatives, floor and furniture polish
- Drain cleaners, detergents & cleaning agents
- Inks, adhesives & resins
- Batteries
- Fluorescent tubes
- Garden pesticides, weed killers, fertilisers & poisons
- Waste oils such as brake fluid, car oil and car wax
- Old medicines

Hints for Hazardous Waste

- Buy the least hazardous product possible
- Substitute less hazardous alternatives – use baking soda as a general household cleaner
- Avoid aerosols products
- Buy only as much as you need
- Be wary of products that fail to list their ingredients
- Look for the EU Eco-label on paints when purchasing

## Getting Started

- Read as much information on recycling & composting as possible
- Decide which type of composter or wormery would best suit your home.  
There may be a brown bin or composting service available in your locality or you may wish to compost lawn cuttings etc for your garden
- Find the location of your local recycling centre, facilities may be available through charitable organisations or local schools
- Verify the opening times centres and collection services available
- It is important to integrate recycling with your kitchen needs – Apartment blocks may have a communal space designated for recycling, for your kitchen designate an area for bins and composters
- Label units and bins chosen carefully so as members of the household know exactly what to put in each bin
- Take time to include everyone in the household in the process and make instructions as clear and simple as possible i.e. **Wash and squash plastic bottles**
- Expect problems! Be persevere, repeat the process and eventually your efforts will be rewarded – REMEMBER pay-by-use /weight is on the way so plan ahead.