What's better than recycling?—Reducing waste.

Because recycling takes energy and not everything is recyclable, the best way to handle garbage is to reduce how much you make in the first place.

- **Avoid excess packaging-**Buy in bulk, look for products with less packaging, and take your own cloth bags when shopping.
- **Use durable products-**Buy high quality goods that will last. Use cloth diapers, towels, and napkins instead of disposable ones.
- **Share with neighbors, family, and friends-**Things like tools and sports equipment may be shared or rented. Donate unwanted items to a charity, have a yard sale, or give to a friend.
- **Reuse, repair, or restore-**Try to make the things you own last, repair old items instead of buying new, and find new uses for items you plan to throw away.
- **Buy recycled and recyclable products-**Buying recycled products closes the recycling loop.
- **Check out social media sites** such as Facebook (Columbia Basin Buy Sell and Trade). There are others that may be specific to your city or town.

Make the most out of your yard waste!

Yard waste isn't really waste at all. It can be a valuable resource for your backyard:

- **Mulches-**Grass clippings, leaves and pine needles make suitable mulches for paths and play areas.
- **Grasscycling-**Leave grass clippings on the lawn because it reduces the need for fertilizer and conserves water. It also saves time and money on bagging. Buy a mulching blade for your existing mower or buy a mulching mower when replacing your old one. Your yard will be the envy of the neighborhood.
- **Composting-**Compost made from leaves, grass clippings, and garden waste is a rich soil conditioner that reduces the need for fertilizer. A worm bin using red worms and certain types of food waste will also make compost.

Junk Mail and Telephone Books

- If warranty cards are not required, do not send them in. If required, note that you do not want your name placed on mailing lists.

- For unwanted catalogs and magazines, call the number provided to remove your name from the mailing list.

- Call your credit card company to ask them to not sell, trade, or lend your name and address to any organization for mailing purposes.

- Call the "Automated Opt-Out Request Line" to be removed from pre-approved credit card offers of some major credit bureaus: 1-888-567-8688

- Opt out of telephone directory delivery by visiting www.yellowpagesoptout.com.

- Opt out of junk mail by visiting www.dmachoice.thedma.org.

Why Reduce Waste?

Reducing waste helps the environment by:

- ♦ **conserving natural resources and energy**
- ♦ **saving landfill space**
- ♦ **preventing pollution of land, air, and water**

Hazardous Materials

- Read the label before you buy. Look for these signal words: poison, danger, flammable, warning, or caution.

- Use the right amount. Remember that you won't get twice the results by using twice as much. Follow label directions.

- Buy only what you need. This will save you the trouble of having to dispose of the waste. Before you buy, check to see if there is a safer alternative.

- Don't mix products or wastes. Mixing them may cause an explosion or other dangerous chemical reaction. Always follow label instructions.

- Wear proper protection. This may include gloves, goggles, rubber boots, a mask, etc.

- Store products safely. Seal lids and caps tightly. Store products in a secure area away from children and pets.

- Properly dispose of **household** hazardous waste. Most may be disposed of at collection events. For more information about proper disposal, contact Grant County Solid Waste at 754-6082.

A material is considered hazardous if it's:
- **Toxic** (can injure or kill if swallowed, inhaled or absorbed through the skin)
- **Ignitable** (flammable)
- **Reactive** (explosive)
- **Corrosive** (can cause permanent tissue damage through contact)

For more information contact:
Grant County Solid Waste
124 Enterprise St. SE
Ephrata, WA 98823
(509)754-6082 ext. 3508

Dept. of Ecology's Recycling Hotline
(1-800-RECYCLE)

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Waste Reduction in Grant County

Grant County Solid Waste