PROPER ♻ RECYCLING
PRECYCLING AND WASTE REDUCTION

A Guide to doing it right in Lawrence and Mercer Counties.

Fun Fact

"Precycling" is part of the Reduce Reuse & Recycle Movement.

Refer to our fact sheet on Household Hazardous Waste Alternatives to learn how to reduce toxic material in your home.

What is "Precycling"?

Precycling is the practice of reducing the amount of your trash and recyclables by taking action before you buy something. Examples of precycling are: Limiting purchases to things that you need. Delaying purchases that aren't urgently needed. Buying in bulk to avoid extra packaging.

Why Does This Matter?

Much of what we throw away or recycle can be avoided. In addition to filling up landfills, some items can be hazardous to us and our environment.

What Can I do?

Precycling is easy! Here are some easy suggestions to get you started.

Plastic Bags - Bring reusable shopping bags to the stores.
Individually Wrapped Products - Buy products in bulk with little to no packaging.
Coffee Filters - Use reusable coffee filters instead of single use paper ones.
Coffee Shop Cup - Take your own reusable cup or travel mug.
Disposable Eating Utensils - Opt for reusable plates, take-out containers, or silverware.
Paper or Plastic Lunch Bag - Take a lunch box or reusable bag.
Take-out Food - Bring reusable containers.
Single Use Plastic Water Bottles - Use refillable bottles.
Paper Towels - Use cloth towels.
Photocopies - Print double sided to save paper.
Notebooks - Buy paper that has post-consumer recycled content.
Household Batteries - Buy rechargable batteries and a charger or use solar powered substitutes. Recycle chargeable batteries instead of discarding.
Appliance, Tools and Equipment - Repair, share, and lend things such as equipment and tools.
Replacement products - Spend a little more to buy durable goods that will last longer and save money over time.
Home improvement supplies - When you have left over supplies, give them to a friend or donate them to Habitat for Humanity.
Straws - Use metal or hard plastic reusable straws.

Reduce

Reuse

Recycle

🌐 **www.mercercountypa.gov/recycling**

www.lawrencecountypa.gov/recycling

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Lawrence-Mercer
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EXAMPLES OF HOW TO PRECYCLE DURING YOUR DAILY LIFE

These two people are having lunch. One is practicing precycling with reusable containers and one is not practicing precycling, because her packaging is single use.

Try lo live more like the person on the left and use reusable items when possible.

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