

Growing Seedlings in Recycled Containers

It's that time of year to start planning your garden and what better way to do it than to use recycled containers and save money! That rotisserie chicken container will work great to start seedlings in, or how about the box that you purchased your canning jars in? It already comes with dividers! We all use toilet paper (hopefully) so we should all have some toilet paper rolls (cut in half) or you can cut up a paper towel tube (cut in fourths). Any old box, cardboard tube, and plastic lid will work to make a mini-greenhouse. All you need to purchase is some potting soil. Place the tubes inside your container, fill with potting soil, sprinkle some seeds, lightly cover, water and voila you now have a mini greenhouse. View this video to see step-by-step instructions:

<http://www.intuitionphysician.com/organic-gardening-growing-seedlings-in-recycled-containers-tutorial/>. Happy gardening everyone!



Recycling 101 – Electronics

Because most of us never see the intricate parts inside our electronic devices, the impact of recycling electronics can be a vague idea in our minds. However, behind all the screens, buttons and plastic are valuable materials, 99 percent of which can be recovered to make new products. Electronics also contain potentially dangerous materials that could be toxic to humans and harmful to the environment if they are not managed properly. Even though these materials exist in relatively small amounts in each electronic device, the totals add up quickly when you consider the millions of electronics in our world today. Listed here are some of the most common materials that are

recovered from our recycled gadgets.

Plastic typically makes up a large part of the outer shell of our phones,

computers, TVs and more. It is also used to insulate wires inside devices such as desktop computers. Because it is already the correct grade plastic when it is separated from old electronics, it is easily recycled to go into new electronics.

Steel is the most used metal in the world and the most recycled material in North America. Because of its strength and durability, steel is used in the housings of electronics, giving them structure. TVs and computers are important sources of steel in electronics recycling.

The circuit board in any electronic device contains **precious metals** such as gold, silver and platinum. These metals are widely used because of their conductivity, and they add up quickly in recycled electronics. In fact, one ton of used cell phones contain more than four times the amount of gold found in one ton of gold ore.

Lead exists in large quantities in the funnel glass of old cathode ray tube computer

monitors and TVs, and it is also used as solder in circuit boards. Exposure to lead can cause brain and nervous system damage, and it is hazardous when present in air, water and soil. Recycling electronics properly ensures safe disposal of any lead that is present in devices.

Aluminum is one of the most highly used metals in the world because of its strength and light weight. Similar to steel, aluminum is used in the housings of many electronics, especially TVs and computers. It is also used in circuit boards because of its conductivity.

Mercury is another dangerous material found in electronics that must be disposed of properly. It is toxic to humans and animals and is known to cause nervous system damage. Mercury is used in circuit boards and computer switches and relays. In flat panel LCD monitors and TVs, the bulbs that backlight the screens also contain mercury. ☹





Green Spring Cleaning

There are lots of "green" cleaning supplies on the market today but you can make lots of them yourself just by using vinegar and baking soda. Visit the website www.vinegartips.com to get lots of great ideas. Not only is vinegar economical, but it's all natural, environmentally friendly, and non-toxic. Also cut up old towels and rags rather than spending \$ on paper towels.



Walk through the South hallway of the Courthouse during Earth Week (April 22 to 26) to see the display of Earth Day posters made by the youth of Rusk County. Be inspired and see what they feel is important to our planet. Keep checking the recycling website for postings of local Earth Day promotions and recycling drives!

<http://www.ruskcounty.org/departments/recycling/upcoming-events/>

Make the Easter Bunny happy by reusing your plastic Easter eggs, grass and baskets year after year. Better yet, use shredded paper for grass. You can find baskets at garage sales and resale shops really cheap. Steer clear of harsh dyes, use local free-range eggs and only put items in the basket that kids will use and won't be played with for one day and thrown away the next.

Come see me at the Farm Show on March 16 from 9:30 to 2:30

2013 Cleansweep Dates – Annual Hazardous Waste Collection

Friday, June 21	10 am to Noon	Sheldon Ambulance Parking Lot
Friday, June 21	3 pm to 5 pm	Bruce Bus Garage
Saturday, June 22	10 am to 2 pm	Rusk County Highway Shop

Collection of Hazardous Waste - Electronics – Appliances – Fluorescent Bulbs at all locations!