



What is upcycling?

Upcycling is all about reusing, improving and recycling. Instead of discarding objects or material you no longer need, you can create a product of a higher quality or value than the original.

Recycling vs. upcycling: what's the difference?

Recycling is a chemical process that breaks down consumer materials like plastic, paper, metal and glass. The purpose of recycling is to remake a new consumer product that's often of lesser quality than the original. Meanwhile, when you upcycle an item, you aren't breaking down the materials. Instead, you are giving the item a new purpose and transforming old into new. Upcycling requires only your creativity!

What are the benefits of upcycling?

Upcycling is a great way to conserve resources and tread more lightly on the planet. It will also help you to buy less and save more; upcycling is designed to encourage people to think of innovative ways of using 'old' items instead of buying new consumer goods.

What can I upcycle?

Almost anything! Try wine bottles, newspapers, milk cartons, tires, cans, clothing...the options are limitless. Everyone can upcycle, which is just part of the appeal. If you're looking for inspiration, here are three popular upcycling projects you can start working on:

Pallets

Pallets can easily turn an ordinary looking object into a useful and trendy piece of furniture or décor. The uses for pallets are endless. You can transform these ordinary pieces of wood into a coffee table, shelving, table top, outdoor furniture, and more.

Old windows and doors

Old windows and doors can easily be found at salvage yards, garage sales and online ads. You can upcycle these into art frames, headboards, decorative accents, among other options.

Spare glass jars and bottles

Glass jars, tin cans, and bottles can breathe a whole new life into your home, and all you have to do is clean them out. Upcycle these into vases, candle jars and decorative accents.

