

**HAVE WE BECOME A**

## **THROW AWAY SOCIETY?**

*DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR PARENTS AND EDUCATORS*



### **It's a Disposable World**

A 2004 study conducted by the University of Arizona found we eat so much fast food and “throw” the wrappers away, that 40-50% of harvests goes uneaten. That is right; we toss over \$600 per year per family of four away in spoiled meat, fruit, vegetables and grain products annually. Wonder if anyone threw a Big Mac away?

We also buy everything prepackaged thus more trash. Sounds convenient.

### **DISPOSABLE EMAIL????**

Just found a website designated to disposable email. It's for all those sites that make you enter your email address. Now you can register FREE at several disposable sites and received a email address to rid you of those spam notices.

### **WASTE NOT—No...JUST BUY MORE**

The mindset developed in the era of the 1920's and 1930's manufacturing period. We mass produced everything and the marketing technique was if a product fails, we have developed the “NEW and IMPROVED” and society will want it.

Some things are less expensive to buy new than repair. We have also made computers, cars and other electronics so difficult, costly and time consuming to repair, again we select the “NEW and IMPROVED.” We are “disposing” of the old for the feel of the new. Is it for the sake of convenience? Look in the yellow pages; it is hard to find small appliance repair shops.

Trash is cheap to get rid of and easier. Just take it to the curb. Out of sight, out of mind. With today's economy, just maybe that toaster is with fixing.

### **WE HAVE DEVELOPED A HABIT**



And that means the FRIDAY FOLDER parents. You know the one you have to go through piece by piece; drawing by drawing, math test by math test. So you hang it on the refrigerator for a month or two and then what? Just think, one drawing a week, that is 38 to 40 a year. Times that by another one or two children not to mention the “good grades” papers. That could be 10,000 of paper by the time the last one leaves elementary school.

Your guts say I can only keep so much. How do you make that decision of “file 13” or the keep until eternity folder? Is it for a special occasion? Does the piece have a special meaning? Those should be a few of the deciding factors.

Just remember when the decision is the circular one, at least bury it a little deep, you know under that disgusting banana peel. Better yet—recycle, give it to Grandma!!!

## JUST THINK

### ...how many (Blank) will be dumped

1. Televisions due to digital
2. DVDs for Blu-ray
3. Phones and answering machines for cell phones
4. Computers due to lack of updating with Windows 7.
5. Cameras as film is no longer made

### ... about these numbers

1. 80% of the U.S. products used in a day are thrown away
2. 95% of all plastic is not recycled
3. 50% of aluminum cans are not recycled
4. 3,650,000 tons of junk mail per year (see page 1 to rid of this)
5. 6,330,000 tons of clothing
6. 160,000 tons of car batteries
7. 780,000 tons of towels, sheets, pillowcases



### Sites to help you begin

<http://epa.gov/recyclecity>  
<http://www.ollierecycles.com> (children activities)  
<http://42explore.com/recycle.htm> (for kids of all ages and parents)  
<http://factoidz.com/how-to-begin-a-recycling-program-in-your-household/>  
[http://www.ehow.com/how\\_5105312\\_start-recycling-home.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_5105312_start-recycling-home.html)  
[http://eartheasy.com/live\\_recycling.htm](http://eartheasy.com/live_recycling.htm)

FREE recycling of computers and cell phones:

[http://www.omcomputer.net/Nebraska\\_laptop\\_cell\\_phone\\_recycling\\_disposal.html](http://www.omcomputer.net/Nebraska_laptop_cell_phone_recycling_disposal.html)

## WE ARE RUBBISH

The old saying goes, if you really want to know the neighbor, look in their trash. A study by the University of Arizona found we lie about the amount of fruit we digest and we lie about the amount of fast food we slip through our mouths. But note...a lot of fast food is the upper crust of boxed dinners from local grocer freezer sections.

Archeological digs usually begin in the 'garbage pit'. What people thrown away speaks volumes of their lifestyles and the hidden TRUTH of who we are.

We have an idea that "garbage" is the packing from our latest purchase of the appliance from page 1 and Styrofoam coffee cups. Actually the largest quantity of trash is paper from (hush the school art), to newspapers. The second largest dump of all times is yard waste.



So you have a basement full of "I don't know what to do with it." Yes it includes that computer with Win 98, that cell phone you could never text on, and something you will never admit to...the 8 track player with your complete set of 1970s/1980s tapes.

Toxins of these gadgets are dangerous for the landfill. You could think of reselling them as an "antique" or donate. eBay has a Giving Works program and there are several within your community.

Most computer companies offer recycling for a small fee. Your local newspaper also offers recycling options. Cell phones can be donated to agencies that serve abused children, some are collected for schools.

## It begins at HOME

We all want to go "green" in some way. So begin by contacting your local trash collection company and see what they recycle. Some will provide recycling containers.

Start by separating your metal, paper, and plastics into tubs stored in your garage or pantry. If you don't want to pay outside sources to pick up, then once a month take your collectibles to a local recycling center.

In larger cities, there are numerous recycling centers listed in your phone directory.

**Make it a FAMILY PROJECT to reuse, reduce, recycle.**