



Weekend, May 16-17, 2009

HOMES & LIVING

FEATURES EDITOR: Katharine Ball **PHONE:** 754-4282 **FAX:** 754-4293 **E-MAIL:** living@thecalifornian.com
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REAL ESTATE LISTINGS INSIDE

Act green, and you can save green

When the going gets tough, the tough get resourceful.

Our ancestors invented resourcefulness out of necessity; they utilized every resource until it was entirely consumed, even finding ways to turn scraps into something valuable. Anyone who has read "Little House on the Prairie" or heard older family members talk about living through the Great Depression knows just how



ALAN STYLES
Recycling

far a little resourcefulness will go. As the economy has us rethinking how we can get back to basics

TO GET INVOLVED

Send ideas for reusing or recycling items to info@svswwa.org. They may be shared with readers through this column.

and conserve our resources, it's good to know that what's good for your wallet is also good for the planet. The three R's — reduce, reuse and recycle — are all about being resourceful.

Here are some ways you can maximize your resources.

- ▶ Resist the temptation to pay for conveniences by reducing the number of disposable products you buy. Instead, buy durable, refillable and rechargeable products.
- ▶ Consider how the packaging might be reused when the product is gone. Challenge your family to

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RECYCLING

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be creative and have fun!

► Ounce for ounce, single-serving bottled water can cost more than gasoline. Reject the high cost of bottled water and use tap. If you prefer the taste of filtered water, use a filter and refill a stainless steel bottle.

► Use a refillable beverage container for your coffee or tea. Fill it at home and take it on the go to really start saving — even if you reduce by just one cup each weekday, that's a savings of more than \$500 per year, and 260 cups you'll keep out of the landfill.

► Remember there are two sides to every sheet of paper. Print only what you must, use both sides of the paper, and recycle it when you're through.

► Recycle everything! The more you recycle, the more you'll reduce the cost of your waste service fees. You'll also help keep valuable resources in circulation and out of the landfill, as they are reused to create new products.

Did you know it takes 95 percent less energy to turn an aluminum can into another aluminum can than it does to create one from virgin materials?

► Donate or sell reusable items. It's the oldest and most effective way of recycling.

► Buying used and repairing expensive items are great ways to save resources, and reuse.

We're working toward a future without landfills. Do you have ideas for reuse and recycling that you'd like to share? E-mail us at info@svswa.org and maybe we'll share them with our readers!

► *Alan Styles is recycling coordinator for the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority. His column appears the third Saturday of the month in Central Coast Living. Contact him at alanst@svswa.org.*