

GREENING THE BLUEGRASS

Ten Ways to Reuse Your Newspaper

Presented by the Lexington Herald-Leader/Kentucky.com and Bluegrass GreenSource

- 1. Scrapbooking.** During the long winter months, it can be hard to think of fun activities to do inside. Scrapbooking is not only fun and relaxing, but it also a creative way to reuse your newspaper. You can save clippings that have personal meaning, or use the many word options for titles on your new scrapbooking project!
- 2. To clean up spills.** Oddly enough, newspapers can be used as an alternative to paper towels. Newspaper soaks up a pesky spill just as well. You can even use them on surfaces that need cleaning; it is especially useful on glass surfaces. Spray your cleaner of choice on the surface and reuse your newspaper to rid the mess. Best of all: NO STREAKING!
- 3. Absorb moisture.** Similarly, if you forgot your rain boots on that random rainy day and your shoes get wet, reuse your newspaper by loosely placing a wad into your soaked shoes. The paper will absorb the moisture more quickly, as well as help to avoid your shoes getting plagued with mildew or mold.
- 4. Odor absorber.** Tired of that smell that does never goes away in your garbage can? Before you put in the garbage bag, reuse a few sheets of your newspaper at the bottom of the bin. Newspaper is an excellent source of absorbing odors. You can also try the same thing in the drawers of your refrigerator bins.
- 5. Ripen tomatoes.** Wrap your green tomatoes in sheets of newspaper. Then, pout them in a box and place a lid on top. Eventually, your tomatoes will be their ripest, red color. You can also use this tip on other fruits, as well.
- 6. Garden weed preventer.** Tired of weeding your garden? What if I told you, you don't have to do it anymore? Just place a few sheets of your reused newspaper your summer over your weed-less soil, then top the paper with your choice of mulch or bark. When you are ready to plant, pull back your mulch, dig a hole through the paper, plant the plant, and then re-spread the bark or mulch. Your garden will thrive when you reuse your newspaper!
- 7. Gift wrap.** This is a simple, and often times overlooked way to reuse your newspaper. Reusing your newspaper to wrap is cost efficient, as well as a creative way to show love through giving.
- 8. Shape keeper.** Reuse your newspaper by stuffing it inside your handbags, hats, or shoes. This will help keep the proper shape of your items.
- 9. To prevent windshield icing.** Scraping your windows in the winter can be a hassle and time consuming. To avoid an unnecessary run-in with old man winter, place your reused newspaper on your windshield overnight. Remove the newspaper in the morning before your commute and you will have outsmarted the man himself, and maybe even have time for a coffee run!
- 10. Car wheel traction.** Sometimes winter isn't kind to where we want to go. If it has snowed and you are stuck, keep a few stacks of your newspaper in your car. Whenever you get stuck, reuse the newspaper by placing a wad behind the wheel of your back tires. This will help your car get traction and get you on your way.

To learn more, go to bggreensource.org.



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