

# reuse & recycle

# sustainable home

By Brad Lawless

## What Can You Do?

Change the way you operate your home and business to reduce waste, save money and ease your total impact on the environment.



A. Automatic Composter  
Recycles food waste into compost fertilizer.

#892826 **ONLINE ONLY**



B. OdoBan® Grease Control Detergent

128-oz. jug.

#922392 **ONLINE ONLY**



C. GE® Energy Smart™ Spiral Lightbulbs

8 pack, 13-watt bulbs.

Brands may vary by Club.

#383330 **ALSO ONLINE**

## Change a Light, Change the World

How much difference can one lightbulb really make? The average home has approximately 30 light fixtures, and lighting accounts for 20 percent of that home's electric bill. Your fixtures likely use the same incandescent bulb that's been around since the days of Thomas Edison. Just replacing the five most frequently used incandescent light bulbs in your house with ENERGY STAR®-qualified compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs could save you \$35 each year. ENERGY STAR®-rated CFLs (like the GE® Energy Smart 60) use approximately two-thirds as much energy as standard incandescents and last up to 10 times longer. Additionally, they produce less heat than conventional bulbs, which should reduce home cooling costs in the summer. According to the EPA, replacing just one conventional lightbulb in each American home with an ENERGY STAR® CFL would eliminate the equivalent of 800,000 cars' worth of greenhouse gases and save enough energy to light 2.5 million homes for a year.

## Recycle Used Household Products

When you recycle something, you give it a second life as an entirely new product. Not every city has a recycling program available, but if yours does, you should take advantage of it. Recycling half the waste in your home can save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide a year. Some programs ask residents to sort recyclable materials by type (paper, plastic, cardboard), while others allow you to put everything into one big container. In either case, until the next pickup day, it's often easier to store recyclables in dedicated bins like the Recycle Center 3-pack.

Don't limit yourself to recycling bottles and paper, either. Rather than fill your local landfill with food waste, turn it into environmentally-friendly compost with the Automatic Composter, which can recycle almost any food waste, including meat, fish and dairy, in its sealed, odor-free chamber.

## Buy Big and Green

When shopping for your home, buy products in bulk to cut down on unnecessary packaging. Also purchase detergents and soaps that are biodegradable and formulated for use in cold water, like OdoBan® Grease Control Detergent. Washing clothes in cold or warm water can save 500 pounds of carbon dioxide per year.

## Housing Materials Can Be Recycled

When building or remodeling your home, shop for wood products harvested with sustainable forestry practices that utilize post-consumer or recycled materials. Pergo® flooring solutions use post-consumer wood fiber in their core materials and recycle sawdust from the manufacturing process into boiler fuel or compost.

## Breathe Clean Air

Dirty air conditioning filters cause air conditioners to run inefficiently. This alone can cost money and introduce up to 350 extra pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year.

## Pull the Plug

Cell phone chargers draw small amounts of electricity whenever they are plugged into the wall. When you finish charging your portable electronics, unplug the charger.

## Look for the ENERGY STAR®

The federal government rates all electrical appliances and electronics on their energy usage and efficiency. The ratings criteria differ for each appliance type, but any item certified with the ENERGY STAR® logo will conserve energy better than those without it. ENERGY STAR® refrigerators, like the 25.4 cu. ft. GE® Side-by-Side Refrigerator, use at least 15 percent less energy than the federal minimum standard for energy consumption. ENERGY STAR®-qualified dishwashers, like the GE® Built-In Dishwasher, use at least 41 percent less energy than the federal minimum standard and can save about \$90 over their lifetimes in hot water costs.

