Who Knew Recycling is Magic!

Abracadabra! Ala Kazam! Ta da—presenting the mysterious, magical ways of recycling! Admire these marvelous transformations—they're out of the box and right back at you. Recycling makes useful objects out of waste and adds a little magic to your life.



Recycling fine paper into toilet paper gives new meaning to watching your bottom line! It's all about saving trees. Recycling paper uses 75 per cent less energy and 50 per cent less water than making paper from raw wood fibre.



It may be yesterday's news, but it's true—repulped newspapers can become roof shingles. And that's just one end product. Others include new newsprint, boxboard (cereal and shoeboxes), wallboard, ceiling tiles, egg trays, animal bedding and mulching material. Recycle one tonne of old newspapers and save 19 trees. Typically Toronto annually recycles 100,000 tonnes of newspapers—that's giving more than two million trees a tomorrow.



Here's a cosy thought to warm up to—recycled glass becomes fibreglass insulation. Old glass can become new glass, glass beads for reflective paint or be mixed with aggregate for a road building type of asphalt called 'glasphalt'. Glass made from recycled crushed glass, called cullet, uses 30 per cent less energy than glass manufactured from new resources.



Another heart-warming thought—PET plastic is recycled into polar fleece jackets and scarves. And that's not all, other end products include fibrefill, strapping, pallets, rope, carpet, automobile bumpers, brush bristles, sign posts, and even the fuzz on tennis balls. Recycled HDPE plastic becomes pipe, flowerpots, plastic lumber and of course, blue boxes. Producing new products from recyclable plastics reduces pollution and uses one-third less energy.



Here's the spin—aluminum drink cans are transformed into CDs. What goes around, comes around. Of course it can pop back into a beverage can too. Recycling aluminum saves raw materials (it takes more than seven tonnes of materials to produce just one tonne of finished aluminum). Cans recycled into aluminum cut energy use by 95 per cent. Throwing away a single aluminum can is like pouring out six ounces of gasoline.



Yes, it's possible for a can to become another can, and it does. But, why stop there? Steel yourself! Thanks to recycling, steel can be transformed into concrete reinforcing bars, chains, pipes, and car parts. This greatly reduces costs, pollution and energy used (reusing steel cans alone reduces energy use by 74 per cent). Every tonne of recycled steel cans saves 1.36 tonnes of iron ore.



Here's the real dirt, organic waste—and there's lots of this stuff—making up 30 per cent of household garbage—becomes compost. Compost is a nutrient-rich soil amendment ideal for use on gardens and lawns. Don't waste these organic resources in landfill. Make the natural choice. Recycle organics into compost. Feed it to your own green spaces and watch the benefits bloom.