

Water

The Recycling Connection



Recycling keeps materials out of landfills where they can contaminate groundwater systems. Also, pollutants are reduced when we use recycled instead of virgin resources to manufacture products.

Source: Washington State Department of Ecology



Every ton of paper made from recycled materials saves about 7,000 gallons of water. That means **each** *Seattle Times* newspaper printed on recycled newsprint saves about **2.6** gallons of water.

Source: EPA; Worldwatch Institute; Seattle Times.

When a glass bottle is recycled, 50% less water pollution is produced than when a new glass bottle is made from virgin materials.

Source: [How on Earth do we recycle glass?](#) Randolph Rott & Groves.



Composting is nature's way of recycling. Composting conserves water by allowing easier water penetration through the soil and improving soil water retention. It also discourages the use of chemical treatments that pollute groundwater.



For every 1% increase in organic matter the soil holds another 16,000 gallons of water per acre.

Source: Buildingsoil.org.

Recycling the motor oil from one oil change (5 quarts of oil) protects 1 million gallons of drinking water (a year's supply for 50 people) from surface water pollution by improper disposal.

Source: American Petroleum Institute.



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Use the conversion factors and formulas below to determine how much WATER you can save by recycling.



Every ton of paper (~12 yds.) made from recycled materials saves about 7,000 gallons of water.

$(X \text{ tons paper}) \times (7,000 \text{ gallons water/ton paper}) = \text{gallons water conserved from recycled paper.}$

Each *Seattle Times* sized newspaper printed on recycled newsprint saves about 2.6 gallons of water.

$(X \text{ newspapers}) \times (2.6 \text{ gallons water/newspaper}) = \text{gallons water saved by utilizing recycled newsprint.}$

Recycling the motor oil from one oil change (5 quarts of oil) protects 1 million gallons of drinking water from surface water pollution.

$(X \text{ quarts oil}) \times (200,000 \text{ gallons water/quart oil}) = \text{gallons water protected from pollution.}$

Visit these websites for more information on the environmental benefits of recycling.

- Environmental Protection Agency – www.epa.gov/epawaste/index.htm
- American Forest & Paper Association – www.afandpa.org
- Washington State Department of Ecology – www.ecy.wa.gov
- Environmental Defense Fund Paper Calculator – www.edf.org/papercalculator
- National Recycling Coalition Recycling Calculator – www.nrc-recycle.org/recyclingcalculator.aspx
- Buildingsoil.org – www.buildingsoil.org