

Reduce, Re-use, Recycle RUBBISH!

Have you ever watched children engaged in arts and crafts projects and wondered, "how do they use so many supplies?" Glue, paint, glitter, chenille sticks, fuzzy pom poms, stickers, foam shapes, goggle eyes - they all seem to disappear as the children work. While certain supplies are necessary, it is easy to reduce costs by using recycled materials for craft projects.

Using waste materials to make crafts is not only an excellent way to recycle; it is also a good way to teach children about waste reduction and provide them with a creative challenge.

One example of a really great re-usable resource that is very easy to obtain is **EMPTY CARDBOARD TUBES** from toilet rolls, paper towels and fabric bolts. There are lots of great ideas for using them - here are ten to get you started...

★ **Totem Poles** - Paint Native American designs onto tall tubes from fabric bolts to make Totem Poles - they look great when several are grouped together. Stand them in a bucket of sand to display them.

★ **Pencil Organisers** - Cut tubes into different lengths. Glue them together in small groups (5 is good); glue the group to a piece of stiff cardboard to form a base. Paint & decorate them. (see pics right)

★ **Napkin Rings** - Cut the tube into 3cm rings. Paint and decorate. You can cover the rings with strips of fabric or ribbon and glue on decorative buttons or small foam shapes.

★ **Marble Run** - Make a maze for marbles by connecting a number of tubes together and flick the marbles through them. Cut the end of some tubes at an angle to change the direction. You can also cut the tops out of some of the tubes so the children can see the progress of the marbles.

★ **Angels** - Glue a small Styrofoam ball to one end of the tube for the head. Cut wings out of cardboard and decorate.

★ **Rocket Power** - Glue a small paper cup to one end of a tube as a nose cone; cut wings out of cardboard and attach. Decorate and attach red, yellow and orange streamers for the exhaust.

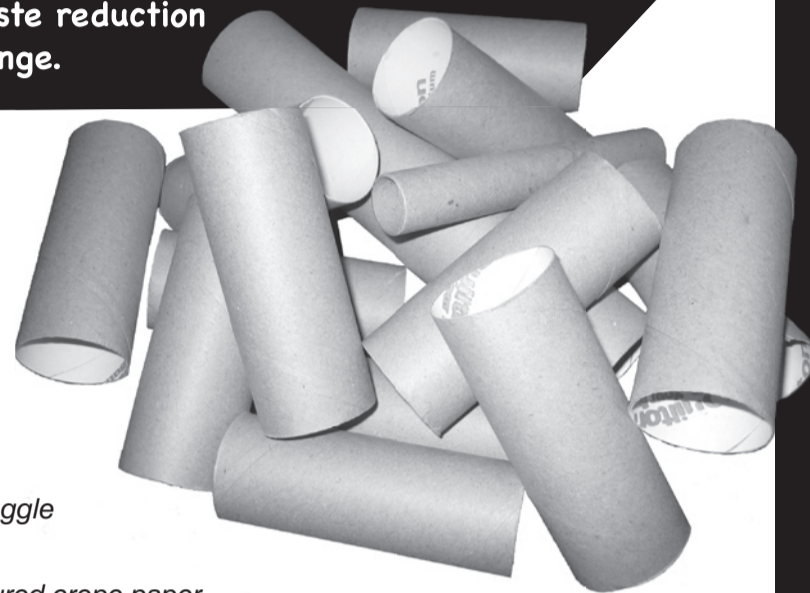
★ **Rattle Snake** - Cut tubes into 5cm rings. Paint tubes to resemble snakes skin. When dry, punch

two holes in each ring and join the tubes by tying them together with string or wool through the holes. Tie a few bells on one end for the rattle; make a tongue out of red construction paper and glue in place and paint on the eyes - or glue on goggle eyes.

★ **Dance Sticks** - Wrap alternating strips of coloured crepe paper around the tube. Attach long streamers to one end so the children can wave them through the air as they dance around.

★ **Kazoos** - Paint small tubes black and decorate with small foam music shapes. Cut a circle of waxed paper and attach over one end with a small elastic band. The wax paper will vibrate and make "musical sounds" when the children blow (or toot) into the open end - lots of noise and fun!

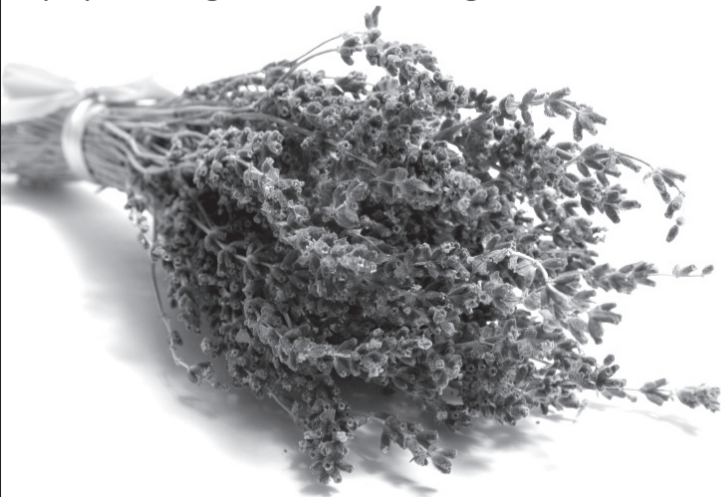
★ **Time Capsules** - have children decorate and fill a tube with personal treasures, for example, photograph of themselves, self-portrait, their height, name of their friend, favourite movie, pet - anything they want. Wrap the tube in cellophane paper and tie off the ends. Hang them from the ceiling in a corner of the room to open at a later date. This activity is best done at the start of the year - then at the end of the year, the children can draw another self portrait - open the time capsules and see how much they changed since the beginning of the year.



Right: making 'Pencil Organisers' Step 1
Far right: The finished product
(Thanks to Cassandra!)



★ **FLOWERS...** flowers are great to recycle! Dried and pressed flowers can be used to create a variety of crafty projects. They can be used to decorate gift cards, bookmarks, placemats, coasters, photo frames, paperweights, door hangers, sun catchers - the list goes on and on...



The first thing you need is a selection of dried flowers. Why not ask parents to give you a few flowers - that will help keep the cost down. The simplest way to dry flowers is to hang the bunch upside down in a warm, dry, dark place. It needs to be dry so the flowers won't rot and it needs to be dark so the flowers don't fade. The length of drying time will depend upon the type of flowers, how dry the area is and the temperature. Check the flowers every 2 or 3 days - they need to be dry to the touch.

Dried flowers can be used for some decorations without being pressed, but if you want to make

projects like placemats, bookmarks, etc, then it is best to press them. Pressing is quite a simple process, but it can take several weeks to achieve a good result, so you need to prepare them in advance. Lay flowers on tissue paper, make sure they don't touch each other or hang over the edge of the paper. Place another sheet of tissue paper on top, then several sheets of newspaper and a sheet of cardboard. Continue in this way until all flowers have been used. Once the stack is done, place a heavy weight on top of it - an old telephone directory is good and then perhaps a couple of bricks on top of that. Wait 2 - 4 weeks for the flowers to be flat enough to use.

NEED MORE IDEAS??

Why not contact the Fabulous, Famous, Fantastic Reverse Garbage Co-Op? Reverse Garbage is a not-for-profit co-operative that sells industrial discards, off-cuts and over-runs to the public for creative and practical uses, reducing the amount of waste going to landfill. They are well known and respected in the education, community and arts sectors for their huge variety of materials, including; perspex, cloth, ceramic tiles, closed-cell foam and foam sheeting, stickers, cardboard, wood, hessian sacks, paper rolls, bubble wrap, toys, craft supplies and dozens of other useful items.

Reverse Garbage is located at 8/142 Addison Road Marrickville and they are open 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Saturday and 10.00am to 4.00pm on Sunday. Can't get there? No problems, you can ring their mail order service on (02) 9569 3132 to arrange a mail order purchase or you can order online by visiting their website: www.reversegarbage.org.au