



# Smart Shopping

Whether we love it or hate it, we all shop. Either at the mall, small stores or on-line, our shopping takes a big toll on the planet. The products we buy take natural resources and the packaging they come in take even more. Plus we typically use vehicles to go to the store or have products delivered.

There are ways to shop smart and protect the planet at the same time. Follow these tips to green your next shopping trip:

## BEST PRACTICE AREA: ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERRED PURCHASING

## BEST PRACTICE AREA: PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP

## BEST PRACTICE AREA: GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS

## BEST PRACTICE AREA: WASTE REDUCTION

### DID YOU KNOW?

According to the Center for Energy & Climate Solutions, shipping two 20 pound packages by overnight air -- the most energy-intensive delivery mode -- still uses 40 percent less fuel than driving 20 miles round-trip to the mall or store yourself.

### GETTING THERE:

- Consider taking public transit: Shopping centers are usually a major stop for all transit systems.
- Carpool: Gather a group of friends or neighbors and go shopping together sharing the cost of gas getting there.
- Walk or bike: Use foot or pedal power to reach stores close by.

### KEEP THE PACKAGING PLEASE:

Manufacturers will put smaller products in larger packaging to occupy more shelf space trying to catch your eye. The excess packaging uses more natural resources, more ink to cover and more space and money to ship. All that results is more for you to spend on packaging to throw away (or recycle). Send a message to manufacturers by avoiding these products and favor similar items with smaller packages.



## GREEN YOUR SHOPPING

### ON-LINE:

- Order multiple items that can be shipped together in one purchase to decrease packaging material and transportation costs associated with numerous shipping orders.
- Decrease your carbon footprint even more by having your packages shipped by ground transportation rather than air.
- Have your products shipped using the United States Postal Service (if available through your retailer), since USPS is most likely coming to your neighborhood to deliver mail anyway.
- Make sure to recycle or reuse the packaging materials associated with the delivery, especially items that are tough to recycle like packing peanuts.

### IN-STORE:

- Bring reusable bags to do your shopping. They are environmentally friendly and sturdier for those big holiday purchases.
- Shop during off-peak times to save time, gas and money.
- If purchasing small items, walk or ride your bicycle to nearby stores (weather permitting) to eliminate emissions associated with driving your car.
- Carpool to the store with friends and family.
- Shop for recycled or resale items at stores like Goodwill and the Salvation Army or shop garage and yard sales in your community.
- Avoid "impulse" buys which often get thrown away.

## WHICH IS "GREENER"?

### ON-LINE:

- Items are already at the warehouse and ship direct to you, no need for the store.
- No need for stores to heat, cool, and keep lit with large parking lots that create storm water runoff.
- Option to compare items before purchase including finding "green" options.

### IN-STORE:

- Multiple types of items in one place creates one stop shopping rather than multiple deliveries from different sources.
- Saves approximately 2.5 times the amount of packaging needed.
- Not all stores need to be driven to, but all on-line packages need to be delivered.

### BUY LOCAL:

Purchase items produced locally. The reduction in time, energy, effort and fuel transporting merchandise across the county will greatly reduce the effect on the planet by reducing greenhouse gases. Plus the item might be a little cheaper because you no longer have to absorb those costs. Contact local manufacturers to see about buying direct. Look to local farmer's markets to purchase produce direct from the growers and find homemade items as well. Can't find it? Ask around; someone probably has an idea of where you can find it locally.

