

Dear Recycle Lady



Dear Recycle Lady

Dear Recycle Lady,

I receive so many catalogs for products in which I have no interest. I was told that a web site existed that could stop these catalogs from coming. Do you know the name of the website? Too Many Catalogs

Dear Too Many Catalogs,

Yes, there is such a website. It is Catalogchoice.org. They will help you “reduce unwanted mail, opt-out of catalogs, and remove your name from mailing lists”. It’s simple and free and will help you stop waste, reduce clutter and save natural resources. I have eliminated many catalogs using this website and highly recommend it.

Dear Recycle Lady,

What about paper towels? Do they compost? Can they be recycled? If so, how clean must they be?

Thank you, Recycler

Dear Recycler,

Like tissue paper, most paper towels are made from recycled paper. Thus, they have fibers that are too short to be recycled again. However, these short fibers make paper towels a great candidate for the compost pile. Just be sure there is no grease or chemicals on them. As a single-use product, paper towels most often end up in the trash and eventually in the landfill. Microfiber cloths or cloth rags from your ragbag are excellent alternatives to paper towels. These cloths can be used for multiple household tasks and tossed into the washing machine. They can be reused many times. If you do purchase paper towels, be sure they are made out of recycled paper. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), "If every household in the United States replaced just one roll of virgin fiber paper towels (70 sheets) with 100% recycled ones, we could save 544,000 trees." When purchasing any paper products, it is recommended that you purchase ones that are whitened without chlorine bleach or are unbleached. The chlorine used to bleach paper products is harmful to the environment and can be detrimental to human health. According to the San Mateo County RecycleWorks, "The bleaching of paper, whether virgin or recycled, is the leading cause of toxic water pollution in the U.S."

Dear Recycle Lady.

This week I visited the Recycle Center for the first time. It was so well organized; I was able to find the right bin for all of my items. The area was very clean, and the employees were so helpful. Kudos to the personnel and staff of the Recycling Center. New Recycler

Dear New Recycler,

Congratulations on becoming a new recycler and thanks for all your compliments on the Center. We are proud of our facility and want to make recycling at the Center easy to do.

Food for Thought: We face the question whether a still higher “standard of living” is worth its cost to things natural, wild and free. - Aldo Leopold, an American scientist, ecologist, forester, conservationist, and environmentalist. 1887-1943 wikipedia.org

Have questions about recycling, or interesting information about recycling? Send questions or requests to recyclelady@greenbrier-swa.com. Dear Recycle Lady is sponsored jointly by the Greenbrier Recycling Center and Greenworks Recycling.