

STUFF WE LOVE: MADE IN THE USA

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- Send me deals and exclusive info on USA-made products
- I'd like to share & promote great Made in USA goods

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About

Thanks for visiting USA Love List, a little project that grew by the day until it took off and couldn't be stopped. It is great to be involved in something that everyone loves to love! Our seven-person team is working every day to learn about great American products, add items to our catalog, and connect with American businesses.

[Check out the shop](#) [Meet the team](#)

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE: TIPS ON REDUCING WASTE WITH AMERICAN MADE PRODUCTS



04.9.13 by [Tracey Hanson](#)

Comments 7

In celebration of Keep America Beautiful Month, we're looking and ways to reduce, reuse, recycle with a little help from American-made products. Today we're focusing on helping you REDUCE. There are 3 key areas to focus on when it comes to actively reducing our individual waste- our energy consumption, our water use, and our trash impact.

ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Our energy use involves the amount of natural resources we use every day. Natural resources, like oil, are not renewable. Our energy use also effects other aspects of our environment like carbon pollution and global warming. Some tips to reduce our energy use include:

Purchase items made from renewable resources. Technology is advancing

daily, and most products that were formally oil and petroleum based, no longer need to be so, like the [New Life](#) floor mats from **GelPro**. These mats are made from a plant based renewable resource.

Buy local and by items manufactured as close to you as possible. The closer the item is made our grown to your location, less energy is used to get it to you.

Think about investing in a hybrid or electric vehicle. Ford has committed to manufacturing it's **Ford Fusion Hybrid and Ford Focus Electric cars** at it's Wayne, Michigan plant. Hybrid and electric [cars](#) are a great way to reduce gasoline consumption.

WATER USE

To most of us in the USA, cutting back on our water use is still a choice. However, there are some places (and especially in hot months) that water conservation is mandatory due to a limited water supply. Here are some ways to reduce water use:

Invest in water saving products for your home. With three manufacturing plants in the USA (2 in Ohio, and one in Texas), **Mansfield Plumbing** is a great America made source for water efficiency toilet tanks. Their EcoQuantum tank reduces water usage up to 40% when compared to conventional tanks.

Use a rain barrel to collect water for your garden. Water your plants with water collected from the rain, as opposed to using the hose. **Hipcycle** offers a great selection of rain barrels, like the [50 Gallon Rain Barrel](#) made in the USA from up-cycled plastic barrels.

TRASH IMPACT

According to Planet Green, in 2008 the average person in America created 4.5 pounds of trash a day! Here are some tips on how to reduce your trash impact on our environment.

Compost food waste to reduce methane in landfills. Worm composting is raising in popularity and a fun way to get the kiddos involved in composting. The [Worm Factory](#) composting system is made in the USA from post consumer recycled plastics and is a great way to break down food scraps, junk mail and cardboard for use in your garden. Just add the live Red Earthworms.

Purchase re-usable products over disposable when ever possible. Packing lunches with reusable products is a great place to reduce our trash waste every day. Check out "[Four Steps to an American Made Lunch That's Good for the Environment Too](#)" for great tips.

SHOP USA Love List

Visit our Made in America Shopping District including an Amazon-powered USA Love List shop that is updated daily and contains a growing collection of carefully curated American-made items.

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-SUGGEST PRODUCTS-
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Get your USA Love List badge and start spreading the love.

Buy higher quality items. Products built to last from high quality materials will stand the tests of time- and stay out of our landfills. The next time you are purchasing furniture, look for pieces made from durable solid American hardwood, like those offered by **Manchester Wood**. Manchester Wood's furniture is manufactured in New York and lasts for generations.

Buy less stuff. Reducing our trash impact is as simple as buying less stuff. It is one of our favorite tips that we shared [here](#) and [here](#). Do you really need that item from the dollar store, just because it's a dollar? Or will it end up un-used and in the trash? Also, re-use when ever possible. Many items you think are trash can have a new purpose. My favorite item to re-use is the glass jars that I purchase salsa in. The size and wide mouth of these jars make them perfect for storing leftovers in my fridge.

This is the first post in our Keep America Beautiful Month series. For more on REUSEing, stop by next week to learn about products that are made in the USA from re-purposed or up-cycled items. Always reduce, reuse, recycle!

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Post by Tracey Hanson

Tracey Hanson is the USA Love List Green/Family Living Editor. Follow her on [Twitter](#) and [Pinterest](#)

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COMMENTS

md kennedy
APRIL 10, 2013 AT 12:32 AM



I put off buying a GelPro mat because I thought they were made from petroleum products - I should have checked! Now I can get one for my kitchen floor (hard granite!).

REPLY

Brittney Minor
APRIL 10, 2013 AT 9:12 PM



What a great series! I look forward to following the rest of your posts! I am all about conserving water, reducing waste and supporting companies that upcycle and use recycable components in their products.

[CLICK TO GET YOUR BADGE](#)

Giveaways

We love our Giveaway Sponsors: every one a dedicated company with outstanding American-made products. Thanks for letting us share the USA love!

[Review and Giveaway: Cocktail Recipes with a High-Powered Blendtec Blender](#)

[Giveaway: A Silver Antimicrobial Towel for Babies from Cuddle Smart](#)

SEE ALL OUR GIVEAWAYS AND ENTER TO WIN

Tweets

For Him: Fashionable Gifts For Father's Day or Any Occasion
<http://t.co/xufjp6hJxt>

about 3 hours ago

glad we found you, [@AmericanMadeMSL](#) #madeinUSATribe

about 21 hours ago

USA Love List - 5 More Ways to Get Involved if you feel strongly about buying American: <http://t.co/f15yn2aphr>

about 1 day ago

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Latest Post: [National Boys & Girls Club Week](#)

REPLY

Trisha

APRIL 11, 2013 AT 9:40 AM



Thanks for these great tips! I'm slowly but surely getting there. 😊

Latest Post: [Motherlove: Natural Diaper Rash and Nipple Creams \(Review\)](#)

REPLY

Shannon @ GrowingSlower

APRIL 11, 2013 AT 11:16 AM



Thanks for the great tips! I really try to use the buy less stuff method as much as possible.

Latest Post: [Positive Natural Birth Stories {Call for Submissions}](#)

REPLY

Chrystal @ Happy Mothering

APRIL 11, 2013 AT 9:01 PM



Collecting rainwater is one of the next projects on my list after we get the chickens set up!

Latest Post: [The Homegrown Collective March Green Box Review: Brewing Kombucha](#)

REPLY

Shai Smith

APRIL 13, 2013 AT 7:30 PM



I am not, in the least, a patriotic person....so supporting American made has always been an 'Eeeehhhhhh, it makes sense, BUT' issue with me. Then I became eco-friendly and it all makes sense completely! Thanks for sharing the many reasons to reduce/reuse/recycle American (or local to any country, really!)

Latest Post: [Peace Leadership Training – Almost There!](#)

REPLY

Jean

MAY 6, 2013 AT 9:41 AM



Thank you for this series! It drives home, for me, the impact of purchasing decisions. Your site is a great resource.

REPLY

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