
Green Tips

Use reusable products like ceramic, glass, and silverware over paper, plastic, and Styrofoam products.

Generally speaking, disposable products are not environmentally friendly.

- The energy cost of creating a ceramic cup is 70 times that needed to make a Styrofoam cup and 25 times more than needed to make paper cups. (source: <http://www.ilea.org/lcas/hocking1994.html>)
- Assuming each cup is used at least 70 times, the energy savings of a ceramic cup are preferable.
- There are a couple of other issues to consider: Ceramic, glass, and a silverware require cleaning, which means hot water and soap.
- Soap is not an environmentally-friendly product. However, the transportation/distribution and disposal of paper products and Styrofoam pushes the balance toward reusable products. Neither paper products nor Styrofoam is recyclable. They can be reused, for packing materials and secondary products, but the vast majority end up in landfills.
- Over the lifetime of the product, disposable products generally use more wood or petroleum, require additional transportation to support replacement, and take up more volume in our landfills.
- Do not place disposable food containers into recycling containers. The glues and exposure to liquids prevent them from being recycled, and they can contaminate other recyclable materials in the bin. The extra effort needed to separate them adds to recycling costs.