

# Reuse

In your backyard, reusing the old helps grow the new!

## What?

Reuse simply means using a product or package more than once to create a new, useful or creative item that saves you having to buy it. It is often something you do already at home without putting much thought into it, such as using a plastic shopping bag twice. So when you stop and think about using things more than once, the possibilities are endless

## Why?

Australians generate approximately one tonne of waste per person per year, which goes to landfill. By reusing things around the home and in the garden, it helps to reduce this amount. It also saves money by decreasing the number of new gardening items you require

## Reuse:

- Adds a personal touch to your garden
- Is sustainable
- Saves you money
- Saves resources
- Protects the environment
- Can be a fun family activity
- Is self funding

## How?

It's so easy! Next time you go to throw something away, stop and think about how you can reuse it, or even repair it for an extended life:

- Save envelopes or old film containers for storing seeds. You can also share extra seeds with friends!
- Use egg, milk, and small ice cream cartons as seedling trays
- Put toilet paper rolls over small seedlings to protect them from predators
- Cut the tops off milk cartons, pierce a few air holes and place them over seedlings (top-down) to create mini greenhouses
- Use newspaper and old cardboard as mulch to build a veggie patch, or to smother weeds
- Use old nylon stockings and pieces of string as plant ties
- Make a small hole in the bottom of a plastic mineral water bottle, fill it with water, and use it as drip irrigation for a plant
- Compost your kitchen waste to produce nutrient rich soil for your garden
- Old carpet or cardboard can be used to insulate compost heaps or placed on the grounds to smother areas of weeds
- Old wood and pallets can be used to build compost bays
- Cracked and broken crockery can be smashed and used for drainage crocks in plant pots, or to make mosaics!
- Terracotta pot shards work perfectly as plant markers. Use a waterproof, felt-tip marker to write the names of individual plants
- Old claw foot bath tubs are an attractive way to grow water hungry plants like watercress or water chestnuts

