

10 Practical & Creative Ways to Reuse Plastic



Practical Uses—Plastic Bottles

1. Turn large water bottles into funnels. Remove the cap, cut off the bottle about 3 inches below the top, and start pouring! See more useful devices [here](#) from Popular Mechanics.
2. Save a bottle with a wide mouth. Fill it with pancake dough and use it to pour out perfectly round pancakes.
3. Fill two-liter water bottles with sand and use as exercise weights.

Practical Uses—Plastic Bags

Even eco-conscious households can accumulate plastic bags. To store them out of sight, insert them into an empty Kleenex box. That way, you reuse the box and keep bags handy for all sorts of uses:

4. Looking for stuffing for a pillow or pet bed? When the outer fabric is thick, plastic bags make good stuffing inside.
5. Plastic bags make good packing material in the boxes you are mailing.
6. Wrap up all sorts of things, like your shoes to keep them dust-free or away from your clean clothes in your suitcase.
7. Place meat that you're defrosting inside a plastic bag and save a mess.

Three Cool Creative Uses—Bottles and Bags

8. Cut a plastic bottle about 3-4 inches up from the bottom to make a desk accessory for storing pens and pencils. Wrap and decorate the outside to personalize the container. Or, wrap the whole bottle in raffia and turn it into a [vase](#).
9. Turn [plastic bags into yarn](#) and knit away! Maybe you'll even make a reusable grocery tote with these [directions](#).
10. Iron over bags to fuse them together and create "fabric" for all sorts of creative projects. See this [how-to](#).

And, in case you're looking for more creative inspiration, check out these [mandalas](#) made by Virginia Fleck out of recycled plastic bags.