

# Simply Green

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## Special points of interest:

- Milk Jug irrigation eliminates worry over daily plant watering in the garden.
- Recycling rates in Ohio are above the national average.
- Find out new and creative ways to “green” your next backyard party.
- Check out 5 great websites to learn more about the “ins and outs” of recycling.

Preble County Solid Waste Management District

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For questions about recycling in Preble County call our office at the above number or visit our website [PrebleCountyRecycles.org](http://PrebleCountyRecycles.org).

Curbside recycling is available for free from Rumpke in Eaton, Lewisburg, and Lakengren. If you need curbside recycling bins contact the City of Eaton administrative building at (937)456-4125 or Rumpke at 866-786-7530. Recycling bins are picked up on the same day as your trash.

## Milk Jugs— A Great Idea for Reusing Them in the Garden

Have you ever gone on a long trip and worried about watering your prized vegetables or flowers in the garden? With summer's hot and dry weather conditions your garden's soil can get parched quickly resulting in damage to your plants. Here is a great idea to prevent this from happening:

Make containers filled with water and prick them with tiny holes to deliver water to your plants at a slow but continuous rate, keeping plants continuously and evenly watered. To make your own milk jug irrigation system follow these steps:

1. Save enough milk jugs for the size of your garden. Plan on having one milk jug per plant and two if the plant is large.
2. Cut 3 pin size holes or slits into the bottom of each milk jug.
3. Test the drip over your sink. Fill the jug with water, leave the cap off, and watch to see that the water drips slowly, but doesn't pour out. If it does, the holes may be too big. Or, you can try leaving the cap on to slow down the drip.

4. Now it's time to situate your jugs in the garden. To keep them from blowing away when they get low, you have a couple of options. You can bury the bottom 1/4 inch in the soil; you can fill the bottom with 3 inches of pea gravel or small river rocks; or you can string the milk jug handles and tie them to a wooden stake.

5. Fill each jug with water—the opening should be a perfect fit for a hose.
6. Set it and forget it! Well not completely. If this is your first time trying this you will want to monitor your drip system to see how long it takes to empty and to make sure that your plants are not flooded (which if you did your drip test in the sink this should not happen).



## Did You Know?

The recovery rate of municipal solid waste (a fancy way of saying city garbage) through recycling and composting programs was up to 32% as of 2005 for the whole United States. That is a significant increase from 1980, when less than 10% was recycled. However, since 1980 the generation of municipal solid waste has **grown by 60%**-

nearly 246 million tons per year in 2005.

The state of Ohio appears to be doing well in achieving it's recycling goals and elimination efforts of excess trash. In 2007, Ohio achieved a statewide reduction and recycling rate of almost 41% (which is higher than the national waste recovery rate). The state says it

achieved its highest reduction and recycling rate in 2002 at almost 45%. The 2009 plan sets a statewide goal of 50%. Let's keep up the good work here in Ohio and do our part to recycle and keep our environment cleaner.



## 8 Tips for a “Greener” Backyard Party-

1. Say no to paper plates and non-recyclable Styrofoam cups. Instead, invest in a set of non-breakable but casual dinnerware made of melamine or Vitrelle, like those from Corelle. You can also buy interesting but mismatched china pieces from your local thrift store for a dramatic effect.
2. Use cloth napkins instead of paper ones. Use dish-towels for cleanup instead of wasting paper towels.
3. Decorate creatively. Use kids' sand pails or old pickle or jam jars to hold flowers or cutlery. For candleholders, fill empty glass jars with sand and put a votive candle on top or wedge a taper candle into the sand. Use old strings of Christmas lights to festoon the shrubs or railing surrounding your dining area.
4. Explore natural insect repellants. Use citronella candles or experiment with making your own bug spray out of clove, lemon, eucalyptus, and peppermint (all essential oils reputed to repel mosquitos). Add a few drops of any of these oils in water or alcohol. A well-placed pot of marigolds will keep mosquitos away from guests as well. Remove any standing water from your yard as these areas serve as breeding ground for mosquitos.
5. Make better choices for grilling. Gas or propane grills pollute the air less than charcoal grills. If you only have a charcoal grill, use wood-derived charcoal and start your fire using a chimney rather than using lighter fluid.
6. Feast on green choices. Burgers and hot dogs are common party fare but consider grass-fed beef for your patties instead of the ultra-processed meat. Search out small or local producers of meat who may be more eco-aware producers than buying meat from large grocery chains. Consider trying veggie dogs or burgers. Buy produce and buns locally as well to avoid racking up gas miles to an out of town store. This helps out your local farmers and businesses too.
7. Make your own beverages. Instead of buying sugary store-bought sodas, iced teas or lemonades try making your own at home using a recipe found online. You might also consider buying a home soda machine or carbonator to whip up your own brand of fizzy drinks. You can then cut down on excess packaging, use all-natural ingredients, and you will know exactly what is going into your drinks.
8. Make recycling easy for guests. Set out clearly marked receptacles for both trash and recyclables in convenient places. If you compost, put out a container for collected

**“You can tell how high a society is by how much of its garbage is being recycled.”**

**— Dhyani Ywahoo, Motivational speaker, author, musician, and spiritual life coach**



## 5 Great Recycling Websites to Check Out-



### Earth911.com-

Offers both informational articles on recycling specific products as well as a local search tool for finding appropriate locations that will accept and recycle your items.

### Craigslist.org-

The ultimate classified ads website, Craigslist connects buyers with sellers of manly

used goods, especially furniture, automobiles, and electronics.

### EPA.gov-

The website offers a thorough explanation of the recycling process, as well as information regarding composting, industrial materials recycling, and holistic, environmentally-friendly landscaping suggestions for individuals and businesses.

### 1800Recycling.com-

This site has a comprehensive recycling center search categorized by item type, as well as an Apple iPhone app for finding recycling locations on the go. It also provides links to state-level recycling regulations and legal requirements, as well as a blog on relevant current events that promote re-using and recycling.

### RecycleBank.com-

The website allows consumers to reward themselves for environmentally-friendly decisions through a web-based points system. Consumers can get discounts, gift cards, etc. for their recycling efforts. Although the program is not yet fully implemented in Preble County, the site has lots of informative articles about recycling.