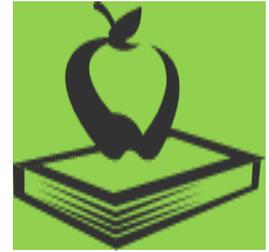




US ARMY

Green Matters

Environmental and Natural Resources Division



Fort Gordon, Ga



Back 2 School..Greener

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As you prepare to send your kids back to school this year here are a few tips to help keep the planet greener in the process.

1. **Stop over purchasing.** I know that kids and parents are excited about the new year and all the new purchases, but ask yourself "do we really need all of this?" Do we already have loose leaf paper from last year, pencils, notebooks, or binders? From my experience, there is a lot left over from last year that can be recycled for this year such as pencils, binders, book socks and more. Focus on buying what you really need and you will be amazed at the green you save, as well as keeping the earth greener.

2. **Buy recycled materials.** Stores such as Target and Office Max offer brands like Pilot and Post-It that are "going green". You can even purchase back packs made from recycled juice drink pouches from TerraCycle. Pencils can be

made from recycled denim and newsprint.

3. **Choose used.** If possible, purchase used text books. College students can save a lot of money and waste less. You can purchase text books online from Amazon and eCampus for better deals. "According to the Environmental Paper Network, if the US reduced its paper consumption by 10 percent annually, we could save enough energy to power 228,000 homes, the carbon emissions equivalent to removing 279,000 cars from the road and 11 billion gallons of water."

4. **Pass the clothes on.** Every year kids grow like weeds, and I hate getting rid of good clothes; so I find someone who needs them. Likewise, search for used clothes. Often with these Facebook online yard sales you see people selling clothes cheap or simply giving them away. I get name brand

clothes from Justice every year for free from my neighbor!

5. **Carpool.** Everyone knows that riding the bus or car pooling helps to reduce air pollution.

6. **Lunch.** Use a lead free lunch box with reusable plastic containers, thermos and cloth napkins to cut back on all that waste in the lunchroom.

7. **Get Involved.** Encourage you kids to start a recycling program at school if one doesn't exist.

8. **Electronics.** With all the electronics used today, investing in rechargeable batteries and investing in a Smart Power Strip is a wise move. It shuts off when electronics are charged.

Have a great start with a "greener" path ahead!

Upcoming Training/ Events

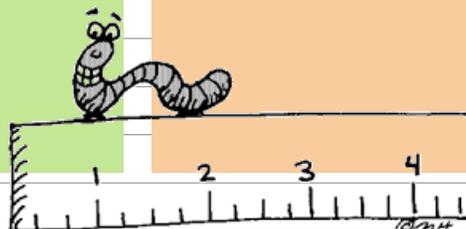
- Aug 4 4th QTR Cross-Functional Team Meeting, 1300-1430; DPW Conf Rm, Bldg 14600
- Aug 5 Hazardous Waste Refresher, 0830;0945, Bldg 11307
- Aug 12-13 Hazardous Waste Management Course, 0800-1600; Bldg 11307

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2+2=?

$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$



Water Sense



August is Water Quality Month and with that in mind we need to learn more about what we can do as individuals to conserve water. By purchasing products with the WaterSense label you can be sure that you 'll be getting the best quality and performance but with the added benefit of water savings. "WaterSense labeled products are backed by independent third party certification and meet EPA's specifications for water efficiency and performance." Most families spend at least \$ 1,100 year in water costs, but by switching to Watersense fixtures you can save \$350. Here are a few tips to get you started saving water inside of your home:

Fix Leaks- Start by fixing any leaks. Check under sinks in the kitchen and bath for leaks. Leaks indoors overtime can equal gallons of water wasted a day.

In the Bathroom- When brushing your teeth or shaving, be sure to turn the tap off. Showering saves more water than bathing, as long as you monitor the time.

In the Kitchen- Use the dishwasher and make sure it's a full load. Instead of rinsing plates before you put them in the dishwasher, simply scrape out remaining food particles into the trash bin.

Laundry Room- Try to always wash full loads or use the appropriate water level setting for the load.



Showering Smarter

Showering is crucial to everyday living, whether it wakes you up to start your day or settles you down for the night. Either way it accounts for 17 percent of American household's daily use indoors. Also keep in mind that every time you shower you also use energy to heat and deliver the water to the shower head. Investing in a shower head with a Watersense label can help save water, energy, and money. The EPA estimates if a family substitutes one shower head with a Watersense showerhead, the average family can save 2,900 gallons of water, 13 days worth of power saved, and over \$70 savings a year. In a years time, if the entire country replaced their showerheads with Watersense heads, we could save a whopping 250 billion gallons of water and almost \$5.1 billion in water and energy costs. That's a lot of savings when everyone takes part.





As fall arrives, we trade the hot summer sun and sunny beaches for the soft glow of a fire in the cool evening air. The American Society of Landscape Architects states that fire pits are at the top of the list for the most desirable outdoor piece. They offer a place to convene with family and friends, a place to share stories and just hang out. Fire pits can be pretty simple and can cost next to nothing to build.

The most primitive pits only need a metal bowl. Some may have a grill top for cooking and a screen cover. These are good for small patios or yards.



Chiminea

Other types of fire pits include the Chimineas. They don't give off a lot of heat but the aroma of burning woods adds a pleasantness to the outdoors.



Portable basic fire pit

Some nice firewood to burn would be pinion wood, alder, cedar, oak, hickory, mesquite, pecan, and fruit woods like apple and cherry. Never burn pressure treated wood because it can emit toxins.

Always make sure that your fire pit is at least 10 feet away from buildings or combustible material. Remember that bigger is not always better. The larger the fire, the more chances of it getting out of control. Keep it simple and small. It's more manageable. Always check the weather forecast before lighting any fire. The wind plays a factor and also drought conditions could have burn bans in place, so make sure you check weather conditions first. Make sure the area near the fire is free of any lingering combustibles such as dried leaves or pine straw. Keep a water source nearby such as a bucket of water or hose just in case of an emergency.



Starting the fire.



Start with some newspaper crumpled up and place small twigs on top of it in a teepee type frame. Light the paper, and as the paper burns gradually add more twigs, increasing the size of the twigs as it burns better. **NEVER** use gasoline or starter fluid to start a fire. It is too dangerous! When it is time to put the fire out start by spreading the embers out to cool faster. Then douse it with water, but don't just leave it unattended. Allow yourself enough time to monitor the fire before hitting the sack. Fires can reignite during the night if not properly

extinguished. Remember that burning is a source of air pollution too, so make wise decisions especially before you think about throwing trash in a fire.

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DID YOU KNOW...?

Fun Facts About Water

- ◆ Our blood is made up of 83% water, our lungs contain 90%, and our brain contains 70%.
- ◆ Leaky faucets at 15 drips a minute amount to about 3 gallons of water wasted a day, 65 gallons per month, and 788 over a year.
- ◆ Try to keep showers under 5 minutes long. A 5 minute shower uses 10-25 gallons of water.
- ◆ Did you know that the Egyptians were the first to record water treatment methods that date back more than 1500 years to 400 A.D.?
- ◆ Low-flow showerheads, faucets, and toilets were federally mandated in 1994



Don't be a drip.

Illustration by Robert Zimmerman