

WHY CHOOSE EARTH-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS

Using products that are less harmful to the earth will make our environment healthier and thus enhance the health and well-being of all. Reducing dependency on non-renewable resources will also help assure a supply for future generations. Rewarding businesses that produce earth-friendly goods, or those that use methods of production and packaging that are gentle on the earth, encourages these businesses to expand such practices.

BEFORE MAKING YOUR PURCHASE

Eco-examination of your conscience:

- Can I get along without it? make it myself? buy it used?
- What is it made of and does it include toxic chemicals?

- How much energy was used in its production, in transporting it to you, in its operation?
- Is it packaged using recyclable materials?
- How long will it last, and when its life is over can I recycle it?
- Does the product improve your quality of life?
- What potential effect does use of this product have on climate change? biodiversity loss?

AVOID TOXINS

The air in our homes can be filled with harmful fumes from cleaning agents. Indoor air quality is an important contributor to asthma. Non-toxic cleaning products help make the air in homes healthier.

Green products also keep fewer toxins from entering the water supply.

Avoid petroleum-derived ingredients, phosphates, chlorine bleach and sodium hypochlorite, EDTA and NTA – all of which are particularly toxic. Also avoid difficult-to-recycle aerosol containers.

Use environmentally-friendly cleaning materials like vinegar, lemon juice, baking soda, borax and olive oil. They are effective, less expensive and better for the environment.

Labels can be particularly helpful in choosing products.

Look For:

- Recycled
- Organic
- Biodegradable
- Non-toxic
- No animal testing
- No genetically-modified organisms

WHAT ABOUT OUR WATER

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) labels products for their water efficiency and performance. www.epa.gov

EPA's WaterSense label -- identifies a water-efficient product that has been independently certified to meet the criteria for efficiency and performance.

By buying items marked with this label, you can expect good performance, savings on your water bills, and assurance that you are saving water for future generations.



Since the market tends to promote extreme consumerism in an effort to sell its products, people can easily get caught up in a whirlwind of needless buying and spending.

Pope Francis, Laudato Si, #203