

# Anchorage to Zero Waste:

## Your Guide to Zero Waste in Anchorage

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## W.P. Weasel's Frugality Mantra: *Use It Up, Wear It Out, Make It Do, or Do Without*

It's not just about reducing your trash in this time of economic uncertainty – waste prevention is a smart way to live. Just ask Waste Prevention Weasel. He's been hoarding items away in his den for years and he wants for nothing. He knows that being as efficient and frugal as possible saves money in all sorts of ways.

### Use It Up

Don't buy more than you can use and be sure to use all that you buy. That goes for food, cosmetics, toiletries, pharmaceuticals, cleaning supplies, and other household goods. If there are deals on bulk quantities, but you know you can't use it all, go in on it with a friend or neighbor to take advantage of a good deal.



### Wear It Out

Learn to repair items, from lawnmowers to sweaters, rather than replace them. Rinse out sandwich bags, reuse grocery bags, sew on buttons, patch jeans, repair shoes – the list of ideas is endless. Put that duct tape and staple gun to good use, or look for repair shops.



### Make It Do

With some creativity and a little skill, you can avoid running to the store at every turn. What you have may be good enough. So many household items have dozens of uses you just haven't thought of. And when you say you don't have any food in the house, you probably do. Get creative in making meals from the pantry and freezer before going shopping again. Go to the library instead of buying another book. Host clothing swaps with friends if you're tired of your current fashions, or as your kids grow.

### Do Without

Avoid the notion of needing the next new product that will make your life perfect. It may make you happier in the end.

*As W.P. Weasel says, "The less you need, the more you have."*

*What a wise weasel.*