

# ASK THE GANG!



**Q: We are remodeling our house. Where can I get rid of kitchen and bathroom cabinets and fixtures?**

**A:** Consider donating your old cabinetry, fixtures, and other usable demolition materials to the Habitat for Humanity ReStore (5023 Cordova St., Anchorage). The ReStore is a retail business selling donated new and used building materials, electrical fixtures, appliances, and kitchen cabinets at greatly reduced prices. The ReStore differs from other donation/resale stores such as Value Village and the Salvation Army in that it targets building materials. It does not accept clothing or regular household items. The ReStore can arrange for pick-up for most materials and all donations are tax deductible. Please call ahead or check the website before dropping them off to ensure that your items are acceptable.

**Q: Where can I find inexpensive or free supplies to help with my remodel?**

**A:** A couple of different options exist in Anchorage. As discussed above, the ReStore offers building and remodeling supplies for greatly reduced prices. Since the ReStore's opening in November 2004, it has diverted more than six million pounds of material from the Anchorage landfill, and the income generated from the ReStore is used to build more homes for low-income families and to support administrative expenses. You'll find new and used building supplies.

Habitat for Humanity ReStore  
[www.hfhanchorage.org](http://www.hfhanchorage.org) - 743-8060

Another place to look if you need paint, stain, or cleaning supplies is the Municipality's Paint & Materials Exchange. With locations at the Anchorage Regional Landfill and the Central Transfer Station, the Exchange takes in between 50 and 100 gallons of paint each week. Sometimes paint cans even come in unopened.

Paint & Materials Exchange - [www.muni.org/sws](http://www.muni.org/sws)  
 (click on Hazardous Materials Management link) 428-1742

**Also visit the Alaska Materials Exchange, Craigslist, and Freecycle online to find items.**

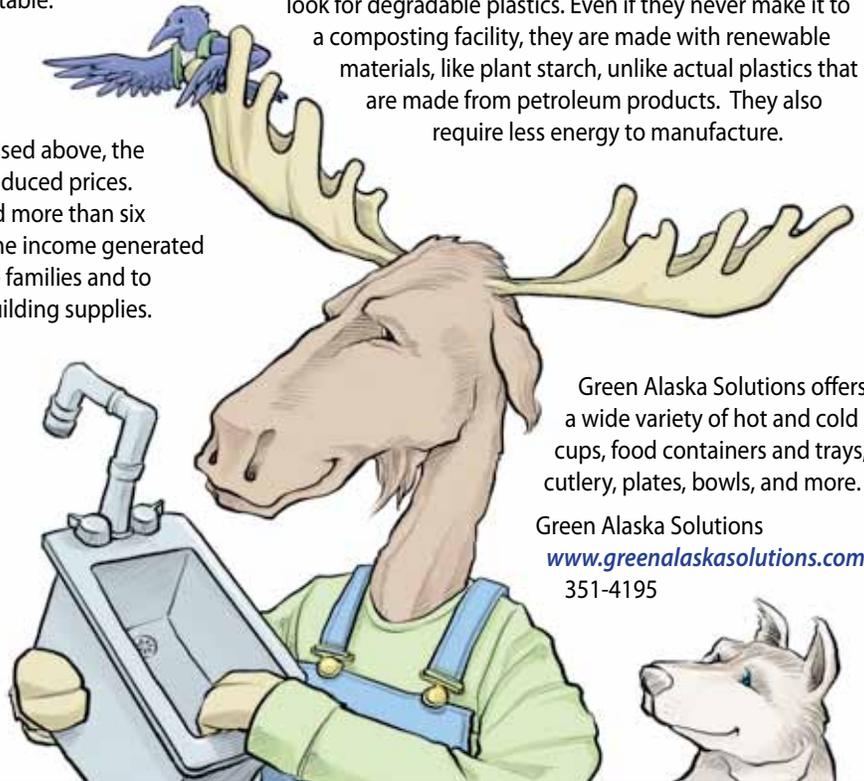
**Q: Sometimes I just can't use reusable plates, cups, or cutlery. How can I "green" my purchase of disposables?**



**A:** Whether the crowd is just too big, you don't have dishwashing facilities, or the items won't be returned to you, sometimes you just need to use disposable service items. You can make your use of disposables a little more "green" by using items that are degradable and/or use less energy to produce. Look for basic paper plates that could go in your compost bin or if you'd like something more substantial, look for degradable plastics. Even if they never make it to a composting facility, they are made with renewable materials, like plant starch, unlike actual plastics that are made from petroleum products. They also require less energy to manufacture.

Green Alaska Solutions offers a wide variety of hot and cold cups, food containers and trays, cutlery, plates, bowls, and more.

Green Alaska Solutions  
[www.greenalaskasolutions.com](http://www.greenalaskasolutions.com)  
 351-4195



## A QUICK LOOK: Waste & Recycling Resources

Alaska Waste..... [www.alaskawaste.com](http://www.alaskawaste.com) .....563-3717  
 ALPAR..... [www.alparalaska.com](http://www.alparalaska.com) .....274-3266  
 Anchorage Recycling Center .....562-2267  
 Anchorage School District Recycling..... [www.asdk12.org/depts/recycling](http://www.asdk12.org/depts/recycling) .....348-5151  
 Central Recycling Services..... [www.centralrecyclingservices.com](http://www.centralrecyclingservices.com) .....748-7400  
 Girdwood Recycling ..... [girdwoodrecycling2010@gmail.com](mailto:girdwoodrecycling2010@gmail.com) ...242-5520  
 Girmscheid Enterprises ..... [prodigalson@gci.net](mailto:prodigalson@gci.net) .....770-1720  
 Green Star ..... [www.greenstarinc.org](http://www.greenstarinc.org) .....278-7827

Hilltop Recycling..... [www.hilltoprecycling.com](http://www.hilltoprecycling.com) .....696-2246  
 MOA Solid Waste Services..... [www.muni.org/sws](http://www.muni.org/sws) .....343-6262  
 MOA SWS Customer Service (for excess waste and bulky pick-ups) ....343-6250  
 Mobile Metals .....277-7777  
 Recycling Solutions of Alaska  
     [www.rsalaska.net](http://www.rsalaska.net) ..... [rsalaska@gmail.com](mailto:rsalaska@gmail.com) .....242-9587  
 Schnitzer Steel - Anchorage ... [www.alaskametalrecycling.com](http://www.alaskametalrecycling.com) .....349-4833  
 Total Reclaim ..... [www.totalreclaim.com/Alaska.html](http://www.totalreclaim.com/Alaska.html) ....561-0544  
 Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS)..... [www.valleyrecycling.org](http://www.valleyrecycling.org) .....907-745-5544