

# Trash & Resource Facts

- The United States comprises 6% off the world's population and produces 40% of its waste.
- The average American will leave a legacy of 112,420 pounds of trash behind for his or her children.
- Recycling an aluminum can saves 96% of the energy used to make a can from raw ore, and produces 95% less air pollution, and 97% less water pollution. The energy saved from recycling this one can is enough to run a TV for 3 hours.
- Just one quart of motor oil that is disposed of improperly can contaminate up to 2,000,000 gallons of fresh water. Motor oil can be recycled, or re-refined, and used over and over again.
- Every year, the United States generates approximately 230 million tons of "trash"--about 4.6 pounds per person per day.
- The amount of wood and paper we throw away each year is enough to heat 50,000,000 homes for 20 years.
- The average American uses seven trees a year in paper, wood, and other products made from trees. This amounts to about 2,000,000,000 trees used by Americans each year!
- Americans use 2,500,000 plastic bottles every hour! Most of them are thrown away!
- Recycling plastic saves twice as much energy as burning it in an incinerator.
- Americans throw away 25,000,000,000 Styrofoam coffee cups every year.
- Every year, each American throws out about 1,200 pounds of organic materials that can be composted.
- Every year, the Americans discard 16,000,000,000 diapers, 1,600,000,000 pens, 2,000,000,000 razor blades and 220,000,000 car tires.

## Sources:

[http://www.earthresourcesrecycling.com/trash\\_facts](http://www.earthresourcesrecycling.com/trash_facts)  
[http://www.environment-green.com/More\\_Recycling\\_Facts\\_and\\_Statistics.html](http://www.environment-green.com/More_Recycling_Facts_and_Statistics.html)  
<http://www.epa.gov/waste/nonhaz/municipal/pubs/msw07-fs.pdf>  
<http://www.fastcompany.com/magazine/117/features-message-in-a-bottle.html>  
<http://www.learner.org/interactives/garbage/solidwaste.html>  
<http://www.recycling-revolution.com/recycling-facts.html>