



# Zero Waste Tips for Apartments



Whether living on or off campus, apartment living enables you to reduce your waste footprint through prioritizing waste actions in the following order: reduce, reuse, and then recycle and compost.

## Here are some ways you can help!

### Un-bag It!

It's common to collect recyclables or compostables in a plastic garbage bag. Those bags sadly can not be recycled or composted so empty the contents into the right bin and throw the now empty plastic bag in the landfill

### Refuse unnecessary items

Now that you have more space, it may be easy to fill that space with stuff, try to avoid that through building zero waste habits right off the bat by:

- Avoiding waste, Say NO to items you don't want/need
- When possible, try to (politely) explain why you do not want that item so you can encourage others to also examine their waste footprint



### Buy bulk and use refill stations

You can fill up your cabinets without filling up a trash can by:

- Shopping in the bulk section of stores for nuts, cereal, grains, pasta & more. The Food Bin is a local bulk option
- The low waste store Ethos in Capitola has a wide variety of refill stations for things like shampoo, soap, detergent & more



### Use a compost bin on campus

Apartment living means home-cooked meals but more food waste than dorms, reduce waste by:

- Cooking only what you'll eat, sharing or freezing the rest
- Off-campus, use your city's food waste bin or buy your own at home composter
- On-campus, make sure to always place food waste & compostable items in a green bin
  - Many apartments on campus have a door-to-door compost program, ask your RA for more details



### Eliminate single use items and shop sustainable alternatives

There are many great alternatives to disposable items that last far longer such as:

- Glass or metal cups and bottles, reusable utensils & grocery bags, silicone ziploc bags, bamboo toothbrushes, laundry detergent sheets, wool dryer balls, and reusable paper towels
- Set yourself up for success and keep these items in convenient locations



### Buy second hand and donate items

Living on your own for the first time doesn't mean you need to create waste:

- Buy and donate preowned items to reduce waste, such as utilizing donation centers and thrift stores, like the local Grey Bears, or online resale platforms, like Facebook Marketplace
- Buy kitchen essentials from a thrift store to save money and eliminate packaging waste
- During move out, use the Goodwill donation bins across campus

