

UF College of Dentistry Green Team

Green Tips of the Month



May 2009

Paper Towels Begone!

Do you find yourself using paper towels for EVERYTHING at home? Sure, they're convenient, but those fluffy white rolls use up millions of acres of trees and end up as tons of waste in landfills. By reducing your paper product use, you can help the environment and save a few bucks too!

A few ways to break the paper-products habit (or at least cut down):

- Keep a supply of clean rags – and not just for the big cleaning jobs. Got a stack of old t-shirts or towels bound for Goodwill? Cut them up and store some in a bin or a plastic-bag dispenser in the kitchen to wipe up spills (and keep a bin handy for the dirty ones).
- Keep clean, dry dish towels in a convenient location (or two) for when you need to dry your hands after washing them.
- Use newspapers (really!) and a 50/50 vinegar/water mixture to clean glass.
- Cloth napkins aren't just for fancy dinners. They are relatively inexpensive to buy and [a snap to make](#), and will pay for themselves in a month or two (depending on how quickly your family normally goes through paper napkins). Get easy-care fabric in dark colors (so the inevitable stains won't be noticeable) and it'll be simple to throw them in the wash.
- If you do keep paper towels on hand, buy recycled and store them in a less convenient place than the rags!

UF Office of Sustainability Events in May

- Thu, May 28, 10am–12pm in HRS Building Room 120: [Saving Energy at Home and Work Workshop](#) by Jason Fults