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10 ways to go green at home

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SPECIAL TO YOURHOME.CA

I watched my mother reuse tinfoil, wax paper and bread bags. She kept the empty butter wrapper in the fridge to grease cake pans and baking trays. She turned stale bread into stuffing, bread pudding or French toast. She minced any leftover meat and made shepherd's pie. Nothing went to waste, everything was reused and recycled. It was simply the way people did things then. Many environmentally- and budget-friendly exercises hail from postwar days, so keep it in mind to help you reuse, recycle, and repurpose.

SHUTTERSTOCK

When there is a strong breeze, items on a clothesline dry surprisingly quickly and smell fabulous.

1. Now that the warmer season is here, use your solar powered dryer – also known as a clothesline! – to dry all your clothes, sheets and towels. When there is a strong breeze, items dry surprisingly quickly and smell fabulous.
2. Disposing of cooking oil? Do not pour it down the sink as it will end up in our lakes and oceans. Collect it in a container, then put it in the garbage.
3. If you've got the room, maintain a compost heap which turns produce scraps, coffee grounds and yard waste into valuable fertilizer for your garden and saves landfill space.
4. Keep your microwave clean and maximize its energy. Less electricity will be used, less money spent and less cooking time.
5. Select paper towels that offer smaller sized sheets to extend the life of each roll. Better yet, avoid paper towels completely and use rags made from old sheets or towels, washing after each use to use over and over again.
6. If you are using your oven to bake or roast a dish that requires an hour or more, don't bother preheating your oven. Even cakes and breads don't requiring preheating for longer than 10 minutes. By reducing the amount of time your oven is on by one hour per year you can save an average of two kilowatt hours of energy.
7. Keep the refrigerator door closed and your head out! The fridge is the single, biggest energy draining kitchen appliance and opening

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