



**Waukesha State Bank**

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Member FDIC

# FRIENDLY POST



A special note from Friendly the Eagle

April 2021



## DIY ANIMAL PLASTIC BOTTLE PLANTER OR BOWL

Spark your DIY spirit with a simple project that turns 2-liter bottles into your favorite animal planter or bowl.

What you need:

- Empty 2-liter bottle(s)
- Scissors
- Paint and markers
- Tape or glue
- Plant, candy or knick-knacks to store

Instructions:

- Cut the bottom third of a 2-liter bottle.
- Paint the bottle the color of your choice.
- Use parts of the rest of the bottle to cut out ears and attach them to the top of the opening.
- Draw an animal face and other features on the bottle.
- Fill the bottle with seeds and soil, or your favorite candy or other knick-knacks.



<https://www.budgetdumpster.com/blog/diy-plastic-bottles-recycling/>

## SAVE MONEY & SAVE THE EARTH!

Every April, we celebrate Earth Day. Among all the ways to save the Earth, there are also ways that you and your family can save money too.

### WALK OR BIKE

If you're going somewhere close by, leave the car at home and walk or bike to your destination. It will save your family money at the gas pump, it reduces the use of fossil fuels so it's good for the environment, and it also gives you an excuse to get some exercise.

### UNPLUG UNUSED CORDS

Conserve energy and help your parents save money on the electric bills by simply unplugging cords when you're not using them.

### GET A REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE

Skip the individual plastic bottles that clog up our landfills and pollute our oceans. Instead, get a reusable water bottle and fill it up. You can even add your favorite flavorings with a few pieces of fruit or flavor packets.

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Don't forget to go to the Friendly's Club page on our website, at the beginning of each month, to view the new monthly trivia question. Answer the question at any Waukesha State Bank office, and get a token that you can redeem for cool prizes.

## HOW TO MAKE COMPOST OUTDOORS

Choose a dry, shady spot, near a water source, that's about 3x3x3 feet.

Add your organic waste ingredients (see the note by the image below).

Keep the pile moist, like a sponge (but not too wet).

Mix it around often to add air and speed up the process.

That's it! It can take a few months to break down, depending on the size, but when it's dry, brown and crumbly, it's ready to add to your garden, potted plants, or flower beds!

## COUNTERTOP COMPOST

Not ready to tackle the big, outdoor composting bin? Check out this PBS video "Composting in a Bottle": [www.youtube.com/watch?v=kA3q07paNbE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kA3q07paNbE).

## THE WHAT'S AND WHY'S OF COMPOSTING

Another way you can save money and save the Earth is by composting.

### WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

Composting is a natural process of decomposing, or breaking down, organic waste, like fruit and vegetable peels, egg shells, coffee grounds, fallen leaves and grass clippings. Rather than throwing away those things in your garbage can, you can toss them in a composting bin instead. As time goes by, everything that's inside the bin will start to decompose until what's left is something that looks like soil.

### WHY COMPOST?

Instead of buying fertilizer at the store, compost is free! Just by tossing your organic waste into a separate bin instead of your garbage can, you can create your own fertilizer that's rich in nutrients and full of things that can help your garden and plants thrive. Plus, composting reduces the amount of waste that's thrown in the trash and ends up in landfills.

*What can you add to your compost?*

*Try things like fruit or vegetable scraps, egg shells, newspaper, grass clippings and leaves.*

*(Do not add cheese, meat, oil, bones, pet waste or diseased plants.)*



## SAY NO TO SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

Not only do they clog our landfills and oceans - mostly because there are so many of them and they can sometimes take hundreds of years before they start to break down - but single-use plastics cost you more too. That's because you have to buy them over and over again (like plastic water bottles), compared to buying reusable items you can use multiple times.

### WHAT ARE THEY?

Single-use plastics are things like plastic straws, water and soda bottles, food containers, product packaging and plastic bags. They may not seem like much, but below are some facts that might shock you.

- Humans buy about 1,000,000 plastic bottles per minute, and only about 23% are recycled in the U.S.
- Americans throw away 100 billion plastic bags annually. That's about 307 bags per person!
- Almost 25 million tons of plastic packaging flows into our oceans every year; the equivalent of pouring one garbage truck of plastic into the ocean every minute.
  - This rate is expected to increase to two per minute by 2030 and four per minute by 2050. By 2050, this could mean there will be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans.

*For more information on single-use plastics, go to [www.earthday.org/fact-sheet-single-use-plastics/](http://www.earthday.org/fact-sheet-single-use-plastics/)*

## PAPER OR PLASTIC?

We'll never get rid of all the plastic material we use, but there are some things we can do to limit its use.

- If you have reusable bags, that's great! If not, choose paper bags instead of plastic.
- If you do get plastic bags, reuse them as many times as you can before you recycle them.
- Recycle plastic bags properly. They jam up the recycling equipment so they can't be put in your recycling bin, but you can find a recycling location at [www.waukeshacounty.gov/plasticfilmandbags](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/plasticfilmandbags).

