



# Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Vocabulary



**This vocabulary list is targeted for middle school students.**

- **Aluminum:** The most abundant metal in the Earth's crust and is used to make a wide variety of products from soda cans to airplane components.
- **Biodegradable:** Substance or object capable of being decomposed by bacteria or other living organisms.
- **Compost:** A mixture of decaying organic matter used to fertilize the soil, usually made by gathering plant material, such as leaves, grass clippings, and vegetable peels, into a pile or bin for decomposition.
- **Hazardous Waste:** Waste that is dangerous or potentially harmful to our health or the environment.
- **Pacific Garbage Patch:** A collection of debris and particles in the central North Pacific Ocean that collects at the Pacific Vortex.
- **Pacific Vortex:** An area in the North Pacific Ocean created by currents called gyres which pull debris into the area.
- **Photodegradable:** Substance or object capable of being chemically broken down by light; will not decompose.
- **Plastic:** A synthetic product that can be molded into a hard or slightly elastic form, typically made from petroleum.
- **Polystyrene:** Synthetic resin. Petroleum and chemical product. Not biodegradable.
- **Reduce:** Cut back on the amount of trash we generate.
- **Reuse:** Find new ways to use things that otherwise would have been thrown out.
- **Recycle:** The action or process of converting waste into reusable material.

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