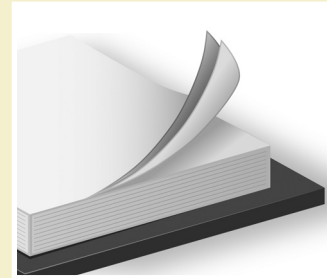


Go Green



ECO-LIFE

Paper

An estimated 17 percent of pages we print are wasted paper. Eliminating those extra pages would save \$17.4 billion a year in printing costs and 20 to 30 million trees.

— American Forests

DID YOU KNOW? Shutting down your computer at night can help you save an average of \$90 of electricity a year. — U.S. Department of Energy

5 more ways to become eco-friendly

Companies give green makeovers to several unexpected products

By Allecia Vermillion
GateHouse News Service

As the demand for green products grows, eco-friendliness is popping up in some unexpected places.

Companies are getting creative

with recycled materials, sustainable woods and fabrics, and non-chemical alternatives to improve even the most mundane items. From technology to sports equipment, here's how five everyday items received green makeovers.

REUSABLE BAGS

Using a cloth bag in place of a disposable one is a green act unto itself. Up your eco-awareness by toting your groceries home in a reusable bag made from 100 percent recycled materials.

Yesterday's water bottles, for example, can be recycled into a rugged fabric that's perfect for transporting your goods over and over again.



GOLF TEES

Evolve Golf estimates that 40,000 trees are cut down each year to provide the world with golf tees. Their eco-friendly Epoch tees are made from a recycled resin that comes from previously used materials.

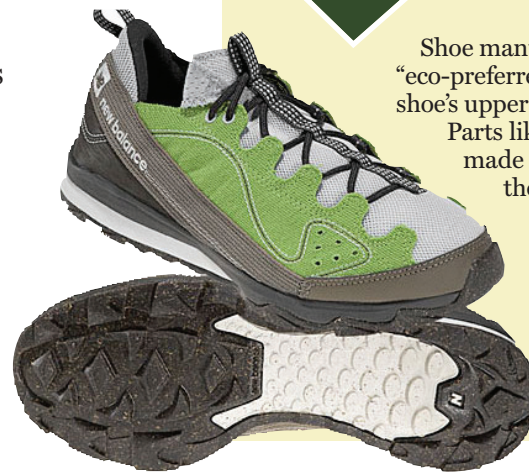
Special additives help the tees break down when exposed to the elements. These tees also last longer than traditional wooden tees, the company says.



ATHLETIC SHOES

Shoe manufacturer New Balance has released an "eco-preferred" footwear line, with 75 percent of each shoe's upper part coming from low-impact materials.

Parts like laces, webbing and the tongue are made from recycled polyester, while the tips of the toes are reinforced with synthetic rubber-like material made with fewer solvents than traditional components. Water-based adhesives join the sole to the upper, and the soles have rice husks mixed into the rubber compound to cut down on the amount of rubber, and by extension petroleum, required.



MATTRESSES

Seeking a green night's sleep? Companies like Organic Mattresses Inc. use certified organic cotton for batting, or filler, and a cruelty-free organic wool exterior.

The wool, sourced from hormone-free California sheep that graze in meadows free of pesticides, is also flame-resistant, meeting federal flammability standards without using any chemical-based flame-retardants.

Mattresses' cores are made of rubber latex from rubber tree sap harvested using sustainable practices.



SPEAKERS

Plug your iPod into a greener sound system. Eco-friendly speaker systems use sustainable woods in place of plastic.

Speaker manufacturer Vers says the wood in its hand-crafted iPod line replaces 80 percent of materials that would have otherwise been plastic. Units are also manufactured with screws rather than adhesive, so they can be broken down and easily recycled when you replace them with newer technology in the future.

