

## Recycle & Reuse

When looking into environmental sustainability, cutting consumption or reducing rubbish during a house clearance, it's more than likely that you'll come across the following Rs: **reduce, reuse and recycle**. These three words describe the core components of environmentally-responsible consumer behaviour.

But as UK children are now learning at school, there are in fact *six* Rs that product designers must keep in mind regarding the environment. The extra Rs are **rethink, refuse** and **repair**, and they encourage creating environmentally-friendly products which are built to last.

Ultimately, this points towards the fact that recycling, while preferable to producing landfill waste, should actually be the *second* priority after reusing.

### What is the difference between reuse and recycling?

Recycling means turning an item into raw materials which can be used again, usually for a completely new product. This is an energy consuming procedure.

Reusing refers to using an object as it is without treatment. This reduces pollution and waste, thus making it a more sustainable process.

Examples of recycled items include fibreglass made from glass bottles, and insulation materials made from newspaper or plastic bottles. Reused items include anything that was bought second hand, often furniture and clothing