

HIRE GOODS

The hiring or renting of items is classed as a form of reuse, helping to reduce the amount of waste we create. Reuse is important because it saves natural resources and reduces the amount of waste ultimately sent to landfills, as well as decreasing the amount of pollution created in the manufacture of goods. Reusing items is preferable to recycling as recycling still requires remanufacture, whereas reusing products continues the product's use in its current form.

Space constraints are a major issue for many households, particularly apartment residents. By hiring items used infrequently, money can be saved on the initial outlay as well as maintenance costs, with valuable storage space not used up.

Renting also makes sense if you need to furnish a space or perform an activity for the short term, with many rental businesses delivering and picking up items. Examples of items that may be rarely used but can be hired are formal wear, catering wares and tools.

Hiring goods can also help you test before you buy, determining whether you want to make a commitment on items such as sporting equipment. Doing so ensures purchases aren't made on a whim and will remain unused in the long term, becoming a waste of a resource.

WHAT CAN I DO?

There may be items you regularly hire, such as video-tapes or library books, but there are probably other items you can rent that you haven't considered before. Look in the Yellow Pages under 'hire' or 'rentals' to see the many items on offer.

Pool together with neighbours or friends to cut the costs of hiring large equipment such as bobcats; hire, borrow and share items used infrequently.

MORE INFORMATION

- www.prrdy.com/reuse-rent.htm - examples and ideas on products that can be hired rather than bought
- www.recyclenore.org/article_subpage.asp?subpagekey=4 - what the reuse sector is about and has a section on 'rentals as reuse'
- www.reusedirectory.com - reuse directory for the North East Waste Forum in NSW