

How to Buy S.M.A.R.T.

There are four steps to becoming a Buy S.M.A.R.T. Smart Shopper:

1. REDUCE

Reduce your garbage; buy in bulk and avoid individually-wrapped items. You will be amazed how much longer it will take to fill up your trash can if you avoid unnecessary packaging.


2. REUSE

Purchase items that can be washed and/or reused and avoid items that are used only once. By reusing plates, silverware and napkins, we are preserving natural resources instead of tossing them out after one use.

3. RECYCLE

Remember to use your orange and blue bins! Every time you recycle an aluminum can in your Big Blue bin, you are conserving enough electricity to run your TV for three hours!

4. CLOSE THE LOOP

Look for products made from recycled material. These can be identified by the recycled arrow symbol  and the percentage of recycled content. The majority of metal cans on the grocery store shelves have already been recycled.

What is Buy S.M.A.R.T.?

Buy S.M.A.R.T. (Save Money And Reduce Trash) was developed by the Alachua County Office of Waste Alternatives in 1998. For more than 10 years, Buy S.M.A.R.T. has helped educate consumers in Alachua County on making earth-friendly decisions at the grocery store.

It is up to you, the consumer, to make the change.

- Remember to take your reusable shopping bags to the grocery store.
- Search online for a farmer's market located near you.
- Buy local and reduce food and beverage transportation costs.



**Buy S.M.A.R.T.
SMART SHOPPING
GUIDE**

**THE
WASTE WATCHER**

Embrace Zero Waste

Office of Waste Alternatives 352.374.5213

Buy S.M.A.R.T.
"GO FOR IT!"

- Gallon size plastic milk/juice container
- Seasonal and locally grown fruits and vegetables
- Washable plates, silverware and napkins
- Reusable lunch bag/box
- Recycled content cereal boxes, cracker boxes, etc.
- Items in containers that can be reused and/or recycled
- Concentrated or refillable products
- Biodegradable cleaning products
- Anything in bulk

Buy S.M.A.R.T.
"IF YOU MUST"

- Smaller sized plastic milk/juice container
- Steel/aluminum canned soup, vegetables and fruit
- Recycled content one-use paper products that can be composted
- Items with minimal non-recyclable packaging
- Non-recycled content cereal/cracker boxes that can be composted
- Refillable soap pumps made out of recyclable plastic
- Environmentally-friendly cleaning products

Buy S.M.A.R.T.
"NO NO'S"

- Milk/juice in non-recyclable cartons
- Bottled water
- Soup in cartons not cans
- Products made from raw* materials
- Anything packaged in Styrofoam
- Double packages or bulky overpackaged products
- Plastic-packaged cookies
- Food in non-recyclable, non-compostable packaging
- Individually packaged food products
- Hazardous cleaning products

*natural unprocessed material that is used in a manufacturing process

**How to use your
Buy S.M.A.R.T. Guide**

GO FOR IT!

The Waste Watcher recommends these items. These items help preserve our natural resources and conserve energy. These are the best for the long run.

IF YOU MUST

These items are good alternatives if you are unable to find the "GO FOR IT!" choice.

NO NO'S

These items are those that pose serious issues to our future. These are items to avoid when possible.