

Recycled Products Holiday Buyers' Guide

Welcome to the third annual Holiday Edition of our Recycled Products column, where we highlight some of our favorite consumer products that include recycled content of some kind. We try and offer a wide variety of recycled products in this edition of the column to satisfy your favorite green friend or family member.

As always, if you have, or know of, a product you'd like to see featured in this column, please send your nominations to Senior Writer Jake Thomas at jake@resource-recycling.com. And, of course, Happy Holidays from all of us here at *Resource Recycling!*

Company:
Couture Planet
(Lynn, Massachusetts)
www.mycoutureplanet.com

Product:
Handbags

Recycled content:
100-percent
post-consumer
newspaper

Target market:
Your favorite news-loving fashionista

Couture Planet, a company that offers stylish earth-friendly products, allows customers to own a piece of history, or at least the first draft of it, with its handbags made from 100-percent post-consumer newspaper. Each of the bags come in various styles and sizes, and feature pages from newspapers from around the world covering art, culture, food, dining, travel and sports. All of the bags are manufactured in the U.S. and currently come in four styles: large tote, coco, clutch and a wristlet.

The company started as a recycling project by Constance Carman. While working as a buyer for the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel in Boston, she constantly saw stacks of newspapers headed to the recycling bins or trash cans. She eventually brought her background in fashion and retail to life by founding the company and creating the unique bags.

Company:
Maine Float-Rope Company
(Waldoboro, Maine)
www.mainefloatrope.com

Product:
Down East Doormats

Recycled content:
100-percent reclaimed float ropes



Target market:
Your favorite nautically-minded home decorator

In 2009, the state of Maine banned lobstermen from using float rope to tie multiple traps together over concerns that it entangled Northern Right Whales. What was left over was mounds of the rope, made from an assortment of plastic and other materials that float in water, and a pressing need to do something with them.

The Maine Float-Rope Company hopes to offer a solution. The company collects the ropes from the Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation and turns them into colorful and well-nigh indestructible doormats. The Maine Float-Rope company provides a share of its profits with organizations dedicated to protecting the Northern Right Whale, as well as to Maine lobstermen.

In addition to being made from unique materials, the mats boast various unique features. They trap dirt, mud and snow "like no other mat" and are reversible. Impervious to water and weather, they can be easily cleaned with a hose, and come in variety of colors and patterns. And because they float in water, they're perfect for a boat house or for use by the pool.

Company:
green 3
(Oshkosh, Wisconsin)
www.green3apparel.com

Product:
Christmas Skirt

Recycled content:
100-percent reclaimed fabric

Target market:
Your favorite holiday apparel aficionado

Tis' the season for jolliness, giving and wearing bad sweaters. One company based out of Wisconsin has found a use for holiday sweaters that have outlived their novelty – or at least the desire of their original owners to take them out once a year.

Green 3 makes the “Christmas Skirt” out of entirely reclaimed Christmas sweaters, offering a way to stand out from the wares typically seen at holiday parties. The skirts are made from panels of sweaters that have been discarded or donated to thrift shops that don’t sell during the holiday season. The company uses only the best of these sweaters, which are purchased in bulk, preventing them from being landfilled or sold overseas. All of them are laundered before being refashioned and sold.

The skirts include a stretch-material waistband meant to make it flattering for every body type. Each skirt is also knit, cut and sewn in the U.S.



Company:
Cascades Boutique
(Kingsey Falls, Quebec)
boutique.cascades.com

Product:
Massimo Christmas tree

Recycled content:
100-percent recycled cardboard

Target market:
Your favorite Christmas-loving tree-hugger

Cascades seeks to meld modernity and a longstanding Christmas tradition with its Massimo tree. Made of 100-percent recycled cardboard, each tree stands at about the same height of more conventional tree at 6-and-a-half feet tall. However, Cascades boasts that this tree comes without the maintenance and mess of its more traditional counterparts.

The Massimo tree comes in two kinds. The tree of yesteryear comes with red LED lights and mimics the appearance of the classic Christmas tree. The natural tree mimics what a snow-covered tree from the forest looks like and has multi-colored lights. The LED lights are meant to consume very little energy.

For those who think they’ll miss the pine-y smell of a real tree, each of the Massimo trees come with a bottle of “Alikis fir tree mist,” made from 90-percent organic ingredients, that mimics the scent of the holiday fixture. The trees are can be stored flat, making them reusable for years. When you’re done using the Canadian-made trees, they can be recycled themselves.



Company:
Domestic Aesthetic
(Brooklyn, New York)
www.domestic-aesthetic.com

Product:
Salt + Pepper Shakers

Recycled content:
50-percent reclaimed wood

Target market:
Your favorite sustainability-minded epicure



“Live well, live right,” is the mantra behind Domestic Aesthetic, a Brooklyn-based company that seeks to make products that take into “account people and our planet” by offering affordable and environmentally-minded products.

Of the products offered by the Domestic Aesthetic includes salt and pepper shakers made from walnut wood reclaimed from furniture waste. Both of the shakers are meant to reflect the spices they contain. The pepper shaker, which is 3.75 inches tall, is the shorter of the two and is darker-hued. The salt shaker, also made from reclaimed wood, is painted with low-VOC milk paint, and is the taller of the two at 4.5 inches tall. Both are handmade in the Brooklyn area.

Company:
graypants, inc.
(Seattle, Washington)
www.graypants.com

Product:
Steplight

Recycled content:
100-percent recycled aluminum

Target market:
Your favorite green design junkie



Each of the Steplights from graypants, inc., a maker of groovy household accoutrements, is made from a single sheet of recycled aluminum that has been polished, waxed and formed into a fixture that will light up any room.

The company was formed by two architecture graduates of Kent State University who landed in Seattle and founded the company, which aims to produce aesthetically-alluring products, many of them from reclaimed materials. The Steplights are built to have clean lines with an interlocking assembly of 16 rings creating an interesting play on light and shadow. Reveals left between each layer cast concentric shadows on the surrounding walls and ceiling. The random pixels of light on the surface are intended to create a unique pattern for each fixture.

Two types of cords are available in black and white. Other custom finishes such as powder-coating are available upon request.