

# Recycled Products – Holiday Edition



As you make your gift-giving list (and check it twice), consider items made with recycled materials. Below is our annual list of present possibilities for the recycling-conscious loved ones in your life.

As always, if you make, or know of, a product you'd like to see featured in this column, please send your nominations to [news@resource-recycling.com](mailto:news@resource-recycling.com). And, of course, Happy Holidays from all of us here at Resource Recycling!

**Product:**

## Salmon-skin leather wallet

**Company:** Tidal Vision

Juneau, Alaska

[tidalvisionusa.com](http://tidalvisionusa.com)

**Recycled Content:** About 90 percent recycled salmon skin leather

**Market:** Sea lovers and fish fans

We'll start off by saying this: Craig Kasberg insists his company's products smell more like cow leather than fish. In addition, the salmon-skin leather wallets he has developed are nearly as strong as their bovine-based counterparts. Each is made from portions of Alaskan salmon that are leftover from meat production, Kasberg said.

All of the wallet, except for the lining of the main pocket and thread used for stitching, comes from salmon. But even the lining comes from the sea: It is a fabric made partially from crab shells.

Kasberg started his company, Tidal Vision, earlier this year. A commercial fishing captain, the entrepreneur saw huge portions of salmon going to waste, and he was concerned about over-harvesting of seafood. He pledges that his company will only purchase ocean byproducts from sustainably managed fisheries.



**Product:**

## Hybrid wall clock

**Company:** Resource Revival

Mosier, Ore.

[resourcerevival.com](http://resourcerevival.com)

**Recycled Content:** 90 percent or more

**Market:** Cyclists who brake for design

Graham Bergh got a flat tire on his bicycle, which got him thinking about bike parts that get thrown away.

"So began my exploration of bike shop Dumpsters and the discovery of a treasure trove of discarded parts," he writes on his company website. "After a few years of tinkering with product ideas, I launched Resource Revival in 1994."

Today, the small Oregon company makes a variety of products from recycled parts. The hybrid wall clock, for example, includes a chain ring and post-consumer computer hard drives.

The chain rings come from a bike parts distributor that was going to scrap them because they have an out-of-date design, Bergh said. The hard discs come from various computer hard drive recycling companies.



Product:  
**Wine bag**

Company: re:Loom  
Scottsdale, Ga.  
reloom.org

Recycled Content: About 80 percent

Market: On-the-go oenophiles

You're strongly encouraged to carry a bottle of "Boarding Pass Shiraz" – yes, it's an actual brand of Australian wine – in this bag.

A Georgia nonprofit organization uses end-of-life airline worker safety vests donated by Delta Airlines to create wine bottle bags and other products. Re:Loom, the workforce development arm of the Initiative for Affordable Housing, hires homeless and low-income people and teaches them how to use a loom so they can create the bags.

When the vests first arrive, re:Loom employees wash and dry the discarded vests before removing the reflectors and cutting the seam bindings, said Lisa Wise, executive director of the Initiative for Affordable Housing. They then cut the fabric into strips, which can be woven.

For some products, they even reuse the reflective material and velcro. The stabilizing thread, however, is a virgin material.



Product:  
**Dog beds**

Company: The Green Pup  
Denver  
greenpupdogbeds.com

Recycled Content: 50 percent

Market: Owners of comfort-seeking canines

"It's worth \$1,000 going into the mattress. It's worth zero coming out of it," Chris Conway said.

Conway is referring to the high-quality latex foam his company, The Green Pup, pulls out of high-end mattresses and recycles into dog beds.

Conway is president of Spring Back Colorado, a Denver-based nonprofit organization that provides work opportunities in mattress recycling for those with criminal backgrounds, folks who would be hard-pressed to find work elsewhere.

He developed the dog beds in August 2014. Latex foam is not easily recycled because the material can ignite in high-friction machines. Using more manual labor, his company sanitizes and uses the foam in dog beds. The recovered foam makes up about half of the bed.



**Product:**  
**Bags**

**Company:** ECO HANDBAGS  
Vancouver, Wash.

**Recycle Content:** 95 percent or more  
(depending on the model)

**Market:** Eco-conscious toters

Add this one to your lexicon: Plarn.

It stands for plastic yarn, and it's what Sandy Reagan and other artists use to make purses and other bags out of post-consumer plastic shopping bags.

Reagan makes plarn and crochets it into various types of bags. Depending on the size of her finished bag, each can leverage 150 to 200 plastic bags. The plarn is created by folding a bag, removing the bottom and handles and cutting the remainder into strips, which creates thin loops when they're unfolded. The loops are then tied together in a long chain to make plarn.

Reagan, who is retired from work at Pendleton Woolen Mills, first started creating the bags around five years ago, making them for herself or friends before she launched her ECO HANDBAGS business.



**Product:**  
**Toy ferry boat**

**Company:** Green Toys  
Sausalito, Calif.  
greentoys.com

**Recycled Content:** 96 percent

**Market:** Tikes trained on transport

This is what we wish we were talking about when we discuss "ocean plastics."

A toy ferry boat and cars from Green Toys are made of 96 percent recycled HDPE (a mineral-based colorant in the resin accounts for the remaining 4 percent). The plastic comes from curbside programs in Southern California, company spokeswoman Sarah Brokenshire said.

Green Toys was founded in 2007 with the vision of providing environmentally friendly and socially responsible toys made in the U.S. The company's Green Toys line and Green Eats tableware line use primarily HDPE from milk containers.

During the company's lifetime, it has diverted 1,558 tons of material from landfill, according to the company.

