

Recycled Products Holiday Buyers' Guide

Welcome to the second 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 pal, baby, hipster, kid, coffee-drinker or cat.

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

Company:
Alchemy Goods
(Seattle, Washington)
www.alchemygoods.com

Product:
Pine messenger bag

Recycled content:
68-percent upcycled materials by weight

Target market:
Your favorite sustainable hipster

Seattle's Alchemy Goods has a simple motto: "Turning useless into useful." That is, taking items such as blown-out inner tubes and old seatbelts and advertising banners and turning them into laptop sleeves, bottle openers, belts, wallets and various types of bags. The titular Alchemy in the company's name, and its logo, is the elemental symbol for gold – Ag – and is prominently featured on its products. Like the alchemists of old, turning lead into gold.

Alchemy's Pine bag is a "messenger bag distilled down to its essential functions," according to the company. A zippered external pocket holds your cell phone, protected from the elements by a rain flap. Inside, there's enough room for "your commute or day trip sundries," with an internal slip pocket and three pen pockets. The durable, water resistant exterior is constructed from upcycled inner tubes its shoulder strap from upcycled seatbelt. The whole 14 x 10 x 4.5 inches nifty package "sits in the small of your back without weighing you down."

Company:
SmartyKat
(San Rafael, California)
www.smartykat.com

Product:
CatChaise cat scratcher

Recycled content:
100-percent recycled cardboard



Target market:
Your favorite green feline

SmartyKat manufactures three cat scratchers made from 100-percent recycled corrugated cardboard that can be recycled or composted at the end of life. The scratchers have honeycomb-like grooves that resemble tree bark, one of felines' favorite and most natural surfaces to dig their claws into. All also come with a stash of catnip to pique cats' initial interest in the scratchers.

The CurvyPaws cat scratcher sits on top of a matching base that provides plenty of positions for kitty to scratch and take a surface to take a nap in afterwards. The CatChaise cat scratcher (pictured) features a curvy shape with several angles for cats to scratch and then drape themselves over for a snooze. The SuperScratch UP hanging scratcher has a rope handle, so it can be looped around a door knob, and includes a light floral pattern.

The company makes a full line of sustainable products detailed by its ecoAdvantages label on each. Whether it be made using recycled corrugated cardboard, like the CatChaise, or from different types post-consumer plastics and plastic bottles. A percentage of all paper used in packaging SmartyKat products also comes from recycled post-consumer sources.

Company:
BODUM
(New York, New York)
www.bodumusa.com

Product:
CREMA French press coffee maker

Recycled content:
30 percent recycled plastic

Target market:
Your favorite sustainably-minded coffee lover

BODUM working in collaboration with coffee giant Starbucks, has introduced a "green" eight-cup French press coffee maker made from 30-percent post-consumer proprietary plastic blend. Named CREMA, the press is available at Starbucks stores, and operates much like any conventional French press. It takes 10 tablespoons of coarsely ground coffee to the press beaker. Just add hot water, stir, let it sit for four minutes and plunge. The press has a 34-ounce capacity, serves two-to-three people and uses a stainless steel filter system. The glass carafe of the press is encased in the recycled green plastic, and is dishwasher safe.



Company:
Nau
(Portland, Oregon)
www.nau.com

Product:
Shroud of Purrin Hoody

Recycled content:
Up to 100-percent recycled polyester

Target market:
Your favorite green fashionista

Nau (pronounced “now”) is a “sustainable urban+outdoor apparel” clothing company based in Portland, Oregon that is committed to being as green as it is making high-quality products such as the pictured, punnily-named Shroud of Purrin Hoody.

Primarily made of post-consumer and post-industrial polyester recycled using Teijin ECOCIRCLE cradle-to-cradle processing technology – which means the hoody can, itself, be recycled at the end of its life – the Shroud of Purrin is wind resistant, water resistant, highly breathable and with two-way stretch. The front, made of 84-percent recycled polyester, and the back, of 100-percent recycled polyester, are both treated with a durable water repellent finish to help the wearer stay dry in any climate, even one as wet as the company’s home town.

All of Nau’s products with synthetic content contain over 75-percent recycled content, and many, like the Shroud, with a “a kitten-belly soft faux-fur polyester fleece lining retains heat and feels amazing next to skin.” The hoody additionally includes two-layer waterproof overlays at the shoulders and low-profile zip closures on the sleeve cuffs.



Company:
Kalon Studios
(Los Angeles, California)
kalonstudios.com

Product:
Hut-Hut Resin

Recycled content:
100-percent post-industrial recycled HDPE

Target market:
Your favorite pint-sized green tot



What is the Hut-Hut? The term means “Giddy-up” for Camels and the toy is a playful reinterpretation of the rocking horse. Kalon Studios, an award-winning Los Angeles-based design firm, initially designed the unique plaything for FSC-certified woods made using a five-axis CNC milling machine. The Hut-Hut Resin is an effort to make the same item using 100-percent post-industrial recycled high density polyethylene (HDPE) resin rotomolded into the unique shape.

The company had initially tried to make the product using post-consumer plastics, but found the quality was not high enough for the intensive rotomolding project, as materials requirements were very stringent. “They’re domestically made, sustainable, and we take a lot of pride in them,” said Johannes Pauwen to Resource Recycling. “We really enjoy making what we do; if we don’t like it, why should anyone else?”

Plastic rotomolding is a rare U.S.-based industry, still, and Kalon worked closely with its supplier to make the product as ordered. After the post-consumer plastic efforts failed, the rotomolder suggested doing 100-percent post-industrial, collecting all the in-house off-falls, reground and colored to specs. The results come in five “candy-bright colors: red, yellow, green, blue and pink.”

Being on the cutting edge of sustainability is part of the company’s philosophy and it is always looking for a greener materials and processes. You can contact Kalon Studios at studio@kalonstudios.com.

Company:
Jäll & Tofta
(Berlin, Germany)
www.jaellundtofta.de

Product:
Mr. Moustache

Recycled content:
100-percent recycled paper

Target market:
Your favorite baby who prefers recycled to virgin paper.

As is immediately evident by the picture to the right, Mr. Moustache is a mobile of multi-colored moustaches of different sizes and shapes all hovering beneath a Magritte-esque bowler to the delight of babies everywhere. The mobile, made for “moustache lovers, young and old,” is constructed of 100-percent recycled paper and nut veneer.

