

# Recycled Products – Holiday Edition

For the sixth straight year, dear reader, we offer you an end-of-year present: a roundup of gift-worthy products made using recycled material. The six products outlined below should help you find something for everyone on your list (even the dog who has everything), all while bolstering markets for recovered plastic, glass and other commodities.

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: **Beanie**

**Company:** American Apparel, Los Angeles  
[Americanapparel.net](http://Americanapparel.net)

**Recycled content:** 74 percent recycled cotton

**Market:** Cool kids who want to stay warm

Chances are pretty good your teenage daughter or son wants a beanie this holiday season. American Apparel's got one with 74 percent recycled content.

The Unisex Recycled Cotton-Acrylic Blend Beanie is made using a mixture of recycled cotton and acrylic materials. It comes in four fashionable colors – currant, goldenrod, rose and milk – and is actually less expensive than American Apparel's beanies made from virgin cotton.

Producing clothing at breakneck speed, the Los Angeles-based company also ends up producing 3.5 million pounds of scraps each year. To cut down on sending this material to the landfill, American Apparel began saving the multi-colored fabric back in 2012, partnering with Giotex to put them to use in a number of products, including lines of socks and sweaters as well as the beanies.



## Product: **On the Go cups**

**Company:** Preserve, Waltham, Massachusetts  
[Preserveproducts.com](http://Preserveproducts.com)

**Recycled content:** 100 percent recycled polypropylene

**Market:** Eco-conscious sippers

Preserve's On the Go Cups are made from 100 percent recycled polypropylene (PP) and are sold in blue and green. Recycled feedstock is sourced through the company's Gimme 5 program, which allows consumers to send in old items made from PP (designated No. 5 by the plastics resin identification code) or drop them off at select Whole Foods stores around the country.

While the cups are marketed as the perfect product for picnics and parties, they are also readily reusable. According to the company, they "can withstand hundreds and hundreds of uses" and are dishwasher safe.

Preserve's On the Go Cups are made in the U.S. and are BPA-free.



## Product: **Garden pots**

**Company:** TerraCycle, Trenton, New Jersey  
[Terracycle.com](http://Terracycle.com)

**Recycled content:** 100 percent recycled e-plastic/flexible film packaging

**Market:** Gardeners looking for a greener thumb

It's a cup ... it's a flowerpot ... it's TerraCycle's Recycled Plastic Pots made from scrap electronics (and sometimes flexible film packaging).

Sold across the country at major retailers, including Target and Walmart, TerraCycle's garden pot and saucer products come in two colors, terracotta and green, and three sizes, 6, 8 and 10 inches. Lauren



Taylor, the company's director of U.S. public relations, said the products are made in two distinct ways.

"TerraCycle's recycled plastic pots are made either from recycled e-waste such as crushed computers, fax machines, keyboards and mice or from recycled flexible film such as snack bags," Taylor said. "With the e-waste, we work with companies that dispose of any metals or hazardous materials properly and then use the plastic to make the pots."

Through various item-specific "Brigades," including the "Miscellaneous E-Waste Brigade" and the "Baby Food Pouch Brigade," the company takes hard-to-recycle items directly from groups, institutions and individuals and aims to use them in making new products.

## Product: Flower vase

Company: Bambeco, Baltimore, Maryland  
Bambeco.com

Recycled content: 100 percent recycled glass

Market: Decorators who value diversion

Bambeco's flower vases are made from 100 percent recycled glass.

The Baltimore-based company uses glass from old soda bottles to make the Verde Vase, and each piece is handmade and blown by mouth. The vase is approximately 9 inches tall and 8.75 inches in diameter, although sizes may vary to some degree. The company says it has worked hard to produce, in the Verde Vase, "distinctive, usable art." The product retails for \$30.

Beyond the Verde Vase, Bambeco makes a wide range of recycled products, including glasses and rugs.



## Product: Dog toys

Company: Harry Barker, Charleston, South Carolina  
Harrybarker.com

Recycled content: 100 percent recycled cotton

Market: Friends of man's best friend

Founded in 1997 by model Harry Barker, the eponymous dog supply brand makes durable toys out of 100 percent recycled cotton.

Shaped as starfish, alligators and seahorses, Harry Barker's cotton rope toys are intended for "hours of tug." According to the South Carolina-based company, the recycled cotton is azo-free and the toys are machine washable, which can help keep your dog's teeth and gums feeling and looking clean. If you prefer a classic toy, opt for the tug and toss model, which comes in eight different colors.



## Product: Gifts

Company: Ocean Sole, Nairobi, Kenya  
Ocean-sole.com

Recycled content: 100 percent recycled plastic

Market: Lovers of the ocean ... and knick-knacks

The varied products made from Nairobi-based Ocean Sole include doorstoppers, Christmas tree ornaments and animal sculptures. It's the material, salvaged flip-flops, which remains constant.

Started in the late 1990s by marine researcher Julie Church, Ocean Sole has grown into an internationally recognized company that uses recycled flip-flops to make inventive, often colorful products.

"Passionate about the ocean, its ecosystems and marine wildlife, we recycle flip-flops that are found littered on beaches and in the waterways of Kenya," the company website's states. Ocean Sole has also led to the employment of local Kenyan artists and craftspeople and was one of a dozen finalists for the 2008 BCC World Challenge, a contest that honored "small businesses that demonstrate enterprise and innovation."

Items can be ordered individually or in bulk through the company website. A percentage of profits from sales of Ocean Sole's products go to its marine debris foundation, which funds coastal cleanup projects and related art activities.

