



GreenTip
How Do You Measure Up?



Plan A Green Picnic

During the summer, we tend to be outdoors more – working around the house, enjoying parks and recreation areas, playing around at the neighborhood pool, having outdoor parties, vacationing. Often, we include our meals with our activities by packing snacks and picnic meals that travel with us. These excursions can generate a lot of waste. So how do you eliminate that waste and plan a **greener** alternative?

When we think about taking food with us, often our highest priority is convenience. Product marketing specialists have picked up on this mindset, and now all sorts of single serving snacks and meals are available along with single use utensils, dinnerware and paper products. While these items might be convenient, they all have one thing in common – they end up in the trash! So, consider these possibilities for planning a **greener** picnic:

- Make sure to have a fabric table cloth, fabric napkins and **reusable** utensils, plates and cups on hand that you can pack. This eliminates having soiled plastic and paper goods to throw away.
- Choose drinks that come in **recyclable** containers – glass or plastic bottles or aluminum cans. When the drink containers are empty, be sure to **recycle** them rather than tossing them in the trash. Also consider purchasing drinks in large sizes and using individual **reusable** drink cups, thermos containers or bottles.
- Buy snacks and drinks in **bulk**, not in individual serving sizes. This eliminates a lot of trash can material and saves money at the same time!
- Pack food items in **reusable** containers that you can take home and wash for use again at your next outing.
- Have coolers and cooler bags available to pack food and beverages in – avoid using the throw-away Styrofoam coolers and disposable plastic bags.
- Eliminate one-use plastic bags, straws and paper goods from your picnic basket.
- Be sure to leave your picnic area free from trash and debris so that others can enjoy it after you.