

RECYCLING AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE 5RS? REFUSE, REUSE, REDUCE, RECYCLE, ROT

Most people have heard of the 3R (reduce, reuse, recycle), but now there are FIVE ways you can reduce your waste. JBER Environmental helps ensure we reduce pollution of any type into the environment. This is done through the 5Rs.



REFUSE is the first step to reducing your waste. Say “no” to single-use disposable items like water bottles, bags, straws, cutlery, cups, junk mail, promotional freebies and other short-lived items that are destined to end up in the trash. Saying “no” to waste can be awkward at first, but a polite “no, thank you” or “no bag please” can become part of your routine. A quick explanation that you are trying to cut back on your trash might just be what gets others thinking they can do that too.

Additionally, work with vendors or suppliers to avoid unnecessary product packaging and request reusable or returnable packaging and containers, when available. Making smarter buying decisions and setting efficient standards early in the process, will make it easier to ‘refuse’ using materials that you don’t need or would be wasteful.

REDUCE is a process that reduces the amount of material used or waste created in a process. Green procurement decreases the amount harmful material used by substituting a material that is more environmentally friendly. Process improvement may decrease the amount of harmful material used and harmful waste made. Examples include using earth friendly cleaners, auto soap concentration dispenser and using a soak time in combination with and high temperature high pressure low volume rinse.

REUSE is using a waste product from one process as a useful product in another process or using a material multiple times. Examples include solvent filtering for solvent reuse or using concrete rubble for riprap or erosion control.

Reuse resources on JBER include the following:

DLA Disposition Services (12745 Davis Highway) will accept government equipment for reutilization, transfer, and donation (RTD). More can be found on their website [here](#) or by calling (907) 230-4169.



Armed Services YMCA (ASYMCA) of Alaska has two stores on JBER. JBER- Richardson Bargain Shop (724 Quartermaster Drive) and JBER-Elmendorf Bargain Shop (8515 Saville Avenue) both accept personal sellable items. More information can be found on the ASYMCA website [here](#).

HAZMART will also accept select unopened, not expired government hazardous materials for reissue.

RECYCLE is collecting material that will be reprocessed into a raw material to be used to make another useful product. Currently the collection of cardboard, paper and aluminum cans has been suspended on base.

An alternative recycling drop-off location for residential use is the Anchorage Recycling Center, located at 6161 Rosewood St (open 24 hr, 7 days a week).

ROT Composting is not currently available on JBER; however, the Municipality of Anchorage does offer a seasonal composting program (typically May-Oct) where residents can drop off food waste and, in return, get finished compost to use in your garden. More information can be found [here](#).

Always be mindful of wildlife safety and ensure your food waste is stored appropriately, as not to attract bears or other wildlife.

OTHER RESOURCES

- Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling (ALPAR) [Recycling Resources](#)
- [Anchorage Recycling Information](#)
- [Matanuska-Susitna Borough Recycling](#)

CONTACT For more information on recycling and pollution prevention, or to recommend a pollution prevention initiative, please contact the Qualified Recycling Program Manager at 384-2444.

Questions on recycling used oil, used lamps, and used batteries, please contact the Hazardous Waste Center (HWC) 552-3435.