Recycling, Reusing, Reducing: What’s the difference?

Susan Salterberg
What do you know about recycling?
Recycling

Re-process material to make another product
What do you know about reusing?
Reusing

Use product in original form, but in new way.
What do you know about reducing?
Reducing

- Reduce consumer use of materials
- Reduce material use in product manufacture
- Decrease toxicity
- Increase useful life (durability, repair-ability)
Reducing

Reduced (or more efficient) consumer use of materials
Reducing
Reduced material use in product manufacture
Reducing Decreased toxicity
Reducing Increased useful life through durability and repair-ability
Reduction
Prevents the generation of waste. It’s the preferred—but often-overlooked—strategy.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

The hierarchy has its limitations. Production and consumption are far more important needs to address than disposal.
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