

We Didn't Have That "Green Thing"

By Susan Wilson

This is excerpted from one of those articles that cycle around the Internet. Like many others, it has a kernel of truth to it.

Checking out, the grocery clerk suggested to the older woman that she should bring her own grocery bags, because plastic bags are bad for the environment. The woman said, "We didn't have this 'green thing' in my earlier days." The young clerk responded, "That's the problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

The older lady said she was right -- "our generation" didn't have the terminology way back when. But she went on to explain: "Back then, we returned milk, soda and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed, sterilized and refilled, so the same bottles were used over and over. Grocery stores used brown paper bags that we repurposed for many things. Most memorable besides household garbage bags was their use as school book covers that we could personalize. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks.

"Back then we washed baby diapers because we didn't have the disposable kind. We dried clothes on a line, using wind and solar power. We had one TV or radio in the house. Food

was blended and minced by hand because we didn't have electric appliances. When we mailed a fragile item, we used newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or bubble wrap. We used a push mower to cut the lawn. We exercised by working, so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills operated on electricity.

"We drank from a water fountain instead of a cup or plastic bottle. We refilled pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blade instead of throwing away the whole razor when the blade got dull. We took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service in the family's \$45,000 SUV or van."

The conclusion? Maybe we were "green" before the terminology was invented!



Good household advice

By Joanne McEvoy-Samborn

To Pick Up Broken Glass

Use a wet cotton ball or Q tip to pick up the small shards of glass you can't see easily.

To Keep Away Mosquitoes

Place a dryer sheet in your pocket. It will keep the mosquitoes away.

Go 'way Squirrels

To keep squirrels from eating your plants, sprinkle them

with cayenne pepper. The pepper does not hurt the plants and the squirrels will not come near the plants.

Make a Flexible Vacuum Cleaner Tube

To get out something out of a heat register or under the fridge, tape an empty paper towel roll or gift wrap roll to your vacuum. It can be bent or flattened to get in narrow openings.

Reduce Static Cling

Pin a small safety pin to the seam of your slip and you will not have a clingy skirt or dress, The same thing works with slacks that cling when wearing panty hose. Place a pin in the seam or slacks and behold the static is gone.

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