

# TRASH TALK

February 2023



## Repair or Replace?

### Fix or Ditch these essential household items

You would be amazed at what folks throw away; all destined for the landfill, but quite possibly repairable. When we were first married, my husband Rob came across what looked like a new vacuum at the transfer station. Someone had brought it there muttering something about how it didn't work. He took one look at it, threw it in the back of his pickup and brought it home to see if it could be repaired. We solved the mystery in 5 minutes with a new bag and gained a practically new 'Dirt Devil' because someone hadn't bothered to perform maintenance. Seriously, a bag? We couldn't believe our luck.

Unfortunately, this is common. Repair isn't always that simple, but there are household items you can troubleshoot fairly easily and repair. But what should you attempt to fix yourself, and what's best left to the experts? Here's a quick guide but you can always search the internet for a plethora of fix-it tutorials.

#### **Easy, go for it**

##### **Vacuum cleaner**

Often a vacuum cleaner problem will be caused by something like an entangled string, or the belt goes. Many times a screwdriver, new belt, or scissors are all you need to get it back up and running. Got a vacuum running hot? Try cleaning the filters - some are even washable.

##### **Power tools**

A drill is easy to fix, especially the older ones. If it's losing power or slowing down, the carbon brushes probably need replacing. It's a wear part, so it's designed to be replaced. Just remember to unplug before going in...



##### **Cell Phones**

We're just talking about broken screens and replacing batteries here, and how difficult it is depends on the make of phone. Replacing a screen on an iPhone is easier than on a Samsung Galaxy, and actually quite straightforward. While you may attempt this, professionals also exist and the price to fix is cheaper than a new phone. Another option is getting money for your old phone. Apple will pay you to take it back if it's a new enough model. You can find this info on their website. If it's too old, they'll recycle it for you.

***Don't throw it out, but you may need help***

##### **Tablets/Laptops**

It's harder to replace the battery on an iPad than it is on an iPhone because they are glued together. You can get kits with suction cups and gel packs you put in the microwave to loosen the glue. On a Dell or HP laptop, it's relatively easy to change a battery. Macs and Microsoft Surface laptops are harder, but still possible to repair by taking it to a computer repair shop.

##### **Old TVs**

The old-fashioned cathode ray tube sets are best left alone because of the vacuum, they're likely to implode. Take it to our E-cycles free Recycling Center drop-off. If it's a new TV, though, get involved! If it doesn't turn on, it may be the power board, which generally fails before everything else. Easily replaced.

##### **Washing machine**

All washing machines have doors, and often the problem is with the switch or lock on the door. While you may not be handy enough to fix this, a repairman can.

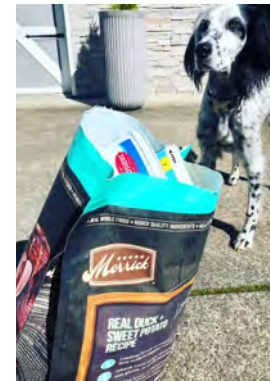


by Aimee Thompson

## In the Know

### Reuse pet food bags

**We love our pets, but sometimes pet ownership isn't very eco-friendly.**



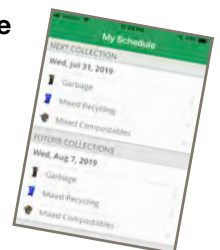
Take pet food bags for instance. What's the best thing to do with them? They're not recyclable in curbside programs. **REUSE!** Use them to bag

garbage. Bagging garbage is one of the best things you can do to prevent litter escaping into our environment. Some of these food bags have re-sealable closure making them ideal for this use, but if not a staple or two does the job.

## TSS App

**Maximize your service by downloading our customized app**

The mobile app is the first place to receive service alerts customized to your address, look up items for proper disposal on our dynamic Waste Wizard search engine (it's constantly being updated), schedule a bulky item pickup, pay your bill, and set service notifications to put out your carts.



Open your camera, hover over QR code and follow link to download



# COMPOST

## give-away



**WHEN:** Earth Day, April 22  
**TIME:** 9AM-11AM  
**WHERE:** TSS Office, 7450 NE Avery, Newport

In celebration of Earth Day, Thompson's is hosting its 8th annual compost giveaway, scheduled for Saturday, April 22nd, at our office. We're bringing in two semi-loads from Pacific Region Compost, where we haul the curbside raw Mixed Compostables, for a 70-day process where it's turned into nutrient rich compost.

Last year we filled 80 trucks and trailers with a load of compost! First come, first serve. Limit to one load per household, while supplies last.



## Junk Removal

Schedule a bulky item pickup with us today! Send a request, along with a photo, through our app or email a description [info@thompsonsantitary.com](mailto:info@thompsonsantitary.com) and get an estimate back with times available.



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: *Zac Fierro*

Zac, newly promoted to Transfer Station Supervisor, describes what he enjoys about his job, "The positive encouraging atmosphere throughout the day with coworkers and supervisors." He goes on to say, "The teamwork each of us contributes when needing an extra



Zac with sons Liam & Collin and wife Tara

hand" is what he values most. There have been a number of staff changes at Thompson's Transfer Station over the past year and during that time the staff have consistently received five-star compliments. Fierro began with Thompson's in April 2022 and from the beginning has been an ambitious team member with a vision to go above and beyond in improving everyday operations. Because of that, he has had opportunity for more responsibility. He also shares what he appreciates about TSS leadership, "supervisors are open minded for new ideas for the company and their doors are always open."

Zac, and his wife of 12 years, Tara, are parents to Collin (14) and Liam (11) and are expecting baby girl Sofia in May! The family loves to travel and they all enjoy sports. Zac volunteers to coach wrestling K-12 in Lincoln County and



Zac with son Liam



Zac with son Collin and wife Tara

personally values physical fitness by working out in his home gym. He also spends time modifying personal vehicles and is a firearm enthusiast. One of his favorite bible verses is "For we live by faith, not by sight" - 2 Corinthians 5:7

## SHREDBOX



ShredBox is designed for home use, but can also be used by offices if confidential document shredding needs are low.

1. Get ShredBox at our office. Collect your confidential materials in ShredBox
2. Bring your full ShredBox back to Thompson's Sanitary. Your material is secured and ready for destruction. iSecure's mobile shred truck comes to our office and does all the work. Re-use your ShredBox each time!
3. Confirmation is provided showing proof of destruction and all materials are recycled.

