



# The ULS Report™

Helping people Use Less Stuff by conserving resources and reducing waste.



## The Keepin' of the Green

By Robert Lilienfeld, Editor

It's St. Patrick's Day, so it's only natural to be thinking about the keepin' of the green. We've got a fairly esoteric collection of environmentally friendly items – odds and ends, if you will.

Our first item actually is a collection. It's the Eco Starter Kit from ecoHatchery. This waste reduction kit includes an energy monitor, a brush for cleaning refrigerator coils, a freezer thermometer, a reusable water bottle, insulation materials, and a booklet full of waste-reducing tips. Until Earth Day (April 22), you can get a special Use Less Stuff 10% discount if you order a kit and use the promotion code EARTH27.



We've spoken many times about the environmental value of concentrates, which deliver more product per unit of packaging. Most laundry detergents are now double concentrated. But this new one called Greenshield is quadruple concentrated! It's also 100% organic, made only from natural ingredients. And the unique flexible package uses about 80% less materials than rigid plastic containers.



We've also talked about ways to reduce waste by purchasing products that come without boxes. For example, Kroger has removed the box and simply put a paper sleeve around their private label trash bags. This approach saves you money, too. Fifteen bags only cost 99 cents.

By the way, instead of purchasing garbage bags, you can save more money and resources by reusing your grocery sacs as trash bags. One of the problems with doing this has been that many grocery sacs don't fit snugly in trash bins. They tend to fall down or flop over when adding food and other debris.

Now, there's a very clever invention that should solve the problem. It's a new trash bin that has a clever hook system

that holds plastic grocery bags in place. It's being developed by MyPlanetConcepts. They also produce a reusable handle that makes it easy to carry the most groceries with the fewest bags. It's perfect for you city folks who walk to and from the food store.



Finally, we've discovered that it doesn't always make sense to eliminate the box. Take this new wine container, called a Bota Box. It holds 3 liters, the equivalent of 4 bottles. All of that heavy, breakable glass is replaced by lightweight, recycled cardboard, reducing waste by up to 85%. Plus, the combination of bag and spout keeps air out of the wine, so it lasts for weeks after opening. In fact, saving the wine from going bad may be the real waste reducing value of this package.



And, by buying in bulk, you're also paying less. This rather tasty zinfandel cost \$22, or only \$5.50 a bottle. Perfect for a St. Paddy's Day toast. 🍀 🍀 🍀

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