Green Packing Tips

Preparing for move in can be an overwhelming whirlwind of new purchases and decisions. As you prepare for life at Colgate, consider joining the hundreds of other students on campus who make sustainable life choices.

Here are some tips to consider when getting ready for Colgate:

1. Reduce your waste
   - Bring your own reusable coffee container or water bottle (instead of using disposable ones). The Colgate Bookstore has a great supply!
   - Bring reusable tote bags for shopping to reduce the use of plastic bags.

2. Join the bulb brigade!
   - Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) or light emitting diode (LED) bulbs.
     - One compact fluorescent bulb can last 10x's longer (over 10 years) and use 75% less energy than an incandescent bulb. LED bulbs use even less and last up to 15 years!

3. Practice paper conservation for the future generation
   - Buy notebooks and paper products with post-consumer, recycled content.
   - Always print double-sided.

4. Contact your roommate(s) ahead of time to avoid purchasing products that you could share:
   - Consider sharing TV's, game consoles, refrigerators, microwaves.

5. Don’t waste energy on electronic appliances
   - Consider purchasing ENERGY STAR appliances.
     - ENERGY STAR appliances uses at least 15% less energy than a standard appliance.

6. Reuse: Purchase already used goods or rent
   - Consider renting your microfridge instead of purchasing a new one. Renting prevents unnecessary purchases and means less microfridges in the landfill.
   - Consider EBay or Craigslist for finding quality used furniture/appliances at a substantially reduced price. Also, the First Baptist Church in downtown Hamilton has an annual yard sale during move-in.

7. When not in use turn off the juice!
   - Unplug chargers and other electronics when they are not in use.
   - Bring a power strip or Smart Strip to prevent phantom load and protect your equipment
     - Electronic devices continue to pull energy even when they are not charging anything or turned off. In the average American home, 40% of all electricity is used to power home electronics that are turned off!

8. Don’t pollute when you commute!
   - Consider leaving your personal automobile at home.
   - Ride a bike - Colgate has a bike share program called Green Bikes.
   - Take the Cruiser – a free shuttle bus service to town and around campus!
   - Use ZipCar – Colgate has two ZipCars on campus ready for your use!

www.Colgate.edu/Green