

→ There's a Place for Us

Organically grown bamboo...it's not just for environmentally conscious pandas anymore. Use these woven bamboo nesting baskets to hold everything from keys and mail to lemons and limes. (*Bambu*, \$18 for three; bambu.greenfeet.com)



↑ Herbal Essences

You don't have to be a country girl to have an herb garden. These biodegradable containers are made from renewable grain husks and come with soil, growing instructions, and seeds. (*UncommonGoods*, \$16; uncommongoods.com)



→ Pop Culture

We could tell you that this company uses organic ingredients and fair-trade practices, but instead we'll say that this artisanal popcorn is the snack food equivalent of finding Brian Atwood shoes on sale while simultaneously riding off into the sunset with Benicio Del Toro in a Lamborghini on a Caribbean beach. (*479° Popcorn*, \$49 for three canisters; 479popcorn.com)



← Puff Pieces

Simple, graphic, refined, the organic cotton-linen fabric on these throw pillows is block printed in India, using azo-free dyes (which don't release carcinogens in the air). Think of them as a politically correct sofa makeover. (*Madeline Weinrib*, \$325 each; 212-473-3000, ext. 780)

Transporting goods locally uses fewer fossil fuels than shipping them from around the world. Plus, buying local supports your community.

■ **Natural** means that the product contains no artificial colors or flavors, but the term can be misleading (and misapplied!) because it isn't certified or regulated.

■ **Post-consumer recycled** means the material has been sold, used, and then recycled. It's the gold standard for recycled products.

■ **Sustainable forestry** paper products are certified by the Forest Stewardship Council and come from forests that are managed for long-term productivity and biological diversity.

■ **Even if you can't buy a strictly green product, you can still make any purchase easier on the environment.**

- Choose items with minimal packaging, or buy in bulk.
- Bring your own bag.
- Donate the item you're replacing.
- Buy secondhand.
- Wash your clothing in the cold-

water cycle—and cut roughly 85 percent of the energy used.

- Use rechargeable batteries, and unplug chargers and appliances.
- Choose household cleaning products that have an ingredient list. Products with harmful chemicals are less likely to have one. —*Rachel Mount*