

Eco-friendly and economical?



The Sunday Times zooms in on eight common household items and compares the cost and convenience of switching to environment-friendly options



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Make-up wipes, \$8 to \$12 (for a pack of 25)

Various brands are available at supermarkets and personal-care stores such as Watsons and Guardian.

Make Up Eraser, \$30, available at Sephora

This reusable cloth is made of a woven polyester blend.

Used damp with warm water, it can remove even waterproof make-up and lasts up to 1,000 washes.

Cost comparison

If washed daily, the Make Up Eraser would last almost three years. Using one make-up wipe a day for three years would cost about \$438.



Tungsten halogen bulb (right), about \$4

These incandescent bulbs are the least energy-efficient option. Each bulb lasts about 2,000 hours.

Compact fluorescent lamp (CFL, above), \$5 to \$7, and LED bulb, \$5 to \$10

CFL bulbs consume about a

third of the electric power of incandescent bulbs. Each lamp lasts about 8,000 hours.

LED bulbs use about half the amount of electric power of CFLs and have a lifespan of about 15,000 hours.

Cost comparison

The total bulb purchase and electricity cost for 15,000 hours of light output for an LED bulb is about \$26 and, for a CFL, about \$48. In comparison, an incandescent bulb would cost about \$182.



Reusable snack bag, \$13.90 to \$16.90, available at department stores Tangs and Robinsons, and online at neishaus.com.sg

Made of cotton and polyester with a recyclable plastic inner lining, these reusable bags and wraps can hold snacks such as sandwiches, biscuits and fruit. They can be rinsed with soap and water and last six to eight years.

Plastic zipper bags, about \$4 for 50 pieces

These lightweight sealable plastic bags can be cleaned and reused, but are too flimsy for long-term use. They are typically used once or twice before being disposed.

Cost comparison

If used for six years, a reusable snack bag would cost about \$2.80 a year. If you use one disposable bag a day for a year, it would cost \$29.20.



Aluminium foil, \$3.80 to \$4.20, various brands from supermarkets

If You Care recycled extra-strong aluminium foil, \$7.90, available at RedMart

The production of recycled aluminium foil uses 95 per cent less energy than

traditional foil-manufacturing processes and creates less waste since there is no need to mine for new metal.

Cost comparison

If you use six boxes of aluminium foil a year, regular foil would cost about \$24 while recycled foil would cost \$47.40.



Cartridge razor, \$15 to \$20 for the razor handle, \$16 to \$30 for a pack of four cartridges

While the razor's plastic handles can be reused, the cartridges have to be replaced after five to 10 shaves.

Safety razor, \$46 to \$150 for a razor handle, \$4 to \$12 for 10 razor blades, available at men's grooming salons such as The Panic Room and Splice Barbershop

Safety razor handles are typically made of steel or a chromed zinc alloy and can last a lifetime. The stainless steel razor blades are recyclable and should be replaced after six to seven shaves. Safety razors are said to cause less skin irritation, shave about bumps and ingrown hair.

Cost comparison

Using disposable razors would mean spending about \$156 a year on plastic cartridges alone. Though the initial cost of buying a safety razor might be high, they last for a long time and the razor blades would cost about \$20 a year.



Disposable diapers (left), 30 to 40 cents a piece, various brands from supermarkets

Cloth diapers, \$10 to \$40 a diaper, available at department stores and mother-and-baby boutiques such as Bumwear and MooMooKow

Cloth diapers come in a range of designs, typically including inserts or layers, which are usually made of absorbent materials such as cotton or microfibre. They



can be machine-washed and last anywhere between eight months and two years. Some reusable diapers are adjustable in size and can be used up to age three.

Cost comparison

Using cloth diapers can cost about \$300 a year. Using disposable diapers would cost about \$1,000 a year.



Cling wrap, \$2.40 to \$4.20, various brands from supermarkets

These thin plastic sheets are typically for one-time use.

Silicone lids, \$15.50 to \$27.50, available at Redmart

The silicone lid comes in varying sizes and can cover bowls ranging from 133mm to 353mm in diameter. The lid creates an airtight seal to ensure freshness and can withstand temperatures



ranging from minus 40 deg C to 90 deg C. It can be washed and reused.

Cost comparison

Using six boxes of cling wrap a year would cost about \$20. Buying four lids of different sizes would cost \$85, but they can be used for many years.



Kitchen cleaner, \$4 to \$5 for 500ml, various brands from supermarkets

Homemade kitchen cleaner, \$2 to \$3 for 500ml (depending on the ingredients)

Mix a cup of distilled white vinegar with a cup of water. You can add a few drops of essential oil to make the mix more fragrant. Vinegar is a natural disinfectant and can cut through grease and grime. The mix can be used to clean kitchen surfaces such as stove tops, tables and counters.

Cost comparison

Using a homemade kitchen cleaner would save you \$1 to \$2 for every 500ml used.