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Product Preview: Mode All-In-One Recycling Centers

In 2007, Americans recycled or composted more than 33 percent of the 254 million tons of household trash they generated, according to the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) (PDF). And, says the EPA, almost [64 percent of that household trash](#) consists of paper, metals, plastics, and glass, which are ideal candidates for recycling.

The new [All-in-One Recycling Centers](#) from [Mode Products](#) could help you wrangle all that waste, and at 30-inch-high x 17-inch-deep x 15-inch-wide, they're designed to fit in a kitchen or mudroom. (A premium model is shown; the deluxe version is 2 inches shorter.)



The units can reduce your trash volume by as much as 66 percent, depending on the structure and thickness of the containers, claims Larry Kahn, president of [Verde Home Products](#), which makes the recycling centers.

A hinged cover hides a foot-operated compacting unit that, says the manufacturer, can crush up to 12-ounce aluminum cans and 8-ounce to 2-liter plastic bottles. The compacted containers then fall into an 8-gallon bin, which you can line with low-density-polyethylene bags that are themselves recyclable. You deposit glass and steel containers directly into the bin through another hinged cover, which has a built-in charcoal filter that's supposed to control odors. A front-mounted 5-gallon bin serves as a repository for newspapers, cardboard, and junk mail, and a built-in battery-powered clock that you can program to alert you on recycling days in your neighborhood.

The premium model, \$250 to \$300, can even track the weight of the materials you've recycled to the nearest half pound. The deluxe version, \$200, lacks the compaction unit. A 20-pack of bags costs \$8.—[Gian Trotta](#) | [e-mail](#) | [Twitter](#)

Essential information: Learn about "[precycling](#)," which can help you cut your waste stream. And read about [How Can I RecycleThis?](#), which offers neat uses for all kinds of items that would otherwise likely end up in the trash.