

# INGENIOUS IDEAS

## Creative And Useful Tips For Using Metal Cans

(NAPSA)—If you're like many Americans, you often find convenient ways to reuse common household items, such as the classic metal coffee can. In fact, according to a recent survey, 71 percent of Americans reuse their metal coffee cans for storage or other useful functions. For years, people have found numerous everyday and unusual uses for the empty cans in their basements, workshops and yards.

Since 1907, Maxwell House has packaged its coffee in a metal can to protect it from oxygen, light and moisture—and over the years, the company has heard from its customers, with many people revealing some of their favorite uses for the cans.

Recently, the coffee company shared some of the ways people use metal cans in their everyday lives. From the truly practical—to hold such things as nails, tools, paint and pens and pencils—to the more imaginative, such as feeding a horse or using the can as a planter, there is no shortage of ways to use metal cans. The most common uses are hardware storage and arts and crafts, but there are also some more unexpected uses—such as using it as a portable trash can, vase or umbrella stand—that Americans have invented over time.

For some, the can works best as a cookie jar, and others find it a fitting piggy bank for all their loose change. Whether storing



**Empty coffee cans can be reused in a number of practical or off-beat ways.**

gardening supplies, holding arts and crafts loose ends or even turning the can into a toy drum for their children, Americans have demonstrated their characteristic resourcefulness. And now that Maxwell House has pioneered the peel-off foil E-Z Open top, you'll never have to worry about jagged edges no matter how, or how many times, you use the can.

Whatever your needs, there are plenty of helpful and even inspired ways you can use all sorts of metal cans around your home, office or classroom. And, of course if you're not in the mood for arts and crafts or household organization projects, you can always allow others to reuse your can simply by throwing it in the recycling bin.