



## Recycle More. It's Easy To Do... for the Holidays.

*Decking the halls doesn't have to add up to more waste this holiday season. Reduce your climate impact. Prevent or reduce waste and keep valuable resources out of the garbage by recycling more - it's easy to do. Here are some ideas on how to reduce, reuse and recycle during the holiday season.*

**Consider a living tree.** Potted Christmas trees, available at many nurseries, are usually smaller than cut trees. They should only be kept in the house for about a week, so they don't start sprouting new growth. You can keep the tree outside, haul it in to enjoy it at Christmastime for several years, and then eventually plant it in the yard or give it away.

**Tree cycle.** When you're done with your cut Christmas tree, turn it into compost or mulch for healthy gardens and parks. [Find out how.](#)

**Give experiences.** Reduce your holiday footprint and give an "experience gift" instead of stuff. [Find out more.](#)

**Use eco-friendly lights.** Energy-efficient LED light strands use 90 percent less energy than traditional lights and come in lots of different colors and shapes.

**Buy fresh and local.** For holiday meals and parties, use as many locally-grown and organic foods as possible. Farmers markets are a great source for foods, holiday greens and flowers, and some are open through December. [Visit Puget Sound Fresh.](#)

**Recycle food.** All food scraps and food-soiled paper go in with yard clippings in your **yardwaste cart**, including:

- Figgy pudding, fruitcake, mistletoe, wreaths (remove any wire or metal), bones, meat, cheese, seafood, fruit and vegetables. Paper bags, napkins and greasy cardboard pizza boxes also get recycled and made into compost.

**Recycle the basics.** Common holiday items that go in your recycling cart:

- Prepare your recycling by rinsing cans and bottles and flattening cardboard. Place extra recycling in a box, next to the collection cart on pickup day.
- Clean pie tins, plastic deli/veggie trays and lids (wider than 3 inches), empty eggnog and milk cartons, ice cream cartons, newspaper, bottles, cans, jars, and tubs; catalogs, greeting cards, envelopes, cardboard, clean aluminum foil and non metallic gift wrap.

**Garbage items.** Holiday items that go in the Garbage cart include:

- Ribbons and bows, foil wrapping paper and burned out holiday lights.
- [Fats, oil and grease](#) should be placed in a lidded container and placed in the garbage.

**Recycle options for miscellaneous items.** There are several local drop-off recycling locations for hard-to-recycle items, including:

- TVs, cell phones and other electronics, as well as Styrofoam, batteries and other items.
- [Visit What Do I Do With..?](#) to find a location near you.

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**King County**

Department of  
Natural Resources and Parks  
Solid Waste Division

Alternate Formats Available: 206-296-4466 • TTY Relay: 711