

RECYCLING FOR THE HOLIDAYS



TIPS FOR A “GREEN” HOLIDAY

The Earth is everyone’s home for the holidays.
Give a gift to our environment – reduce, reuse, recycle!

- Wrap gifts in old maps, comic pages, newspapers, recycled wrapping paper or wallpaper scraps.
- Put gifts in something useful, such as a towel, handkerchief, basket or tote bag. Make fabric bags to reuse for family gifts.
- Think of gifts to help animals, such as bird feeders, shrubs with berries, etc.
- Decorate with living beauty. Use natural greens and pine cones. Avoid non-recyclable tinsel and foil.
- Consider gifts that don’t need wrapping, such as a membership in an Earth-friendly organization, a yearlong entry permit to The Detroit Zoo, etc.
- Take a friend or relative on a nature walk – or invite friends to join you for a program at a local nature center.
- Make an agreement with out-of-town friends to exchange photographs or phone calls instead of gifts.
- If you plan to have a Christmas tree, buy a potted one, a living tree. Keep it watered inside for up to 3 weeks. Then spray it with an anti-transpirant spray to prevent moisture loss. Set it outside in a protected area until planting time in the spring. Your Christmas tree will live on after the holidays.
- Decorate an outside tree for the birds. Popcorn, suet bells and cranberries work well.
- For parties, avoid disposable cups and plates. Borrow or rent permanent dishes.
- At holiday parties, recycle cans and bottles; wash and reuse glass jars; use cloth napkins instead of disposable paper products.
- A suggestion for a gift for a co-worker: a ceramic coffee cup to replace disposable cups.
- Recycle cash receipts at the holidays and other times as well.
- When opening gifts plan to reuse and recycle:
 - Open gifts carefully, flatten, fold and save the paper for next year.
 - Use a paper bag to recycle wrapping paper and cards that cannot be reused.
 - Take a paperboard box and stuff it full of flattened paperboard boxes that presents come in.

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle the Holidays

Item	Reduce	Reuse	Recycle
Gift boxes	Use cereal, shoe or any other box.	Gift boxes flatten neatly for easy storage and reuse.	Recyclable with other paperboard boxes at curbside in SOCRRA's member communities or at SOCRRA Recycling Drop-off Center, 995 Coolidge, Troy.
Bows and ribbons	Use last year's or get creative with yarn, dried flowers, etc.	Save in boxes that prevent bows from getting smashed.	Not recyclable. Please reuse or share with others.
Wrapping paper	Use comics, maps, posters or cloth wrapping (a scarf could be an extra gift and wrapping too).	Open gifts carefully so paper can be reused. Fold neatly and store.	Recyclable as mixed paper curbside or at SOCRRA Recycling Drop-off Center, 995 Coolidge, Troy. Please remove ribbons. Not recyclable: foil or plastic coated papers.
Greeting cards	Save postage costs and lots of paper by using post card greetings.	Last year's cards can be made into gift tags. Also make a great resource for children's art projects, or research organizations in your area that could utilize your used greeting card collection.	Recyclable with paperboard at curbside in SOCRRA's member communities or at SOCRRA Recycling Drop-off Center, 995 Coolidge, Troy.
Packing peanuts	Always request minimal packaging, packaging materials that are compostable or paper pulp packaging that is recyclable.	Commercial mailing services will accept peanuts for reuse. Call the national "peanut pipeline" for a location near you - (800) 828-2214 or try www.loosefillpackaging.com .	Not recyclable. Please reuse.
Packing block Styrofoam	Always request minimal packaging, packaging materials that are compostable or paper pulp packaging that is recyclable.	Generic shapes (square blocks, sheets, no cut outs) may be reused for packing or in craft projects.	Not recyclable. Please reuse.
Mail order catalogs	Request removal from mailing list at time of purchase.	Keep latest copy of your favorite catalogs for reference. Share with friends and neighbors if interested.	Recyclable at curbside in SOCRRA's member communities or at SOCRRA Recycling Drop-off Center, 995 Coolidge, Troy.
Christmas trees	Decorate a large houseplant instead of cutting a live tree.	Try a live tree or use a reusable one.	Check with your city for instructions on recycling options and drop-off locations.
Old toys, clothes/unwanted gifts	Accepted at SOCRRA Recycling Drop-off Center or donate to local charities.		