

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle the holidays



Much of the 5 million extra tons of garbage produced during the holidays in America can be reduced, reused or recycled. Keep this chart for handy reference all throughout the season.

Item	Reduce	Reuse	Recycle
Gift Boxes	Use cereal, shoe or other boxes instead of buying new.	Flatten boxes neatly for easy storage and reuse.	Recyclable curbside and at Lane County recycling stations.
Ribbons and bows	Reuse last year's bows. Make bows out of yarn, dried flowers, video/audio tape, or Mylar foodwappers.	Save ribbons and bows in a sturdy box (so bows will not get crushed) for best reuse next year.	Not recyclable Please reduce, reuse or donate holiday and gift decorations to thrift stores and re-use organizations.
Wrapping paper	Use comics, maps, posters and cloth wrapping. If you purchase wrapping paper, make sure it has recycled content—read the label.	Use reusable gift bags and boxes. Open gifts carefully, with reuse in mind. Fold neatly and store.	Recyclable curbside and at Lane County recycling stations. Not Recyclable foil coated or plastic coated papers, gift bags and ribbons. Reduce and reuse.
Greeting cards	Save money on postage and lots of paper with postcard or email greetings. If you purchase cards, be sure to buy cards with recycled content—read the label.	Reuse greeting cards as next year's postcard greetings, gift tags or make ornaments and crafts with them. Donate to MECCA. 302-1810	Recyclable as mixed paper curbside or at Lane County recycling stations – after plastic parts and foil are removed.
Gift tags	Write the name on the wrapping itself, or if you buy new, look for recycled content—read the label.	Reuse old gift wrap, cards or favorite drawings to make new gift tags.	Paper tags are Recyclable as mixed paper after string, plastic and foil is removed.
Packing peanuts	Request the least amount of packaging required, Request natural fiber packing materials that are compostable.	Reuse peanuts for your shipping. NextStep Recycling and most pack- and-ship stores take peanuts for reuse.	Recyclable at St Vincent de Paul stores for a small fee. Individuals may drop in. Businesses must call ahead. 687-5820
Block Styrofoam packaging	Request minimal packaging, natural fiber packaging that is compostable, or paper pulp packaging that is recyclable.	The Pioneer Pkwy UPS Store accepts block foam from individuals for reuse. Businesses must call ahead. 741-0411	Recyclable at St Vincent de Paul stores for a small fee. Individuals may drop in. Businesses must call ahead. 687-5820
Catalogues	Request removal from mailing list at time of order.	Share with friends and neighbors if interested.	Recyclable as mixed paper curbside or at Lane County sites.
Paper plates, cups, etc.	Use durable, washable, table ware. Call 682-2059 to borrow durable dishware.	Paper cups and plates aren't very reuseable. Use as few as possible.	Not recyclable. Please reduce or reuse. May be compostable If there is no plastic liner.
Plastic cups, forks, etc.	Use durable, washable, table and silver ware. Call 682-2059 to borrow durable dishware.	Many brands of plastic can be washed and reused.	Not recyclable. Please reduce or reuse.
Christmas trees	Decorate a live tree in your yard. Bring a potted tree or evergreen bows inside to decorate.	Reuse trimmings from local fir trees to fashion a christmas tree, swags and wreaths.	Compostable. Ask your garbage company if they recycle trees, put branches in yard debris cart, or watch the news for charity or scouts offering tree recycling services.