

# HOLIDAY RECYCLING REMINDER

**Happy Holidays!** Thank you for your recycling efforts over the past year. Following are some guidelines for recycling during the holiday months and all year long:

Please **DO** include the following items in your paper recycling mix:

**YES**

- ✓ wrapping paper, gift bags, tissue paper (except these materials w/ metallic inks, glitter, or foil)
- ✓ corrugated cardboard boxes, paperboard gift boxes
- ✓ paper shopping bags (any type of handle is okay)
- ✓ paper greeting cards (not with metallic inks, glitter, or foil; remove batteries)
- ✓ catalogs, calendars and magazines



Please **DO NOT** include the following items in your household recycling:

**NO**

- ☒ ribbons, bows, and tinsel (reusable from year to year)
- ☒ holiday light strings (accepted in scrap metal dumpsters & WTE scrap metal, Greenfield)
- ☒ packing peanuts, Styrofoam™, bubble wrap, inflatable "air pillow" packaging (clean, dry packing materials accepted for reuse at The UPS Store in Greenfield.)
- ☒ plastic bags, plastic shipping envelopes, bubble wrap, air pillows (recycle at grocery stores along with clean, dry plastic bags marked #2 or #4 <https://nextrex.com/view/educate#materials1>)
- ☒ formed plastic packaging from items like toys and electronics
- ☒ glossy photographs, paper envelopes with bubble wrap inside, ornaments, decorations

TIP: Keep a recycle bin or paper bag handy near gift unwrapping.

Questions? Franklin County Solid Waste Management District: [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto:info@franklincountywastedistrict.org), (413) 772-2438  
More info: [franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://franklincountywastedistrict.org), [springfieldmrf.org](http://springfieldmrf.org).  
MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD).

## **Reduce Trash this Holiday Season**

### **What to recycle, creatively reuse, and compost**

During the holiday season, the average American family disposes of 25% more trash than they usually do (source: US EPA). Much of this trash can be reduced, reused, recycled or composted. When residents reduce their holiday trash, they can save money on “Pay As You Throw” town trash stickers or bags, reduce carbon and methane emissions, and protect our environment.

#### **Recycling Yes/No**

The following paper items are on the “yes” list for household recycling: wrapping paper, gift bags, tissue paper, and paper greeting cards/envelopes. However, do not recycle these paper items if they contain metallic inks, glitter, or foil (for example, foil-lined envelopes). Tape and labels are okay. Remove batteries from singing greeting cards before recycling the card.

Other recyclable paper items include catalogs, calendars, paper shopping bags, and cardboard (both corrugated and paperboard). Here’s a holiday tip: when opening or wrapping gifts, keep a paper bag handy to collect paper recyclables.

These items are on the “no” list for household recycling: ribbons, bows, tinsel, glossy photo cards, holiday light strings, Christmas tree netting, packing peanuts, bubble wrap, paper envelopes lined with bubble wrap, Styrofoam in any form, plastic shipping envelopes, batteries, and the molded plastic used to package toys and electronics.

Some of these items, called “tangles,” are not acceptable in municipal recycling programs because they get wrapped around and tangled in the sorting equipment at

recycling facilities (i.e. holiday light strings, power cords, and Christmas tree netting).

#### **Recycling Options for Other Materials**

Many of these unacceptable items can be recycled elsewhere:

Holiday light strings and power cords are accepted for recycling at scrap metal dealers and in the scrap metal dumpsters at town transfer stations. In addition, a mail-in program is available at [holidayleds.com](http://holidayleds.com).

“Pack and ship” stores, for example The UPS Store in Greenfield, accept clean, dry packing materials such as bubble wrap, packing peanuts, and inflatable “air pillow” packaging for reuse.

Plastic bag recycling programs at grocery and retail stores accept bubble wrap, plastic shipping envelopes (no paper), inflatable “air pillow” packaging, and more. A list of acceptable items is at: [nextrex.com/view/educate#materials1](http://nextrex.com/view/educate#materials1).

Gold Circuit E-Cycling in Agawam accepts various types of Styrofoam foam from the public for a fee: (413) 328-3187, [goldcircuit.io](http://goldcircuit.io); [recycleyourfoam.com](http://recycleyourfoam.com).

Certain batteries (rechargeable, button, and lithium) are accepted for special recycling at transfer stations; place in plastic bags and hand to the attendant. Staples Stores accept a wide range of batteries for free recycling.

When the holidays are over, check with your town about Christmas tree recycling.

#### **Creative Reuse**

In addition to recycling, consider wrapping your gifts in reused materials. Gifts can be creatively wrapped in reused wrapping paper, old calendar pages, sheet music, maps or map book pages, paper bags, old posters, wallpaper scraps, fabric, scarves, newspaper, comics, or kids’ artwork.

Gifts can be wrapped in reusable cloth bags, decorative tins, reusable shopping bags, or baskets. Or make the wrapping part of the gift; for example, a kitchen towel or oven mitt to hold kitchen utensils or gadgets, or a book wrapped in a scarf.

Gifts can be tied up with twine and adorned with natural items such as pinecones, pine or holly branches, shells, or buttons. Colorful old holiday cards can be cut up to reuse as gift cards.

One of the most important steps for reusing materials is unwrapping gifts carefully and saving gift wrap, ribbons, bows and gift bags for reuse next year.

#### **Compost**

Another way to reduce holiday trash is to compost food and paper waste generated from holiday meals. Municipal transfer station compost programs accept all types of solid food waste, including meat, bones, cheese, plus paper waste such as paper napkins, paper towels, and more. Unacceptable items include liquids, foil, metal, glass, and plastic.

The following transfer stations have compost programs: Bernardston, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Shelburne, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately. Gill residents have access to a special food waste drop-off program; contact town hall to learn more.

The Solid Waste District sells discounted “Earth Machine” home compost bins and compost pails: \$25 or \$65 depending on the resident’s town. It is not recommended to put meat, bones, dairy in home compost bins.

For more information: Franklin County Solid Waste District: (413) 772-2438; [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto:info@franklincountywastedistrict.org); [franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://franklincountywastedistrict.org).  
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