

Green Holiday Tips

from Greater Sudbury Environmental Services

The City of Greater Sudbury Environmental Services wishes everyone a Green Christmas.

Before Christmas:

- * Bring reusable bags when you do your Christmas shopping.
For larger items, don't use a bag at all. Just bring the item home in its box.
- * When purchasing gift wrap, get the paper type as it is recyclable.
Plastic and foil gift wrap are not recyclable and must be thrown in the garbage.
- * Consider using alternatives to wrapping paper.
Try using newspapers, catalogues, magazines or even a towel or scarf which would form part of the gift or be reused next year.
- * Use reusable gift bags rather than gift wrap.
- * Use as little wrapping paper as possible.
Loop a string around gift boxes to measure the size of the box, and then lay the string out on the wrapping paper to determine exactly how much is needed.
- * Avoid purchasing products with packaging that is not accepted in the Blue Box Recycling Program, such as Styrofoam packing peanuts.
- * Send e-cards instead of traditional Christmas cards to save on paper.
- * Buy gifts with a 'green' touch: a backyard composter, lunch box with re-useable containers, rechargeable batteries, or certified compostable bags for your green cart.
- * Choose products made from recycled, post-consumer material.
- * Cut down on waste at your holiday party.
Use your dishes, glassware and cloth napkins rather than disposables. If you have to use disposable products, buy recyclable or compostable products accepted in the Blue Box or Green Cart organics programs. Foam plates and cups should be rinsed and placed in your Blue Box. Paper plates, cups and napkins should be placed in certified compostable bags within your green cart. All disposable cutlery and straws must be placed in the garbage.

After Christmas:

- * Gift boxes, paper gift bags (non-paper strings removed), paper gift wrap, and Christmas cards are all recyclable and should be placed in your Blue Box.
- * Tissue wrapping paper, serviettes, facial tissue, disposable paper cups and plates belong in the Green Cart, NOT in the Blue Box.
Place these items in certified compostable bags within your Green Cart. The plastic lid from the paper cup can be placed in the Blue Box.
- * Do not bag your mixed blue box recyclables in clear plastic bags or other bags (i.e. grocery bags).
Place items loosely in your Blue Box. Collection crews will not collect these bags.
- * For surplus recyclable material, use a cardboard box or boxes similar in size to a City blue box.
Make sure that the boxes are placed out beside your Blue Box.
- * Hard plastic packaging without a number on it (e.g. used to hold toys in a cardboard box) is not recyclable.
Please place this plastic in the garbage.
- * Wooden orange crates, foil, plastic or cloth gift wrap, ribbons and bows, foil gift bags, foam packaging peanuts and Christmas lights do not belong in the Blue Box or Green Cart.
Please reuse or dispose of them in your household garbage.
- * Reuse wooden orange crates instead of throwing them out in your household garbage.
Crates can be reused as a serving tray for drinks and snacks, or as a holder for Christmas ribbons, bows and gift tags or to organize the garage. If you must dispose of your wooden orange crates, they must be placed in the garbage as they are not recyclable or compostable.
- * Save wrapping paper, tissue paper, ribbons and bows to reuse next year.
- * Save your used Christmas cards to make small gift boxes for next year's presents.
- * Reuse plastic tubs, such as ice cream, margarine, yogurt and sour cream containers for storing holiday leftovers instead of buying new storage containers.
- * When you just can't eat another bite of turkey, place your holiday food scraps in certified compostable bags within your green cart.
- * Natural Christmas trees will be collected and composted as part of the year-round leaf and yard trimmings collection.
Please remove all decorations, tinsel, lights and tree stand. Place your tree at your curb by 7 a.m. on your regular collection day. Christmas trees wrapped in plastic will not be collected.
- * Donate unwanted items to a charity, such as Salvation Army, Value Village, Diabetes Clothesline, Jarrett Centre, etc.
- * Batteries may be small but they sure pile up.
Spent batteries are hazardous waste. Help protect our environment by disposing them at the Household Hazardous Waste Depot (open on select Saturdays) or booking with the Toxic Taxi for home collection (Monday to Friday 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.). Call 705-560-9019 or email Sudburytoxictaxi@hotzenvironmental.com to make your appointment.