



## How to Recycle or Reuse your Natural Christmas Tree in Hampton Roads; the Gift that Keeps on Giving

(Hampton Roads, Va., Dec. 28, 2021) – What are you recycling these days? Paper, plastic bottles, metal cans? Good for you! These items are accepted by local recycling programs throughout Hampton Roads. Now you can add naturally-grown Christmas trees to your list of recyclables. Although not accepted in curbside recycling carts, Christmas tree recycling will begin in some localities this week at curbside or drop-off locations across Hampton Roads.

“Many localities collect and chip the trees into mulch or compost that are used to beautify city and county public spaces,” said Rebekah Eastep, a team leader with the [askHRgreen.org](https://askhrgreen.org) public awareness and education campaign. “Recycling or reusing your Christmas tree keeps it out of the landfill and helps you give back to your community.”

The trees must be free of ornaments, lights and tinsel, and should be placed curbside or dropped off according to your respective city or county guidelines. Christmas trees and other yard debris like leaves, grass clippings, and limbs should never be placed in curbside recycling carts. In addition to traditional tree recycling and disposal, there are useful and creative ways to repurpose natural Christmas trees and greenery after the holidays. An advocate of creative reuse, Eastep, suggests using them to:

- **Mulch garden beds** – Cut off the boughs and branches and drape these over plant beds for winter protection.
- **Start a fire** – Chop the trunk into small pieces to use in your backyard fire pit.
- **Shelter the animals** – Place the tree in a quiet part of your yard as a haven for wintering birds and woodland creatures.
- **Create a DIY project** – If you’re handy with tools, slice the trunk into discs to use for coasters or a cool craft project.

For a list of natural Christmas tree recycling and disposal options by locality, visit [www.askhrgreen.org/2022-christmas-tree-disposal-guide](https://www.askhrgreen.org/2022-christmas-tree-disposal-guide).

For additional information about all things green in Hampton Roads, visit [askHRgreen.org](https://askhrgreen.org).

**About askHRgreen.org** Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, [askHRgreen.org](http://askHRgreen.org) is your go-to resource for all things green in Hampton Roads – from recycling tips and pointers for keeping local waterways clean to water-saving ideas and simple steps to make local living easy on the environment. Launched in 2011, the region-wide public awareness and education campaign is administered through the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and powered by the following members: The cities of Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, and Williamsburg; the counties of Gloucester, Isle of Wight, James City, Southampton, Surry and York; the town of Smithfield; and HRSD. Like askHRgreen.org on [Facebook](#), follow on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#), tune in to [YouTube](#) and catch the “Let’s Talk Green” [blog](#), written by a team of local experts. **For background on askHRgreen.org’s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, take a look!** <https://askhrgreen.org/about/about-askhrgreen-org/>

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