



Wrap up the Holidays with Recycling Tips from askHRgreen.org **From gift wrap to fresh greenery, here's how to do it!**

(Hampton Roads, Va., Dec. 21, 2022) – A clean sweep will be in order once the holidays wind down. Before putting any items out with the trash, consider whether your seasonal accoutrements are reusable, recyclable or if they might come in handy for someone else.

“Give thought to the items that you plan to dispose of,” said Rebekah Eastep, an askHRgreen.org team leader. “Thrift and creative reuse stores may love having your gently used or leftover ribbon, bows and crafting supplies. Or you can save these to use again next year, cutting down on both time and expense.”

Here's the rundown on how to safely dispose of frequently used holiday items:

What's recyclable:

- Cardboard shipping boxes
- Gift boxes
- Non-coated plain wrapping paper (without glitter or foil)
- Plain paper greeting cards and envelopes
- Plain paper gift bags
- String lights should never be placed in household recycling containers but can be recycled through these specialty recycling programs: [HolidayLEDS](#) and [Christmas Light Source](#)

What's not:

- Batteries
- Greeting cards with glitter or metallic accents
- Gift wrap and gift bags made of foil or plastic
- Holiday ornaments and décor
- Plastic product packaging
- Ribbons and bows
- Tissue paper

And when the needles start dropping from your natural Christmas tree, you can give it a second life through Hampton Roads city or county recycling programs. Some localities collect and chip the trees into mulch or compost that are used to beautify city and county public spaces.

Beginning on or around Dec. 26, residents can take advantage of this seasonal recycling program. Make sure the trees are free of ornaments, lights, tinsel and stands before placing curbside.

In addition to traditional recycling, there are many creative ways to reuse natural Christmas trees and greenery in lawn and garden areas:

- Place the tree in the yard with citrus peels and strung popcorn for the birds
- Shred pine needles for use on pathways and trails
- Drape boughs and branches over plant beds for winter protection
- Use the tree as a habitat for wintering birds and woodland creatures
- Sink branches into ornamental ponds to feed the fish
- Snip small branches to use as kindling in fire pits

For a list of natural Christmas tree recycling and disposal options by locality, visit: [2023 Christmas Tree Recycling & Disposal Guide - askHRgreen.org](https://www.askHRgreen.org/2023-christmas-tree-recycling-disposal-guide).

Visual assets are available for use at this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/clfo/on21lkybs3h9d66spjasn/h?dl=0&rlkey=ygcp2oh40j1rpl2p4jkvo1g4f>

About askHRgreen.org [askHRgreen.org](https://www.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](https://www.facebook.com/askHRgreen) 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.

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