

Walking in a Winter wasteland...

Each year, between Thanksgiving and New Year, Americans will throw away one million *additional* tons of garbage *each week*.

We buy 2.65 billion holiday cards each year—enough to fill a football field 10 stories high, and we send about 85% of them to landfills instead of recycling.

Get inspired with these easy ways to reduce your waste, save money, and enjoy a more meaningful holiday season... without the mountains of trash.

For year-round information on recycling and waste reduction, call us at (937) 521-2020, or go online to www.32TRASH.org.



O! Christmas Tree

Real (natural) trees are regaining popularity, and with good reason. Tens of millions of them are farmed domestically in all 50 states—unlike artificial trees, 85% of which are imported from China. If you do opt for an artificial tree, consider purchasing one second-hand, and donate trees you no longer want.


Keep it simple. Skip needless extras on the tree, like tinsel, which just create extra waste. Avoid splurging on new ornaments—check local thrift stores, or craft your own. An heirloom quilt makes a unique tree skirt.

Consider decorating a tree in the yard with popcorn chains, cranberries, and pine cones rolled in peanut butter & bird seed. It's unique, and the critters outside will enjoy the holiday treat.

Recycle your tree. If you put your tree out on the curb, it goes to the landfill. Instead, you can drop off natural trees at the Clark County Recycling Center (1602 W. Main St. in Springfield) from 8:00 am—5:00 pm, Monday -Friday, to be chipped and recycled.



1602 W. Main St., Springfield, Ohio 45504
(937) 521-2020
www.32TRASH.org

 [Facebook.com/KeepClarkCountyBeautiful](https://www.facebook.com/KeepClarkCountyBeautiful)

Printed on recycled paper. 10/14

I'm dreaming of a Green Christmas!

Sensible solutions for reducing holiday waste



Reduce

Reducing the amount of stuff you buy, and reusing items you already have, are the best ways to cut back on holiday waste. Plus, less shopping means you can enjoy time with your family-- instead of stuck at the mall.

Reuse

Greeting cards can be reused by cutting off the decorative fronts & sending them as post cards. You'll save on postage price & cut back on paper waste too!

Recycle

Recycle cardboard boxes, greeting cards, and any bottles and cans from your holiday libations. For details about our drop-off recycling program, call (937) 521-2020, or go to www.32TRASH.org.

The Clark County Recycling Center also provides specialty recycling for cell phones, appliances, and all electronics. So if you get new gadgets this year, you can drop off old ones on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. We're also open the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. - noon. Please call ahead or go online to check about any possible holiday closings.

We can also recycle your old strings of lights, free of charge. Replacing old lights with energy efficient LED lights saves 80% more electricity.



Green Gifts

Giving eco-friendly gifts can encourage friends and family to reduce their own waste, too.

Reusables help break the habit of disposables.

Consider giving reusable coffee cups, water bottles, or lunch kits. Check your favorite local retailer, or go to www.reuseit.com to find quality, durable reusable goods.

Recycled content products keep resources out of landfills & give them a new life. Check the packaging to see if a product is made from recycled materials—you'll find everything from calendars and journals to t-shirts and glassware made with recycled content.

The gift that keeps on giving...

Consider replacing material gifts with donations made in the names of your loved ones to favorite charities and aid projects. Go to www.justgive.org to buy a charity gift card. You can do some good while curbing wasteful consumerism.

Tickets for movies, sporting events, or plays mean a fun experience without tons of packaging waste.

Giving consumable gifts, like a loved-one's favorite cookies or a nice bottle of wine, can save money. It also reduces packaging waste and ensures your gift won't go unused.

For green gift ideas....

TreeHugger's gift guides have eco-friendly suggestions for everyone on your list! Go to www.TreeHugger.com/giftguide.

Packaging Possibilities

Gift bags can be waste-savers if you save them to reuse. Try giving gifts in reusable totes or shopping bags that friends and family can use in place of plastic bags at the store (now there's a gift that keeps on giving).

Nametags for gifts can be costly and create extra waste. Try cutting up old holiday greeting cards & reusing them to label gifts.

Gift cards make convenient gifts & eliminate the need for any wrapping. But they represent millions of pounds of plastic waste when you consider the billions that Americans use each year. Be sure to recycle used-up plastic gift cards. There is a kiosk at all Best Buy retail stores where you can drop them off.

Wrapping paper makes up over 50% of holiday waste. Consider a less wasteful (and much cheaper) alternative, like using newsprint, magazines, and old maps & calendars to wrap presents. And be sure to recycle wrapping paper, too.

