



REDUCE YOUR HOLIDAY WASTE

Americans throw away 25% more trash during the Thanksgiving to New Year's holiday period than any other time of the year amounting to an extra 25 million tons of garbage in our landfills.

Cards:

- Opt for e-cards, or those made with recycled paper that is also recyclable.
- Save cards you receive and repurpose as gift tags next year.
- Did you know that the 2.65 billion Christmas cards sold each year in the U.S. could fill a football field 10 stories high? If we each sent one card less, we'd save 50,000 cubic yards of paper.

Wrapping and Shipping:

- Instead of wrapping gifts, plant clues and make it a treasure hunt.
- Natural craft paper and used brown paper bags can be decorated with pinecones, boughs, and children's artwork (plus they can be recycled afterward).
- For the least waste, choose gift-wrap made from recycled paper in a pattern that can be used year-round.
- Make the wrapping part of the gift (for example a wooden toy could be tucked in a new hat and a bow-tied scarf).
- Pillowcases and reusable cloth bags make great wrapping.
- Reuse packing cartons and shipping materials such as peanuts, wood shavings, shredded newspaper, and bubble wrap or take to a local shipping store.
- Create your own waste-free filler. Run paper shopping bags through a shredder to create long strips that will cushion your gift. You can also shred this year's used calendar pages or the heavy stock mailing catalogs you have been receiving since October!
- When shipping, purchase gifts that won't require extra packaging and are light in weight to reduce fuel use.
- If you are sending a package, look for the smallest box possible, or better yet, one that's been used before. Either mark over any printing that could be confusing or simply turn the box inside out and re-tape the bottom and sides.

**TAKE A STEP TO MAKE YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING EVEN BETTER.
YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND PLANET WILL THANK YOU!**