

Tips For Holiday Waste & Recycling

Waste and recycling generation increases during the holiday season. As festivities come to a close, you might find it hard to know what to recycle or throw away. Don't worry, we're here to help!

Read the below reminders and tips to keep in mind when sorting through the remnants of the season.

Cardboard, aluminum cans, plastic water and soda bottles, and glass bottles can be recycled everywhere in Wisconsin. Remember to breakdown cardboard boxes and rinse out containers.



Items that are accepted in most recycling programs:

- Unpadded paper envelopes and plain paper greeting cards (no glitter, ribbon, batteries, etc.)
- Packing paper made of simple white paper, brown paper or newspaper
- Matte wrapping paper and bags made strictly of paper, without glitter, foil and other contaminants. Remove strings from gift bags.

Items that do NOT belong in your recycling bin:

- Ribbons and bows (save for next year)
- Tissue paper
- Packing peanuts and Styrofoam
- Glossy photo cards
- Plastic bags, air pillows and bubble wrap (take to a store drop-off)

Don't forget electronics and batteries. And, if you received new electronics, recycle your old ones. Find a nearby drop-off site or a mail-back program using [E-Cycle Wisconsin's interactive map and list](#).

Unsure which batteries should be recycled and which can be safely thrown away? Learn more through the DNR's webpage on the [proper handling of used batteries](#).

The DNR's [Excel At E-Cycling / Recycle Right \(WA-1907\) flyer](#) provides helpful information and tips on how to properly recycle and e-cycle in Wisconsin. All DNR recycling and waste publications are free to order through the [DNR's Recycling Education and Outreach webpage](#).

Questions? Please contact [Jennifer Semrau](#), DNR Waste Reduction and Diversion Coordinator.