



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

# FACT SHEET

GUIDE NO. 6  
HOLIDAY WASTE REDUCTION IDEAS



*Give the environment a gift:  
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle*

The three “R’s” of recycling stand for **Reduce**, **Reuse**, **Recycle**. Many people tend to forget about the first two, and while recycling is a great and effective option, waste reduction

and reuse of materials should be considered first! This holiday season keep the following waste reduction and reuse tips in mind!

## REDUCE:

- Use reusable metal baking trays rather than disposable aluminum.
- Before you throw away or recycle all of those gift catalogs, take a minute to pick out the ones you don’t want to receive anymore. Call their toll-free numbers now and ask to get off their list.
- If possible don’t use plastic utensils, dinnerware and napkins for your parties.

## REUSE:

- Before opening all those wrapped packages, set a box aside to collect the reusable ribbons, bows, and other package decorations.
- Most gifts boxes can be flattened and reused throughout the year for other items.
- With all the excitement, people usually tear through the gift wrap, so set aside a large box or bag to collect the torn gift wrap. If there are large uncrumpled pieces of wrap, consider using those pieces for wrapping future gifts. **Caution:** Before taking the bag of used gift wrap out to the recycle bin, check to make sure toy or game parts have not been accidentally dropped in the bag.

- Put this year’s Christmas cards away to cut up and use as tags for next year’s gifts.
- Are you expecting a new microwave, toaster, clock radio, toy, or coat? Consider giving away your old appliances, toys, games, or clothing to a local charity or thrift store.
- If you bought a live Christmas tree, be sure to plant it. Or consider donating it to a local school or nursing home to plant on their grounds.
- Don’t use gift boxes. Wrap your gifts with wrapping paper only (recycled paper is available at most retailers).

## RECYCLE:

- Most curbside recycle programs take paperboard; recycle those gift boxes that cannot be reused.
- If you bought a cut tree, remove all decorations including tinsel and lights before recycling. Check your local paper for instructions on recycling options and the dates for pickup or drop-off. Plymouth Township residents can place trees (free of tinsel, ornaments, etc.) at the curb for composting on their scheduled collection day until Friday, January 15, 2010..

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