

FACTS & FIGURES HOLIDAY WASTE

It is estimated that between the Thanksgiving and the New Year holidays, the amount of garbage in the United States increases by an extra MILLION TONS PER WEEK.

Over 38,000 miles of ribbon is thrown out each year. Since the Earth's circumference is 25,000 miles, that means that you could tie a bow around the earth with ribbon waste.

Please help "trim your trash".



What Can Communities Do ?

- ♦ Empower individuals to take greater responsibility and action to enhance their community environments.
- ♦ Educate individuals about litter prevention, ways to reduce, reuse and properly manage waste materials, and how to improve communities.
- ♦ Motivate volunteers to cleanup, beautify and improve their neighborhoods through partnerships and strategic alliances with citizens, business and government.
- ♦ Create healthier, safer and more livable community environments.

Save Money and Resources During the Holiday Season



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Gift Wrapping Gifts and Cards

- ◆ Buy gift wrap that contains recycled material and avoid buying foil or plastic coated paper that cannot be recycled or reused.
- ◆ Save and reuse gift bags and bows from last season.
- ◆ Instead of wrapping gifts in paper, be creative. Use decorative gift boxes, reusable containers, scarves, or fabric remnants.
- ◆ Make gift tags from old greeting cards.
- ◆ Give gift certificates. They save wrapping paper and eliminate returned merchandise.
- ◆ Give non-material gifts such as savings bonds, money, or tickets to a game, play, movie or concert.
- ◆ Give the gift of time. Nothing costs less or means more than spending time with friends and loved ones.
- ◆ Donate unwanted gifts, old or used clothing and toys to a local shelter or charity.
- ◆ For electronic and portable gifts that require batteries, buy rechargeable batteries to go with them.

Holiday Trees

- ◆ Choose a reusable tree. An artificial tree can be used over and over again and doesn't have to be discarded.
- ◆ Mulch or compost your *holiday tree* if you don't have an artificial tree.
- ◆ Buy a live tree and replant it after the holidays.
- ◆ Use reusable decorations on your tree or make homemade tree ornaments from things you already have around the house or from materials in the backyard like leaves, twigs, bark and pine cones.
- ◆ Put timers on outdoor and indoor holiday lights so that they turn off on their own.

Holiday Parties

- ◆ Choose reusable cloth napkins, china, and glasses for holiday parties and meals instead of disposable utensils, plates and tablecloths.
- ◆ Be sure to turn down the heat before your guests arrive. The extra body heat from your guests will warm up the room and you will save energy.
- ◆ Carefully plan the amount of food for your gathering to minimize waste. If there are leftovers, send them home with guests or donate them to a local shelter.
- ◆ Walk to neighborhood parties or carpool to parties that are not in walking distance.

Holiday Shopping

- ◆ Bring your canvas or reusable bags for all holiday shopping.
- ◆ Consolidate shopping trips and waste less gas.
- ◆ Buy quality. Don't buy cheaply made items that do not last and end up getting thrown away.
- ◆ Combine your purchases into one big bag rather than getting a new bag at every store your visit.