

Holiday Recycling Tips

The holidays are filled with festivities, shopping, decorating and wrapping presents, not to mention spending time with loved ones. All of this leaves little time to think about what to recycle and what to throw in the trash.

Despite the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, we encourage employees and customers to find time to make recycling a part of their holiday traditions. Use the list below as a quick guide to separate your holiday recyclables from your waste.

Recycle

Boxes
(gift, shoe and shipping)

Wrapping paper
(plain or sparkly)

Tissue paper

Holiday cards &
envelopes
(without embellishments)

Gift bags
(paper)

Dispose

Bubble wrap

Ribbons & bows

Gift bags
(laminated, coated
or dyed)

Cellophane

Packing Peanuts
(polystyrene foam)

Anything on the
Christmas tree

Watch List

Some items that can be recycled individually are not recyclable when combined with other recyclable materials. Recycling companies, like Republic, need materials in the purest form possible – any cross contamination of material (metal and paper together or paper and plastic together) make it difficult and more expensive to recycle. If possible, separate the materials before putting them in the recycle bin.

Toy Containers – Toy packaging made of heavy cardboard that surrounds a plastic container is not recyclable unless the cardboard is separated from the plastic. That includes the plastic window on the box of your child's favorite doll or action figure.

Sticky gift tags – They are not recyclable by themselves, but are acceptable if affixed to an envelope or wrapping paper.

Christmas trees – Unadorned trees are recyclable and should be placed next to recycling bins, not inside.

**Regardless of which list an item falls on, we suggest reusing it first, if possible.*

Holiday Recycling Facts & Stats

- The average household in the U.S. throws away nearly **125** pounds of trash each week.
- From Thanksgiving to New Year's, we discard **25%** more trash than normal, or approximately **940** pounds of waste.
- Roughly **80%** of what is discarded during the holidays can be recycled or reused.

Source: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)