

Holiday Waste Reduction Tips:

According to Use Less Stuff (ULS), Americans throw away 25 percent more trash during the holidays than any other time of year. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle this holiday season instead! Here are some tips on ways to reduce your waste this holiday season:



- Reduce the number of bags thrown out by bringing reusable cloth bags for holiday gift shopping.
- Wrap gifts in recycled or reused wrapping paper or funny papers. Also remember to save or recycle used wrapping paper.
- Give gifts that don't require much packaging, such as concert tickets, experiences, or gift certificates.
- Send recycled-content greeting cards to reduce the amount of virgin paper used during the holidays. Remember to recycle any paper cards you receive. You can also try sending electronic greeting cards to reduce paper waste.
- About 40 percent of all battery sales occur during the holiday season. Buy rechargeable batteries to accompany your electronic gifts, and consider giving a battery charger as well. Rechargeable batteries reduce the amount of potentially harmful materials thrown away, and can save money in the long run.
- When buying gifts, check product labels to determine an item's recyclability and whether it is made from recycled materials. Buying recycled encourages manufacturers to make more recycled-content products available.
- Shop at thrift stores for unique gift items or holiday decorations.
- Turn off or unplug holiday lights during the day. Not only will this save energy, but it will also help your lights last longer.
- When shipping, reuse foam peanuts or other packaging materials.
- Recycle or properly dispose of all cooking grease. Do not put it down the drain.
- Eliminate using disposable plates, cups, napkins and silverware. If you do buy disposable products look for ones with recycled content or products that you can compost (Here are some options: <http://www.cedar-grove.com/acceptable/Accepted%20List.asp>).

Happy Holidays!



Questions about recycling and waste reduction in Kirkland? Contact the City of Kirkland at (425) 587-3812 or Recycle@kirklandwa.gov.