

Give the Gift of Green this Holiday Season

Let's get creative this holiday season and Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink when wrapping those gifts and over-indulging at parties. Here are some simple things we can do to help Los Angeles County promote a more sustainable eco-friendly holiday season.

- **Use Reusable Bags** – Whether shopping for the holidays, or picking up groceries, make sure to take along a reusable shopping bag and you will help conserve natural resources.
- **Think Outside the Gift Box** – Purchase gift bags or baskets so they can be reused each year. You can also put your gift in a reusable bag and now you have two gifts!
- **Give a Gift Card** – Gift cards are conveniently available for purchase at various locations and require no fancy gift wrapping. This means less travel time spent shopping around.
- **Save on Gift Wrap** – Save and reuse gift wrapping paper from previous years, or make some from butcher paper, reused brown paper bags, newspapers, and fabric. Shop for recycled-content holiday wrapping paper.
- **Say “Happy Holidays” Over the Phone or Internet** – Save postage and trees by sending electronic holiday cards this year. Check the selection of commercial sites on the web for free e-mail cards.
- **Repurpose Old Holiday Cards** – Cut up cards to be used as gift tags, bookmarks, greeting cards, place mats, or decorations.
- **Rent a Christmas Tree** – It's eco-friendly and mess-free. After the holiday season, the trees are returned to the nursery and maintained until the next season.
- **Consider the Environment** – Sprayed-on artificial snow can be made from environmentally harmful components and hinder the ability to recycle a holiday tree. For a more earth-friendly artificial snow, sprinkle on some baking powder.
- **Recycle that Tree** – Contact your trash hauler for recycling options in your city. You can also turn your holiday tree into mulch for water conservation and weed control in the garden.
- **Have a Toxic Free Home for the Holidays** – Whether it's getting ready for holiday guests or simply cleaning out your garage, make sure to properly dispose of your household cleaners and other hazardous waste by taking them to a free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event. For information on the next collection event in your community, visit www.CleanLA.com.
- **Buy Reusable Batteries** – Consider purchasing rechargeable batteries instead of single-use batteries. You can recycle old batteries by taking them to your local Home Depot, IKEA, or designated County Public Libraries. For more information on the County's Household Battery Collection Program, visit www.CleanLA.com.
- **Recycle Packing Peanuts** – Check with local packaging or shipping companies to see if they will accept foam peanuts for recycling. Call “The Peanut Hotline” at (800) 828-2214 .
- **Make Room for New Gadgets and Toys** – Post your unwanted electronics on the County's Materials Exchange Website, www.LACoMAX.com, or if they are broken, take them to a free mobile Household Hazardous Waste/Electronic-Waste Collection Event.
- **Give the Gift of Donating** - Donate outgrown toys, clothes, and furniture to charitable groups like Goodwill, The Salvation Army, American Cancer Society, or Volunteers of America.
- **Recycle Old Holiday Lights** – Recycle broken or burned-out holiday lights by mailing them to the Christmas Light Source Recycling Program, 4313 Elmwood Drive, Benbrook, TX 76116. The bulbs will be recycled and proceeds will be used to purchase books that will be donated to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. For more information, visit www.christmas-light-source.com.

For more information on the holiday tree recycling guidelines and the County's environmental programs, call 1(888) CLEAN-LA.



Tis the Season to Be Green
REDUCE - REUSE - RECYCLE - RETHINK

