



CHRISTMAS RECYCLING

At a glance guide to recycling at Christmas



REAL CHRISTMAS TREES

Check arrangements with your local council. Some offer the collection of real trees via garden waste collections, others offer drop off points. Real trees can also be taken to Recycling and Household Waste Sites (RHWS). Remember to remove pots, holders, decorations and lights from your tree first. Trees left for Leicestershire councils as above will be composted.



ARTIFICIAL TREES

Artificial trees are not recyclable and will need to be disposed of in your general waste bin (if small enough to fit) or taken to a RHWS for disposal. Try to use your tree for as many years as possible before replacing it. Artificial trees in good condition can be donated via charity shops.



FAIRY LIGHTS

Lights are Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) and should be recycled but not in your regular kerbside recycling bin. Some Leicestershire councils offer a special WEEE collection service; check with your local council. Alternatively, all Leicestershire RHWS have WEEE collection points and many electrical retailers also offer WEEE collection points.



WREATHS

Natural elements (such as holly, ivy, mistletoe, leaves, twigs and pine cones) can be placed in your home compost bin, in your garden waste collection or taken to a RHWS to be composted. Everything else can be reused or placed in your general waste bin. Do not compost anything that's covered in glitter, paint, glue or fake snow.

WWW.LESSWASTE.ORG.UK

For information on waste and recycling in Leicestershire



CLOTHING, BAGS AND BELTS

Unless your council has a dedicated collection bag, textiles including clothing, footwear, handbags, belts, towels, blankets and rags can be donated to a charity shop, clothes bank or your local RHWS for reuse or recycling.



CALENDARS AND DIARIES

Calendars and diaries can be recycled provided they are made of paper and card and aren't covered in plastic or additional decorations. If they are, place them in your general waste bin.

The cardboard sleeve of advent calendars can be separated from the foil covered plastic tray and recycled. The foil covered plastic trays should be placed in the general waste.



SWEET AND BISCUIT TINS & BOXES

Plastic and metal tins and containers can be recycled in your kerbside recycling collection. Please remove all sweets and sweet wrappers first as these are not recyclable.



PLASTIC NET BAGS

The nets from satsumas and nuts are not recyclable and should be disposed of in your general waste bin. Before disposing of them they can be reused as pan scourers.



POLYSTYRENE PACKAGING

Polystyrene blocks and small shapes aren't acceptable in your kerbside recycling collection. Please dispose of them in your general waste bin or at your local RHWS.



LEFTOVERS & SURPLUS FOOD

Surplus food should be eaten, frozen or shared before it becomes inedible. Help with storing and cooking leftovers can be found at www.lovefoodhatewaste.com The free Olio app is a good way to share unwanted food items.

Food waste should be disposed of in your general waste bin and never in your kerbside recycling collection. Uncooked vegetable peelings can be home composted.



BOTTLES & CANS

Can be recycled in your kerbside recycling collection. Remember to rinse out first, drain and then pop the lid back on before recycling. Bottles and cans can also be taken to bring banks and RHWS sites for recycling.



ALUMINIUM FOIL & FOIL TRAYS

These can be recycled in your kerbside recycling collection. Make sure foil and trays are clean and dry to avoid contaminating other recyclable materials in your collection. Foil should be screwed into a ball at least the size of a pingpong ball to prevent it being lost during the recycling process.



CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

The majority of decorations are not recyclable and need to be disposed of in your general waste bin or taken to a RHWS for disposal. This includes baubles (glass or plastic) and tinsel. If the decorations are in good condition they could be donated to charity instead. Broken baubles and ornaments with sharp edges should be carefully wrapped before disposal to reduce the chance of anyone being harmed.



CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

Crackers tend to be made up of a mix of materials and components making them unsuitable for recycling. Place them in your general waste bin. Consider making or investing in reusable crackers next year.



GIFT WRAP

Paper that's not shiny or covered in lots of glitter can be recycled in your kerbside recycling collection. Shiny metallic and laminated paper can't be recycled and should go into your general waste bin. If in doubt do the scrunch test. Tissue and crepe paper can't be recycled. Gift tags, sticky tape, string, bows and ribbons cannot be recycled and should be removed from recyclable paper and disposed of in your general waste bin.



CARDS AND ENVELOPES

All types of envelopes can be recycled in your kerbside recycling collection. Cards can be recycled there too as long as they are not too shiny and don't contain any glitter or other embellishments.

Cards covered with glitter or with lots of other embellishments cannot be recycled and will need to be placed in your general waste bin or reused for home made gift tags.



GIFT BAGS

Paper and card gift bags can be reused, or recycled in your kerbside recycling collection. Bags with lots of glitter or other embellishments and those made from anything other than paper or cardboard can't be recycled. These should be reused or placed in your general waste bin.



TOYS AND GAMES

Toys in good condition can be donated to charity. Generally toys are not recyclable because they are made of hard plastics and / or a mixture of different materials that aren't widely recycled. Place small toys in your general waste bin. Larger items can be disposed of at a RHWS.



UNWANTED GIFTS

Unwanted items should be returned to the shop (always give a gift receipt), re-sold, donated to charity or passed on to other people.



REMEMBER WHEN RECYCLING

Empty, rinse and dry all bottles and containers.
Place the lid back on all bottles, jars and containers
Packaging should be empty, and items should go in loose (separate)
Flatten cardboard and keep it dry.