

Don't Take a Holiday From Recycling!



How to Have a "Greener" Holiday Season Brought to you by the City of Griffin Solid Waste Department

- Americans throw away 25% more trash during the Thanksgiving to New Year's holiday season than any other time of year. **This extra garbage amounts to 25 million tons of trash.**
- If every family in the U.S. reused just 2 feet of holiday ribbon, the **38,000 miles** of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the entire planet.
- The 2.65 billion Christmas cards sold each year in the U.S. could fill a football field 10 stories high. If we each sent one card less, we'd save **50,000 cubic yards of paper.**



Items to Recycle:

- Corrugated cardboard boxes (flatten and place next to your recycle can)
- Gift boxes
- Gift catalogs
- Newspapers filled with advertising inserts
- Wrapping paper / Gift Bags
- greeting cards

Tips for a Greener Holiday Season

- Use reusable shopping bags. This will reduce the number of plastic bags that get trashed and minimize the amount of petroleum used to make them. If you receive plastic bags, remember to recycle them.
- Send your holiday greetings in electronic form. E-cards can be enhanced with sound and animation and they create no physical waste.
- If you use traditional gift wrapping, always buy recycled-content wrapping paper. If your store doesn't sell recycled-content wrapping paper, ask the manager to order it in the future.
- If you send holiday cards, buy recycled-content cards and envelopes. Or make your own cards.
- Remove your name from the mailing list of any catalog you no longer wish to receive. Eliminate unwanted credit offers by calling 1-888-5OptOut (1-888-567-8688) or visiting www.optoutprescreen.com.
- Shipping a gift? Reuse the foam peanuts from another package. Return unwanted Styrofoam packing PEANUTS to local [UPS Stores](#). Please call before delivering.
- Rechargeable batteries and a battery charger are a great gift, and cut down on the consumption of batteries.
- Recycle your tree at our Annual Bring One to the Chipper event. Remove all lights, wire, tinsel, ornaments, nails, stands and other materials that are not part of the actual tree. The City of Griffin grinds the trees into mulch that will end up in gardens throughout our community next spring.

Green Gift-Giving Ideas

- Not sure what to get someone? How about a gift certificate?
- Make gifts. Everyone appreciates a home-cooked meal or baked goodies.
- Consider non-material gifts. Tickets to a sporting event, movie, play, or concert are a real treat! Or make a charitable donation in someone's name.
- Think durable! Consider how long an item will last before you make a purchase. Often, a cheaper item will wear out long before its more durable equivalent.
- Look for items made with recycled content.

Green Gift Wrapping Ideas

- Design your own gift-wrap by using a paper grocery or department store bag and adding decorations such as drawings, stamped patterns, or pictures cut from magazines. Let the kids do the designing. It will keep them busy on stormy days.
- Replace tissue paper with old lace or strips of paper shopping bags or used gift wrap.
- Make gift boxes by wrapping tops and bottoms separately. Then reuse the boxes year after year; no need to rip away the wrapping paper!
- Save bows and wrapping paper for next year. Buy recycled-content gift wrap and greeting cards.
- Hang earrings, bracelets, or necklaces right on the Christmas tree, or put them inside or around an open ornament.

For further information or any questions you may have, contact the City of Griffin
Solid Waste Department at 770-229-6421.