



Recreation Recycles



Wrap It Up! Sustainably!

December 2021

HOLIDAY WRAP WASTE

- American's generate 25% more waste from Thanksgiving to New Years.
- 4.6 million tons of wrapping paper is wasted every holiday season.
- If every American family wrapped just 3 presents in reused materials, it would save enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields.
- If every family reused just two feet of holiday ribbon, the 38,000 miles of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the entire planet.



Recycling Tip:

Wrapping paper, ribbon and bows are not accepted with the curbside recycling in CT.

Reuse it!

Reboot Eco, 131 River Road, is accepting gift wrap for recycling. If you use gift wrap, and I can't be reused, save it and bring it here for special recycling.



Low Waste Gift Ideas

Shop Local * Make a Meal * Make a craft * Offer a Skill * Sew on Buttons * Museum Pass * Coffee Time * Spa Date * Gym Membership * Take a Trip * Visit the Zoo * Take a hike * Concert or Play Tickets * Library Card * Go Out To Eat * Nature Walk * Babysit * Reusable razor * Cloth napkins * Go on an Adventure *

Sources:

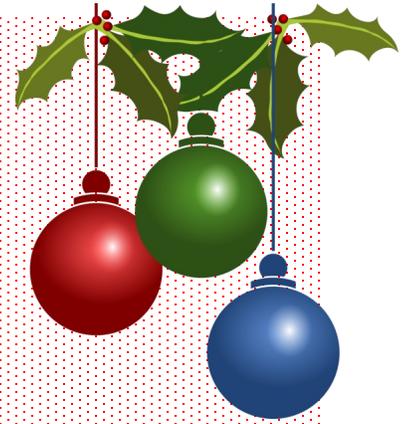
Center for Biological Diversity, www.simplifytheholidays.org.

Stanford University Waste Prevention, <https://lbre.stanford.edu/pssistanford-recycling>

For more information on recycling, contact the Middletown Recycling Coordinator at 860-638-4855 or recycling@middletownct.gov or find go to: <https://www.middletownct.gov/190/Recycling>.



How To Make: Sustainable Holiday Wrappings



Make the Wrap Part of the Gift!

Wrap the gift up in a bandana, cloth napkin, pillow case, produce bag or some other kind of item that can be part of the gift.

Use Reusable Wraps

Use a piece of fabric or reusable cloth gift bag to package the gift. You can make or purchase reusable gift bags of any size (TIP: if there's multiple gifts, use one big bag!) or you can wrap up gifts using the Furoshiki method which is a Japanese practice of wrapping items in cloth.



Use Reusable Boxes, Baskets, Jars or Tins

Save your pretty boxes, baskets, jars and tins through the year and use them for presents. Tie them up with twine, and add a twig of evergreen or a dried orange, and you have a beautiful package!



Alternative Wraps

If the item has to be wrapped, reuse wrapping paper, or use old calendars, maps, or brown shopping bags and tie it with twine. You can also be creative and use materials that other items were packaged in, such as turn a potato chip bag inside out or use a [single use cooler bag](#).

Skip the Wrap!

The most sustainable way to wrap gifts, is not to wrap them at all! Decorate it with twine or reused ribbon and use something natural instead of a traditional bow.

Most importantly, don't stress the gifts or the wrap! You don't need to spend hours shopping and wrapping! It's the thought and the time together that counts.

