



IDAHO
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QUALITY

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Pollution Prevention for the Holidays

Help protect the environment this holiday season by adopting a few of the practices below.

Recycle

- ✿ Many communities offer recycling programs for cardboard, aluminum, magazines, catalogs, and other common products. Contact your city public works department, local landfill, or trash hauler to find out about services in your community or consult the Idaho Recycling and Waste Management Directory at www.deq.idaho.gov/waste/recycling/recycle_home.cfm.
- ✿ Recycle batteries. Many communities offer battery recycling through their household hazardous waste programs. Batteries often contain metals that can be harmful to the environment. Also, consider using rechargeable batteries.
- ✿ Recycle your Christmas tree. Most communities offer tree-recycling programs. Call your city or county public works division or trash hauler for more information.

Look for ways to recycle or re-use nontraditional items

- ✿ Many local packaging/ mailing stores accept Styrofoam peanuts for recycling. Call stores in your area to see if they offer these services.
- ✿ Cut the covers off of old greeting cards for use as gift tags.

Explore ways to reduce the generation of waste

- ✿ Use reusable canvas bags when shopping for gifts.
- ✿ Reduce paper waste. Use reusable gift bags or the comics section from newspapers to wrap gifts.
- ✿ Email your holiday letters instead of cards.
- ✿ Do you receive catalogs you don't want? Call the company's 1-800 number and remove your name from mailing lists. Ten catalogs equal 3.5 pounds of waste!
- ✿ Look for gifts with minimal packaging.
- ✿ Give gift certificates, concert tickets or tickets to a local sporting event. They use less wrap material. Memberships to museums also make a great and thoughtful gift.

Reduce your waste when entertaining

- ✿ Buy products in bulk for your holiday parties.
- ✿ Rent dishes and utensils for large parties rather than use disposable or use disposable with recycled paper content.

Think beyond recycling

- ✿ Conserve energy. Install timers on your holiday lights. Purchase LED Christmas lights which use less energy and last longer than traditional bulbs.
- ✿ Drive less. Take the bus to the mall or carpool with a friend. Combine multiple errands in a single trip to reduce the vehicle miles you travel. This will help reduce air pollution and save you money by reducing the amount of gas you use.
- ✿ Buy a potted Christmas tree that can be planted after the holiday.