

# REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!



**DON'T LET THE  
HOLIDAYS GO TO WASTE!**

## Holiday Decorating

- **Garlands** made from strung popcorn, cranberries, and dried oranges are unique and low waste.
- Invite family and friends to **create holiday decorations** such as ornaments made from old greeting cards or salt dough.
- **Potpourri** made from kitchen spices such as cinnamon and cloves creates an inviting, cozy atmosphere.
- **Treecycle** your holiday tree, free of charge, at the Northern Landfill located at 1400 Baltimore Blvd., Westminster.

## Holiday Greetings, Gift Wrapping, & Packaging

- **Substitute store bought wrapping paper** with paper shopping bags and customize with paints, markers, and stamps. Newsprint, butcher's paper, and old newspapers work too.
- When choosing wrapping paper and greeting cards at the store, opt for non-metallic and glitter free as these are recyclable. **Look for recycled items.**
- Make **gift tags** from last year's holiday cards.
- Use **colored twine** in place of ribbon. **Reuse** bows, gifts bags, and tissue paper.
- Package gifts in a **reusable bag**, an attractive piece of **fabric**, a decorative **dish towel**, etc. – the wrapping can be part of the gift!
- When packing gifts **reuse gift boxes and cardboard boxes.** Save air pillows, packing peanuts, or other packaging materials and reuse. Leftover tissue paper, old paper shopping bags, and shredded paper are also great reuse packing materials.

## Gift-Giving

- **Make gifts!** Get crafty and make some upcycled creations to give.
- Everyone appreciates a **homemade sweet treat** or a **homecooked meal**; package them in an attractive reusable container.
- **Gift an experience** like tickets to a show or a sporting event, a museum membership, or movie passes. Digital memberships for entertainment and wellness make a great gift too.
- Try **buying secondhand** at a thrift store or an antique shop.
- Winter blooming **bulbs and plants** will lift spirits and brighten up any room.
- Consider the **durability** of a product before you buy it as a gift. Cheaper, less durable items often wear out quickly, creating waste and costing you money.
- **Gift sustainably** by giving items that can be reused or are multipurpose.
- **Donate toys** and other items that are in good condition.
- Choose items with **minimal packaging** and those made with recycled content.
- And remember to bring a **reusable shopping bag!**

## Holiday Meals & Entertaining

- Set the table with **cloth napkins and reusable dishes, glasses, and silverware.** Consider renting more formal tableware that you might not use very often.
- Try **not to over-buy food for holiday meals** and store leftovers in reusable containers.
- **Compost** acceptable food scraps.

Did you know that household garbage generated between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, typically increases by as much as 25%? Here are some ideas for an Earth-friendly, low-waste holiday season!



**Happy Holidays from the Office of Recycling!**

For more information visit [RecycleCarroll.org](http://RecycleCarroll.org) or email [recycling@carrollcountymd.gov](mailto:recycling@carrollcountymd.gov)