

Recycling right this Christmas

Your essential guide



 **recycle**
for Crawley

crawley.gov.uk/waste


Crawley
Borough Council



A lot of the extra waste created during the festive season can be recycled. Most of us recycle lots at this time of year, but are

we getting it right? See below to find out more about what can and can't be recycled over the festive season.

Help make sure your recycling can have a new use by keeping all your items clean, dry and loose!

REDtop recycling bins

Paper and card

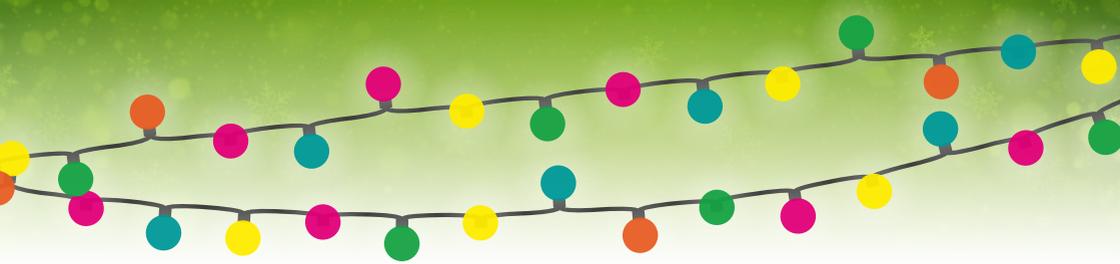
- Wrapping paper can be recycled – just remove any bows, ribbons, and excess Sellotape first. Foil and plastic wrapping paper can't be recycled – so think green when you choose your gift-wrap this year. Alternatively cut up used wrapping paper into strips and make paper chains
- Recycle Christmas cards and gift tags, just remove the string first. Or cut up old cards and use them as gift tags next year
- Cardboard advent calendars can be put in your recycling bin but just

take out the plastic insert that holds the chocolates and put both parts separately into your recycling bin

- Flatten cardboard boxes from presents and online deliveries to make more room in your recycling bin. Remember to remove any bubble wrap, polystyrene or polythene bags first as these can't be recycled.

Metal cans and aerosols

- Over Christmas we often get given tins of sweets and biscuits – these can be recycled
- Ensure alcohol and soft drink cans are empty before recycling
- Aerosol cans such as spray cream cans can also go for recycling but make sure they are empty and don't pierce them
- Metal lids from glass jars containing cranberry sauce, mincemeat, jam, pickle or olives and metal lids / caps from wine and beer bottles can also be recycled
- Please do not dispose of old and broken saucepans and baking trays in your recycling bin. These should be taken to the Recycling Centre at Metcalf Way and placed in with the scrap metal containers.



Foil

- The most common foil containers found over Christmas are from mince pies – these can be popped straight into your recycling bin. Remember you can recycle the cardboard box and plastic tray the mince pies come in, but remove the plastic cellophane wrapping as this can't be recycled
- Other aluminium food trays from takeaways and some meats and ready-made food can be recycled, just give them a good wash before doing so
- Foil wrappers such as chocolate coins can be put into your recycling bin. However, foil and plastic-based wrapped paper from chocolate bars and crisp packets cannot go into your recycling bin because it has a plastic coating. So how do you know when foil can be recycled? Follow the 'scrunch test'; scrunch the foil item in your hand, if it stays scrunched up when you let it go it can go in the recycling bin. If it springs back, it contains plastic and cannot be recycled.

Glass bottles and jars

- After your Christmas party remember to put clean, empty wine and beer bottles in your recycling bin at home
- Making your own mince pies and Christmas puddings? Empty, clean mincemeat jars can go in your recycling bin, along with the usual jam, cranberry sauce and pickle jars
- Please don't put other glass items in your recycling bin such as drinking glasses, Pyrex dishes and glass baubles as they have different chemical properties.

Plastic bottles, pots, tubs, and trays

- All plastic bottles can go in your recycling bin. Don't forget to recycle the plastic bottles found in the bathroom such as shampoo, shower gel and cosmetic bottles. The lids on plastic bottles can also now be recycled – please rinse the bottle, squash and place the lid back on the top



- Other plastic containers such as Christmas pudding pots, fruit punnets, coleslaw tubs, yoghurt pots, margarine and ice cream tubs can all go into recycling bins, but don't forget to give them a quick rinse to clean them first
- Many items that are bought for Christmas presents such as toys, bathroom and cosmetic sets are sold in a fancy cardboard box with a plastic insert containing the product. Both packaging items can be recycled.

Cartons

- Food and drink cartons, often known as Tetra Paks, are made from paperboard with a plastic coating, and often a foil lining. Over the festive period the most popular cartons that tend to get used are soup, fruit juice, long life milk and chopped tomatoes. Just give your cartons a quick rinse out so they don't have any food left in them and pop them in your recycling bin
- Pringles' tubes are made up of several materials including a cardboard outer layer, foil lined inner, metal base and plastic lid. Despite this you can recycle them. Please ensure they are empty and put the plastic lid in your recycling bin separately from the tube.

Other Christmas recycling and waste reduction tips

Textiles

- Lots of gifts given at Christmas are new clothes such as pyjamas and socks. If you are clearing out your wardrobe to make space, small amounts of clean, dry, unwanted textiles can be put next to your bins in tied carrier bags for collection. Print a textiles label at crawley.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling or make your own and attach it to your bags to identify the contents
- Good quality clothing can be given to charity shops as well.

Small electricals

- If you are getting new electrical appliances, Christmas lights, or other items for Christmas, please remember to dispose of old and broken ones correctly. Small amounts of old or broken small electrical items can be put next to your bins in tied carrier bags for collection. Print a small electricals label at crawley.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling or make your own and attach it to your bags to identify the contents
- Larger items such as televisions can be taken to the Recycling Centre at Metcalf Way for safe disposal.



Batteries

- Lots of toys and other gifts require batteries. Old batteries can be recycled either at shops which sell them or by placing in a small clear plastic bag (such as a sandwich bag) or clean pot or tub with a lid and place it on top of your rubbish bin on collection day
- Please do not place batteries inside your recycling or rubbish bin as they can cause fires if they end up in the wrong place!
- Rechargeable batteries are a great option to save money and reduce your carbon footprint, as one rechargeable battery can replace thousands of single-use ones.

Christmas trees

- If you are a GREENbin garden waste customer, you can place one real Christmas tree (minus lights and tinsel) out with your first GREENbin collection after Christmas. Either chop it up and place in your garden waste bin or place it by the side
- Real Christmas trees can also be taken to the Recycling Centre at Metcalf Way and placed into the green garden waste section.

Food and drink waste

- Around 40 per cent of the rubbish in an average rubbish bin is made up of food waste. Most of this is avoidable and 70 per cent could have been eaten at some point. Saving food from the bin is not only good for the environment but can also save you money; waste food is the equivalent of £20 per month per person, or £70 per month for a family of four
- Shop smart – plan meals, make a shopping list and buy seasonal produce
- Visit the **Love Food Hate Waste website** for ideas, recipes and information on how to use up Christmas leftovers.

Plastic bags and other plastic film

- Soft plastic packaging such as bread roll, biscuit, crisps, sweets, and toilet roll packets as well as the packaging around fruit and vegetables can be saved and taken to many local supermarkets which have soft plastics recycling points normally within the store.

Other useful information

Adverse weather conditions

Recycling and rubbish collections could be affected by heavy snow and ice.

Keep up-to-date by signing up to the council's alerts service at crawley.gov.uk/snow or via:

twitter.com/crawleybc

facebook.com/crawleycouncil

Recycling Centre (RC)

Extra rubbish and recycling, including real Christmas trees, can be taken to the RC at Metcalf Way, Langley Green. For opening times, visit recycleforwestsussex.org

General enquiries

Contact **01293 438772** for more information and advice or visit westsussex.gov.uk/recycling

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