



Holiday Recycling Tips

December 21, 2016



You can picture it in your mind. Family and friends are gathered for a holiday celebration. They exchange presents, and ribbons, bows and wrapping paper are left scattered about. It's part of the American holiday tradition.

This holiday season, Americans will generate 25% more waste than normal. Remarkably, roughly 80% of what is thrown away during the holidays could be recycled, according to the EPA.

The Arlington Landfill team encourages you to incorporate sustainability into your holiday festivities with these simple tips:

1. Save and reuse gift bags, ribbons and bows for next year.
2. Recycle that wrapping paper... even the glittery kind!
3. Curb paper waste by creating personalized e-cards using one of the many user-friendly websites available.
4. Use shredded paper for packing instead of foam.
5. Make a shopping list before going to the store to avoid food waste.
6. Save and reuse the bubble wrap.
7. Always make sure your recyclables are **Empty, Clean & Dry** before tossing them into the recycling container.

Why? Think of a common milk jug. While you might leave milk and cookies out for Santa, if that jug isn't **Empty** of its contents, **Clean** of any residue, and **Dry** before being tossed into a recycling container, the milk can spill onto other recyclables. The milk could potentially ruin – or contaminate – all the other recyclables around it.

By following **Empty, Clean & Dry**, you can help ensure that your recyclables are ultimately repurposed into new materials, as originally intended.

So, this season, remember to recycle that wrapping paper, reuse packing foam and follow **Empty, Clean & Dry**.

Wishing you and yours a happy, healthy and sustainable holiday season!

Sincerely,

Dave Hildreth
Arlington Landfill