

## Holiday Cleanup

### Why we care

If you find yourself wondering what to do with that pile of wrapping paper and packaging left over from the holidays, you are not alone. Americans throw away 25% more trash than usual between Thanksgiving and New Year's, much of which will end up in a landfill. The most problematic packaging is also quite common. Styrofoam has a useful life of mere days but exists in the environment for hundreds or even thousands of years harming wildlife. But you can avoid the "take, make, waste" culture and reuse and recycle instead.

### Simple, positive steps

- **Save giftwrap** to reuse over again.
- **Recycle leftover paper** curbside (no metal foil or glitter though).
- **Take plastic bags** to a Fred Meyer, New Seasons, Albertsons, Safeway, QFC, or Winco store **and containers with numbers**, such as clamshells, to a [James recycling event](#) or subscribe to [Ridwell](#).
- **Recycle block foam** packaging at [Agilyx](#).
- **Take foam peanuts, bubble wrap, and mailing boxes** to a mailing service shop for reuse. Call Metro (503-234-3000) for a site near you.
- **Recycle Electronics and string lights** at depots found on [Metro's website](#).
- **Cut up your Christmas tree** and put in your yard debris bin. Or contact [Metro](#) to find a Boy Scout or other nonprofit group that collects trees for recycling.
- **Fill a box to take to [SCRAP](#)** for reuse in art projects, such as
  - Wrapping paper, gift bags, ribbon and bows
  - Small glass jars with lids, tins, bottle caps sorted by color, corks, candle wax

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