

Holiday Packaging

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 polluting water and 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 foil, glitter, or plastic coating, though).
- **Take plastic bags and containers** with numbers, such as clamshells, to one of the [Far West Fiber Recycling sites](#).
- **Recycle block foam** packaging for free at one of three locations:
 - Far West Recycling, Beaverton
 - Far West Recycling, Hillsboro
 - [SW Community Recycling](#), February 6, 9:00 a.m. – noon, St. Luke Lutheran Church
- **Take foam peanuts, bubble wrap, and mailing boxes** to a mailing service shop for reuse. Contact Metro (503-234-3000) for the closest site.
- **Fill a box to take to [SCRAP](#)** for reuse in art projects, such as:
 - Small glass jars with lids, tins, and cardboard boxes; shopping bags, bottle caps, and jar lids
 - Wrapping paper, gift bags, greeting cards and envelopes, ribbon and bows

Questions or feedback? Contact Jeanne Roy at jeanne@earthleaders.org.