

# How to have a more sustainable Christmas and New Year

## Recycling at Christmas

Recycling organisation, [RecycleNow](#), have discovered that 300,000 tonnes of card is used in UK households during Christmas. This could nearly wrap Big Ben 260,000 times.

With so much waste being used over the festive period, it is important to make eco-friendly choices on how to manage waste.

See our hints and tips listed below to help you reduce your carbon footprint.

### Christmas wrapping

To find out whether your wrapping paper can go in your clear recycling bag, do the scrunch test. If the paper stays in a ball after being scrunched up, it can be recycled.

Foil wrapping or paper that has glitter on, cannot be recycled.

Please try and remove tape, ribbon and bows before recycling.

If your wrapping paper stays scrunched up, you can place it in your [clear recycling bag to be recycled](#).

Alternatively, rather than use wrapping paper, consider using a reusable gift bag, or trying the Japanese art of wrapping with cloth – [Furoshiki](#)

### Food Waste

There are many ways to reduce food waste over Christmas and the new year period. [Love Food Hate Waste](#) has lots of Christmas savvy hints and tips including a handy portion planner, great ideas for using up leftover food and ideas for stress free storage to keep your food in use for longer.

Have too much leftover edible food? Consider sharing with your neighbours, donating to a food bank, or food sharing apps such as [Olio](#) or [Too Good to Go](#).

Unopened boxes of chocolates, biscuits etc. can be regifted or given to charity.

All left over food, including meat and bones (once removed from packaging) can go in your [food caddy](#).

### Unwanted gifts?

Don't throw your unwanted gift away.

Consider re-gifting it, donating to charity or bringing along to the next [Give and Take Day](#). A Give and Take Day is a chance for residents to give away stuff that they no longer, and take stuff that you do, all for free. It's the ultimate in reuse!

Other options also include listing on free sharing websites such as Freecycle and Freegle.

### **Getting rid of electrical items, batteries or textiles?**

Have you received new electrical items, such as speakers, laptops, TV's, coffee machines and more? No longer need to keep your old items? Items with a plug shouldn't go in the general waste bins and nor should household batteries

Each estate has at least one electrical item and batteries recycling points – please speak to your estate office to find your nearest recycling point.

Each estate also has its own recycling point for textiles such as clothes, shoes (please tie /join each shoe together) and accessories such as handbags and ties. Please speak to your estate office to find out where this is.

### **Lots of packaging from Christmas presents and New Year celebrations?**

You can recycle lots of items in the [clear bag recycling service](#) including common festive items such as

- glass and plastic bottles
- plastic and metal tubs and pots (sweets and biscuits)
- mince pie cases
- foil and foil cooking trays
- wrapping paper
- cardboard (please remove polystyrene)

### **General waste**

The following materials can not be recycled in the clear recycling bags and should be placed in the general waste (or consider keeping for future reuse)

- natural cork
- crisp packets and chocolate wrappers
- bows, ribbons, and sticky tape
- foil wrapping paper
- wrapping paper with glitter on
- polystyrene
- bubble wrap
- anything that cannot be recycled

## **Recycle your real Christmas tree**

We will be collecting real Christmas trees from estates – please remove all decorations and contact your Estate Office for further information.

Did you know – you can also [rent a real Christmas tree](#)? This is great for sustainability and reduces waste too.