




# GreenWays

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## ZERO WASTE HOLIDAY TIPS

In the spirit of the Holidays, we often buy more this time of year. While our intentions are good, this can result in a lot of extra waste. When planning your Holiday festivities, consider some of these zero waste tips:



## HOLIDAY COLLECTION SERVICE:

GreenWaste of Palo Alto will be closed on Christmas (December 25th) and New Year's Day (January 1st). All regular collection days are affected by the Holidays this year and will be moved to the following day. Regular collection schedules will resume the following week.



If you are ordering gifts online, consider the amount of packaging that is required for shipping. When ordering multiple items, request that items are packaged together to reduce the amount of packaging used. If purchasing gifts in a store, look for retailers that offer package-free products. Consider gifting activities instead of items such as movie tickets, a museum tour, or a day trip to make memories that last a lifetime.

When decorating your business for the Holiday season, focus on reducing disposable and plastic items to reduce waste. Consider compostable décor such as pinecones, natural foliage, or dried fruits or invest in items that can be reused for many years to come. Be creative and reduce waste!

Be mindful of your indoor compost, recycle, and landfill waste stations during Holiday parties and events. Larger events produce more waste and ensuring proper waste sorting and management is critical to meeting

zero waste requirements. Consider designating a zero waste role for a person to monitor the waste stations during events and provide direction when needed. Contact GreenWaste of Palo Alto Customer Service if you have any questions!



## BE RECYCLE READY

After the Holiday parties are finished, will your blue recycle container be "Recycle-Ready"? Food and liquids can ruin the recycling. The recycle market requires high-quality materials to ensure they can be utilized and repurposed. Paper needs to be clean and dry. Bottles and containers need to be empty of food and liquid. Only then are they in good enough condition to be recycled into new materials. The rest are sent to landfill. Make sure your blue recycle container is "Recycle-Ready."



- Check what goes where:
  - Put only accepted items in the cart. For waste sorting guides visit [cityofpaloalto.org/wgwtools](http://cityofpaloalto.org/wgwtools)
- Empty bottles, cans, & containers:



## SORTING GUIDANCE: WAXED CARDBOARD

Waxed Cardboard is compostable!

Waxed cardboard is multi-layered: cardboard with a coating of plastic used to keep foods fresh and prevent soginess. It is a mixed material that is not recyclable, but it is compostable.

Waxed cardboard and other waxed paper containers such as milk cartons and paper coffee cups are compostable. They are processed through high heat and anaerobic digestion, which breaks down the organic material. Plastics and other contaminants



## WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU

Set your year off to a good start by establishing some zero waste goals with the help of the GreenWaste Environmental Outreach Coordinators (EOCs)!

EOCs can provide your business with several free resources to help get on the path to zero waste. These resources include:

- Comprehensive guides outlining recycling, composting, and landfill requirements.
- Zero waste best management practices.
- Waste station placement.
- Bag and

- Pour out liquids.
- Scrape out food.
- Wipe out oily or sticky residue.
- Compost food & soiled paper:
  - Grimy, gooey, greasy, or wet paper goes in the green compost cart.

Still unsure of how to get Recycle Ready? Visit, [www.cityofpaloalto.org/RecycleReady](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/RecycleReady) or contact GreenWaste of Palo Alto Customer Service. Together we can make Palo Alto Recycle-Ready!

from these waxed paper products are screened off during the process and the clean organics are sent to make compost.

If you're able to see or feel a waxy residue when you scrape the side of the cardboard box, it is waxed cardboard and perfect for the green compost bin! If you're still unsure, contact GreenWaste Customer Service at (650) 493-4894 or [pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com](mailto:pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com).

- Day and container purchasing recommendations
- Clean Up Day program scheduling and assistance.

Additionally, our EOCs offer waste sorting presentations for staff and employees, building walkthroughs, event tablings upon request, and MORE!

Contact GreenWaste Customer Service at (650) 493-4894 or [pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com](mailto:pacustomerservice@greenwaste.com) to get in touch with an EOC and utilize these great resources.