

# GreenWays

THE QUARTERLY RESIDENTIAL NEWSLETTER FROM GREENWASTE OF PALO ALTO WINTER 2024

## ZERO WASTE HOLIDAY TIPS

**During the holidays, let's work towards reducing waste!** Consider our zero waste tips when planning your holiday festivities.

**Purchasing Gifts:** If you are ordering gifts from an online retailer, consider the amount of packaging that is required for shipping. Some retailers, such as Amazon, offer "frustration-free" packaging on certain products, which reduces the amount of packaging used and ensures each component is recyclable. Another option is requesting that all items be packaged together. If purchasing gifts in a store, you can look for retailers that offer package-free products and don't forget your reusable shopping bag!

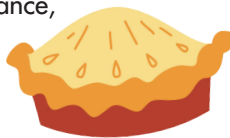


To reduce waste even further this year, gift experiences, subscriptions, a holiday craft projects, or services instead of a physical gift. A museum visit, a trip to your favorite restaurant, or movie and theatre tickets are great alternatives.



**Gift Wrap:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 1 million tons of wrapping paper end up in the landfill each year! Look for wrapping paper made of recycled paper or, better yet, wrap gifts in newspaper, magazines, paper bags, or scarves, which can make equally festive gifts. Keep intact gift wrap, ribbons, and decorations to use again next year!

**Holiday Food:** Reduce food waste by planning meals in advance, storing leftovers in clear containers, composting food scraps, and donating extra food. Try the GUEST-IMATOR tool for portion planning at [www.savethefood.com](http://www.savethefood.com). Shop your kitchen first – watch the Freestyle Cooking Workshop at [www.cityofpaloalto.org/foodwaste](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/foodwaste) to get tips on how to whip up something tasty with whatever you have handy.



**Holiday Décor:** Aim for reusable or natural décor items. For lighting, utilize LED string lights on trees or outdoor decorating which are reusable and have a long lifespan. For other decorations, invest in durable, reusable pieces or compostable natural decorations such as pine cones, real foliage, fruits, and vegetables.

## HOLIDAY DECORATION HIGHLIGHTS

- **CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION:** For the four weeks following Christmas Day, Christmas trees will be collected curbside. Christmas trees must be undecorated, unflocked, cut into four-foot lengths with the stands removed, and placed curbside next to your green compost cart. Wreaths, garland, and other greenery must be undecorated, unflocked, removed of wiring and support systems, cut into small pieces, and placed in your compost cart.

Be mindful when choosing an artificial tree versus a real tree. Artificial trees are not recyclable or compostable and must be landfilled at the end of their life. Reuse your artificial tree for several years and be sure to donate it if you plan to replace it.

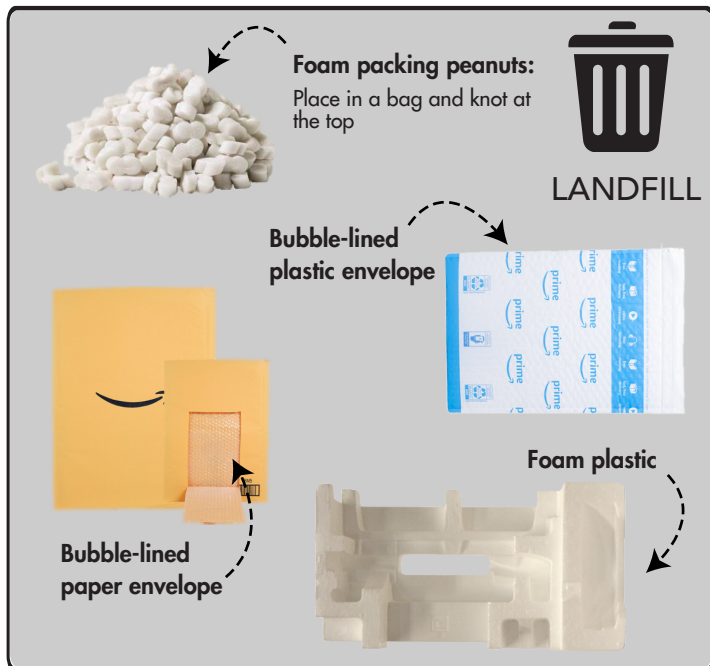


## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE:**  
Every Saturday 9am-11pm  
First Friday of each month 3pm-5pm  
2501 Embarcadero Way, Palo Alto
- **HHW STATION CLOSURES:**  
December 28, 2024  
January 3, 2025  
January 4, 2025

# WHAT PACKAGING IS RECYCLABLE?

Products ordered online are often delivered with excessive amounts of packaging material, especially during the holidays. Here are some helpful reminders to ensure you place packaging materials into the correct cart.



## COLLECTION SCHEDULE CHANGES: HOLIDAY SERVICE DAYS



### Mark your calendars for the holiday service schedule changes!

GreenWaste of Palo Alto is closed on Christmas (December 25) and New Year's Day (January 1). If your regular collection day falls on or after one of these holidays, your collection day will be moved to the next day for the rest of the week.

Remember to set out your carts by 6:00am on the date illustrated below. Happy holidays!

### DECEMBER

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

### DECEMBER/JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

Regular collection schedules will resume the following week. Contact GreenWaste Customer Service if you have any questions.

## NEW YEAR, GREENER YOU!

This New Year, we challenge you to commit to changes that will better yourself, your community, AND the environment. Incorporate these "green" tips into your New Year's resolutions:

**Switch to Reusables:** Within your home, replace disposables with durable, reusable alternatives such as snack packs, cleaning spray bottles, wool dryer balls, and more. Outside of your home, bring your reusables with you such as taking a reusable mug to a local coffee shop and packing your own utensils for your lunch at work!

**Reduce Household Food Waste:** Make a shopping list with weekly meals in mind, freeze what you can't eat in time, and shop your kitchen first instead of buying more. For more tips on food waste reduction check out: [www.cityofpaloalto.org/foodwaste](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/foodwaste)

**Compost Beyond Food Scraps:** Compost your paper towels, tissues, pizza boxes, paper take-out containers, and other soiled paper items. You'll not only make a vital soil amendment, you'll also create renewable energy and reduce greenhouse gases.