



City of Davis Public Works Department

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Environmental column

December 15, 2006

By Jennifer Franceschine, Conservation Coordinator

HERE'S HOW TO CUT HOLIDAY WASTE

'Tis the season to recycle! Did you know that Americans throw away 25% more trash during the Thanksgiving to New Year's holiday period than any other time of year? During the holidays, please help us reduce waste by recycling and reusing as much as you can!

Compost your tree after the holidays! Remove the lights, ornaments, tinsel and the tree stand. Cut trees over 6 ft. tall in half and put trees on the street with your yard material for recycling. Trees should not be larger than 5 feet in any direction. Davis Waste Removal will collect trees for composting on your scheduled yard waste collection day.

- **CORRUGATED CARDBOARD BOXES**— Reuse as storage containers or gift boxes. If reuse is not possible, flatten and stack cardboard boxes and place next to other recyclables on the curb. Please make sure all Styrofoam is removed from cardboard and placed in the trash.
- **PAPERBOARD BOXES, WRAPPING PAPER, CARDS**— Reuse cards as gift tags or turn into gift bookmarks for next year. Save wrapping paper and paperboard boxes to reuse next year. If you can't reuse them, these items can ALL be recycled with paper.
- **PACKING MATERIALS**— Please put all polystyrene packing "peanuts" in bags to prevent litter. Save and reuse packing peanuts and bubble wrap, or bring to The UPS Store or PDQ for reuse.
- **ELECTRONICS**— Donate your unwanted electronics to a local charity or thrift store. Computer monitors, TVs, cell phones, printers and all electronics are accepted on a daily basis during normal business hours for free recycling at the Yolo County Central Landfill (Road 28H & 104).
- **RIBBONS AND BOWS** are not recyclable but should be saved and reused.

To help reduce waste, use rechargeable batteries to power up your new electronics; bring your own bag when shopping, and when possible, buy products in bulk and with minimal packaging. Try to buy products made from recycled material. Instead of using wrapping paper, place gifts in reusable gift boxes and bags and then save the bags, boxes, ribbons and bows to use again next year. Consider donating your unwanted gifts to a local charity or thrift store instead of throwing them away. More holiday waste reduction tips can be found on the web at www.cityofdavis.org.

2007 ENVIRONMENTAL RESOLUTIONS

How about making New Years Resolutions that will benefit the environment?

- Compost your kitchen scraps. If you live in a single family home in Davis, call the Public Works Department for a free Compost Correspondence Course. All who complete the class receive a free plastic hoop compost bin. To learn more about composting, go to www.davisrecycling.org, click on “yard materials” and check out the Backyard Composting Guide.
- Reduce your junk mail. Here’s a way to stop waste before it starts! Go to www.stopjunkmail.com for a free junk mail reduction kit.
- Bring your own grocery bag. Think environmental and bring your own cloth bag or reuse a plastic or paper bag when you shop.
- Buy rechargeable batteries. An alkaline battery can only be used once, but rechargeable batteries can be recharged over 200 times!

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

All Yolo County residents are invited to bring their paint, florescent bulbs, antifreeze, etc. to the Yolo County Central Landfill for free drop-off during a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop-off Day. Next year there will be two HHW Drop-off Days per month at the landfill, starting with January 12 and 13. For more information on the HHW Drop-off Days, call 666-8729, or visit www.yolocounty.org/recycle.

YARD MATERIALS

Davis Waste Removal collects yard materials once a week, usually the day before trash pick-up. To make disposal of yard material easy for you and safe for others, please place your yard material 18” from the curb or gutter. Your pile of yard material should be no larger than 5’ in any dimension. Be aware that your yard material piles can create serious hazards for cyclists; **BIKE LANES SHOULD NEVER BE BLOCKED!!!** Acceptable materials for disposal include: grass clippings, brush, leaves, prunings, weeds, discarded floral displays, indoor plants, branches (less than 8 inches in diameter) and Christmas trees. Unacceptable materials include: sod, soil, fruit, concrete, flowerpots, florist wire, fencing, bricks and stumps.

For more information, visit www.davisrecycling.org or email me at PWweb@cityofdavis.org.