



## City of Davis Public Works Department

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Environmental column

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By Jennifer Gilbert, Conservation Coordinator

### HOLIDAY WASTE REDUCTION TIPS PART II

'Tis the season to recycle! As I mentioned last month, between Thanksgiving and the New Year, Americans generate an EXTRA million tons of waste EACH WEEK. Lets make Davis an exception to that rule by recycling and reusing as much as we 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, Pak Mail 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 can be recycled for free on a daily basis during normal business hours 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.davisrecycling.org](http://www.davisrecycling.org).

### 2008 ENVIRONMENTAL RESOLUTIONS

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

- Compost your kitchen scraps. Try worm composting—an easy and pest-free way to compost your fruits and veggies. To learn more, visit [www.davisrecycling.org](http://www.davisrecycling.org), and click on “worm composting”, or stop by the Public Works Department at 1717 5<sup>th</sup> Street to pick up a free worm composting brochure.
- Bring your own grocery bag. There is another option besides just paper or plastic. Think green and bring your own cloth bag or reuse a plastic or paper bag when you shop.
- Buy rechargeable batteries. Alkaline batteries can only be used once, but rechargeable batteries can be recharged over 200 times!

### FREE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF EVENT

Don't miss this month's free household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off events December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Yolo County Central Landfill! Bring in your paints, pesticides, fluorescent light bulbs, household cleaners, expired medicines and more for FREE and safe disposal. Mark your calendar for the HHW drop-off dates next month, January 11 and 12, from 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Check out the reuse opportunities at the landfill as well! During the HHW drop-off event and the following Saturday reusable items are available for FREE! Stop by the landfill during a HHW drop-off event or on December 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:00 am to take your pick of free paints, fertilizers, household cleaners and more!

For more information, visit [www.davisrecycling.org](http://www.davisrecycling.org) or email me at [PWweb@cityofdavis.org](mailto:PWweb@cityofdavis.org).