



## 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

'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. Let's 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 5 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. Remember to recycle those bottles and cans from holiday parties! More holiday waste reduction tips can be found on the web at [www.davisrecycling.org](http://www.davisrecycling.org).

### CONSERVE WATER AND SAVE MONEY ON YOUR SEWER BILL

Reducing the amount of water you use can have a large effect on your water and sewer bill. Earlier this year, the City Council adopted a methodology for variable sewer rates

based on water usage. Instead of a flat fee, sewer rates are now calculated using the average monthly winter water consumption. Winter water consumption is water used from November to February when irrigation is at a minimum. This methodology places an emphasis on estimating how much water is going down the sewer. To conserve water and save money on your sewer bill, be sure to re-set your irrigation timers for fall and winter. More water conservation tips are available online at [www.cityofdavis.org](http://www.cityofdavis.org).

Deep Fried Turkeys—If you cooked a turkey in one of those big outdoor fryers, you have several gallons of used cooking oil to deal with. It should never go down the drain. Please recycle it at one of the next free household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off events, December 12 and 13 from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Yolo County Central Landfill. Bring your empty propane canisters, 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 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00am to 2:00pm. Check out the reuse opportunities at the landfill as well. During each HHW drop-off event reusable items are available for FREE. Stop by the landfill during a HHW drop-off event 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).