



Holiday Wrap Recycling

On behalf of myself and the Forest Grove Sustainability Commission, we would like to remind you how to be a smart recycler this season and reduce your impact on the environment. During the Christmas holiday, it seems that as a society we generate more waste than at any other time during the year. What can a gift giver or gift receiver do? What are we supposed to do with the holiday wrapping paper? Is it recyclable? It depends.

There is nothing like a beautifully wrapped package given or received as a gift. The surprise waiting inside inevitably sends waves of joy through most of us, except maybe, a Scrooge. However, that beautifully wrapped gift may not be recyclable and be contributing to massive amounts of waste. Before you gift, consider the wrapping. Glossy, laminated, sparkly, foil and plastic based wrapping paper or bows and ribbons –are not recyclable. However, non-glossy, matte finish, basic craft wrapping paper is recyclable, feel free to fill your recycling bin with it. Or not. Choose better options. Get creative. Make your Holiday wrapping fun and protect the environment at the same time.

Below are some ideas to cut down use of non-recyclable wrapping paper and be a Smart Holiday Wrap Recycler!

Use/Reuse

- gift bags, over and over again.
- decorative tins or pre-decorated boxes or baskets
- paper from magazines, make a collage to wrap with
- old maps or posters
- paper grocery bags and paint decorations or add stickers
- Save the glossy, laminated, sparkly, foil and plastic based wrapping paper again by carefully unwrapping it and saving it for next year
- Save ribbons and bows as often as possible.

Before you wrap that gift, consider one of the ideas from above. Many of the materials can be used over and over again. “If every American family wrapped just 3 presents in re-used materials, it would save enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields.¹” Stick with reusable ways to wrap gifts. Be a smart Holiday Wrap Recycler this year and share these ideas with your family and friends. Future generations and the Forest Grove Sustainability Commission thank you.

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¹ <https://lbre.stanford.edu/pssistanford-recycling/frequently-asked-questions/frequently-asked-questions-holiday-waste-prevention>