

Recycling after the Christmas period

Christmas and the New Year is a time when we often produce more, and sometimes unusual types of waste. This is a quick guide to disposing of some common festive waste items in the post holiday period.

Items for kerbside recycling collections

- **Cards & envelopes** – place all cards and envelopes in your recycling bin, except those with glitter or other adornments which should go in the general waste.
- **Gift wrap** – plain wrapping paper should go in your recycling bin, but remove all ribbons and bows, string, sticky tape and gift tags first. Shiny metallic and laminated gift wraps aren't recyclable and should go in the general waste.
- **All your usual recycling** – please remember that items need to be rinsed and empty of food and drink residue. Greasy paper and card can't be recycled. Lids can be left on but if you are short of space over Christmas it's okay to squash the items first so that they take up less space. Don't forget that you can recycle plastic bags and film (not black), such as; carrier bags; bread bags; salad and vegetable bags, bubble wrap, cling film and cellophane in your recycling bin.

Other ways of recycling (these things shouldn't go in the recycling bin)

- **Christmas tree lights and fairy lights** – should be recycled at your local Recycling and Household Waste Site (RHWS) if there isn't a kerbside collection service offered locally. If still in good working order some charity shops will accept electrical items. Alternatively, please put in your general waste.
- **Real trees** – These can be taken to a RHWS or be placed into garden waste collection bins. Please ensure that the trunk / branches have a diameter of less than 15cm and the tree has been cut down to lengths of 1m or less. Lights and decorations should also be removed prior to disposal. For additional information see [here](#).
- **Batteries** – can be taken to your local RHWS. Alternatively, you can take them to a variety of local collection points: <https://www.takecharge.org.uk/>
- **Clothing and textiles** – if a kerbside collection isn't offered locally these need to be taken to a [textile collection bank](#) or a charity shop. Please check with charities in advance of leaving donations.

These items need to go in general waste bins

- **Artificial Christmas trees** – can't be recycled. If the tree is in good condition, then you could take it to your local charity shop instead. Please check with them in advance of traveling to make a donation.
- **Christmas tree baubles and tinsel** – ornaments and decorations of all types are non-recyclable. If in good condition you could pass them on to someone else or take to your local charity shop.
- **Children's toys** – are non-recyclable. They can be taken to your local charity shop for someone else to enjoy if in good condition. Otherwise, place in general waste.
- **Food and drink** – visit www.lovefoodhatewaste.com for some great tips on managing Christmas food and drink. Food waste is best avoided, but otherwise will need to go in your general waste.
- **Nappies** – even if your general waste bin is full, nappies aren't recyclable and should never go into recycling collections.

For additional information on waste prevention, reuse and recycling in Leicestershire visit: www.lesswaste.org.uk