



REPUBLIC SERVICES ANNOUNCES RECYCLING “NAUGHTY AND NICE LISTS” FOR HOLIDAY DECORATIONS AND GIFT WRAPPINGS

Even if you’ve been a good recycler all year long, what to do with holiday decorations and gift wrap may present a challenge. Is wrapping paper recyclable? What about Christmas tree ornaments? Tinsel?

To answer those questions, Republic Services has its own “naughty and nice” list of recyclable holiday materials.

NICE (recyclable)

Gift boxes
Tissue paper
Shoe boxes
Christmas tree
Holiday cards/envelopes
Gift bags (if paper)
Wrapping Paper (non-metallic)

NAUGHTY (not recyclable)

Bubble wrap (consider reusing)
Metallic wrapping paper (consider reusing)
Ribbon and bows (consider reusing)
Anything on the tree
Sticky gift labels
Gift bags if coated, laminated, dyed
Foam peanuts (some UPS stores will accept and reuse)

Ribbons and bows cannot be recycled because they aren't paper products. Christmas trees must be stripped of all decorations (tinsel, lights, bells, ornaments, etc.) before the tree can be mulched or composted.

Republic Services suggests that there are creative and practical ways to reuse items that are not recyclable. For example, use sustainable packing materials when packing and sending gifts. Instead of purchasing new foam peanuts, use shredded newspaper or even popcorn. Foam peanuts are made from polystyrene and are usually not recyclable. If you receive foam peanuts in packages, consider reusing them for later shipping.

For those holiday greeting cards you receive this season, recycle paperboard and paper envelopes. If you just can’t bear to toss them in the bin, use them to make a festive gift tag.

More clever ideas for recycling and reusing holiday materials can be found online - simply search “recycling holiday décor” for a variety of websites with some great information.