

## Top Tips For A Waste Free Christmas

- Have a pre-Christmas clear out. Take any unwanted clothes, toys, electrical items, books etc to charity shops. Alternatively take your unwanted items to the Household Waste Recycling Centre at Burn Road.
- Going Christmas shopping? Don't forget to take your re-useable shopping bags with you. As well as benefiting the environment, you'll save 5p for every bag you would have bought. Please remember plastic bags cannot be recycled in your grey bin.
- Instead of sending traditional cards out this Christmas why not send an e-card. These will not only save you money but will save space in your general waste bin.
- Buy gifts that don't require packaging such as gift experiences. Spa days, cinema tickets, vouchers for a meal will all make great presents.
- Go back to basics with Christmas wrapping, wrap presents with plain paper and string or ribbons. Without sticky tape, the paper can be recycled easily and string and ribbons reused. Embellished, glitter and foil wrapping paper cannot be recycled.
- Keep any gift bags you receive as they can be reused for birthdays, christenings and even next Christmas. If you still have last year's Christmas cards why not reuse these and make your own gift tags too.
- Buy rechargeable batteries. Remember old batteries cannot be recycled in your grey bin, they can however be taken to the Household Waste Recycling Centre. Alternatively used batteries can be sent for recycling by placing them in containers that can be found at many retail outlets and other public buildings.
- Make a shopping list and only buy what you need. By making a list, you're less likely to impulse buy things that you actually don't want or need. Plan your Christmas meals ahead and sort out your freezer so you know exactly what you need to buy.
- Thinking about what to wear for your work's Christmas party? Instead of searching the shops and browsing online for a festive party dress and spending lots of money on something you'll probably only wear the once, why not do a clothes swap with friends.
- Use a portion planner such as the one on the Love Food Hate Waste website, when preparing your Christmas meal or planning for a party to ensure there is minimal food waste.
- Flatten cardboard before recycling to save room in your grey bin.
- Compost your vegetable peelings.

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