

# The Best Way to Dispose of All That Holiday Trash

Few things inspire more joy than a collection of beautifully wrapped presents under a Christmas tree! The problem with gift wrap and tissue paper, though, is that it's often not recyclable. Even though the base of most gift wraps is indeed paper, many have overlays like metallic foil or glitter, have tape stuck to them, are saturated with problematic inks or dye, or are so thin that the fibers aren't useful for recycling.

The paper vendors that take Kingston's paper are not able to recycle this material so it must be disposed of in the trash.

Note: You should never put gift wrap in the fireplace, because some of the materials used to decorate can be harmful to your health if you breathe in the fumes.

Then again, if the idea of tossing all that pretty paper makes you sad, you can upcycle the gift wrap instead! To start, make an effort not to tear the paper to shreds as you open your gifts. Smooth as much of that intact paper as you can. Use it next year, or pass it along to a local pre-K to use for arts and crafts. A way to recycle is being creative and create cool stuffs. You can make a paper mache which an easy one design it with the color wraps and put the flashlight on and you got yourself a lamp. You can keep a stack of gently used paper on hand for your kids to make art with; they love having the fun patterns and textures to choose from!

All cardboard should be recycled in the Cardboard container while some plastic wrap can be included in the plastic bags that are returned to the grocery store. Pressboard gift boxes can be stored for reuse or placed in the Paper container at the Kingston Recycling and Disposal Center.

Holiday light strings go in the trash as do ribbons and bows and broken ornaments. Rigid plastic containers #1,2,4, and 5 can be recycled. Plastic containers #3,6, and 7 and black plastic go in the trash as they are not marketable. Check all hard plastic clamshells (used to package items) for their recycle number. All recyclable plastic containers should go in the bin whole as flattened containers will be discarded to trash. Leave the caps on all plastic bottles.

Dirty paper plates, cups and napkins along with paper towels and tissues go in the trash but can also go in home composting bins along with all your kitchen compostables such as banana peels and potato peels.

Enjoy all the season's opportunities to celebrate with friends and family. Then dispose of the above items responsibly. Thanks to everyone who makes an effort to properly recycle and reduce the expenses of trash disposal for all residents.