



Curb holiday waste with green gifting

The holiday season is a festive time with events and family gatherings. It is also a time to be sensitive to the environment.

The amount of trash generated in our households and in our businesses can increase significantly during the holidays. It starts with Thanksgiving, the biggest food week of the year.

Farmers and recycling advocates encourage us to remember to place all food scraps from holiday meals in the green compost collection bins we wheel to the curb. San Francisco has embraced composting more than any other city in North America, but we still can compost far more of our discards.

Waste audits of the trash San Franciscans send to landfill show approximately 50 percent of that material could, and should, instead be composted.

The tools to compost are in place. The City reports 99 percent of the properties in San Francisco have green-cart service. We all simply need to put compostable material in the green bin, not the black bin.

Here are two great reasons to be more attentive to composting:



■ San Francisco’s urban compost program keeps materials out of landfills and gives farmers a viable alternative to using liquid or chemical fertilizers. So when we compost, we help farmers grow healthy food that comes back to local farmers’ markets and to our own tables.

■ Good-quality compost is 50 percent humus by weight and humus is a natural sponge that both attracts and retains water. So when make compost and send it to local farms, we help save water, tremendous amounts of water, a vital resource.

During the holidays, we are also encouraged to consider gifts that have little or no packaging or are presented in containers that can be reused.

People often find such gifts thoughtful and useful. Examples include: theater tickets, a gift card to a nice restaurant, metal boxes for lunches and healthy snacks, and reusable jars, which serve as great containers for coffee beans, loose-leaf teas, and other fragrant and tasty products.

If the gifts you give require packaging for transport, please opt for packing that can be recycled. Tissue paper and cardboard boxes are accepted in all recycling programs.

Try to avoid things that are made from several different materials, which makes them difficult to recycle, or that come in excessive packaging.

Schedule RecycleMyJunk pickups online



City residents can now schedule no-additional-cost junk pickups online.

Recology created [RecycleMyJunk.com](#) service specifically for the collection of large or bulky items, such as broken furniture or mattresses.

Do not put materials on street corners or other outside location without scheduling an RMJ collection. The San Francisco Department of Public Works is tasked with keeping San Francisco clean and can fine people for illegal dumping.

Recology’s residential customers are entitled to two RMJ “curbside” pickups

per year at no additional cost. Multi-family buildings get one RMJ pickup a year. If you are a residential customer and need us to carry large items from your property or if you are a commercial customer, we can provide junk hauling services for a fee.

The enhanced [RecycleMyJunk.com](#) website lets customers book appointments online. On the home page look for “Residential On-Line Pickups.” Type in your address, then click the “Recycle My Junk” box and follow the prompts.

Of course, you can still call us at (415) 330-1300 and we’ll be glad to schedule your pickup.

2015–2016 holiday collection schedule

Collection crews will work on **Thanksgiving Day**, Nov. 26. The office will be closed.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
DEC. 21 Regular pick up for Monday customers	DEC. 22 Regular pick up for Tuesday customers	DEC. 23 Regular pick up for Wednesday customers	DEC. 24 Regular pick up for Thursday customers	DEC. 25 NO PICK UP	DEC. 26 Pick up for Friday customers
DEC. 28 Regular pick up for Monday customers	DEC. 29 Regular pick up for Tuesday customers	DEC. 30 Regular pick up for Wednesday customers	DEC. 31 Regular pick up for Thursday customers	JAN. 1 NO PICK UP	JAN. 2 Pick up for Friday customers



Christmas Tree Collection program runs Jan. 2–15. Please place clean, unflocked trees at the curb. Remove all tinsel, decorations, plastic bags, stands, and lights. If your tree measures more than 6 feet tall, please cut it in half.

How to recycle your Christmas tree

Christmas tree recycling is a tradition in San Francisco. If you purchase a cut tree, please remember to recycle it during the first two weeks of January.

“Treecycling is a great way to keep the holiday season green,” said Jared Blumenfeld, U.S. EPA’s Regional Administrator. “San Francisco’s commitment to chipping Christmas trees means that hundreds of tons of discarded trees will be turned into energy, instead of taking up space in our landfills.”

The Christmas Tree Collection program runs Jan. 2–15, 2016.

Please place clean, unflocked trees at the curb. Remove all tinsel, decorations, plastic bags, stands, and lights. If your tree measures more than 6 feet tall, please cut it in half. Residents should place clean trees next to their recycling carts before 6 a.m. on their regular pick-



up day. Please do not pile up trees on the street corner.

Trees will be chipped at Recology’s San Francisco transfer station and recycling center at 501 Tunnel Ave. The wood chips will be transferred to Tracy, where they will serve as biomass (boiler fuel) to generate electricity.

Nice to know

Wrapping paper

Most holiday wrapping paper can go in your blue bin. When shopping for or ordering wrapping paper, avoid wrap that is metallic in texture.

Reusable gift bags made from paper present convenient, attractive, and environmentally savvy options.

Wrapping gifts in fabric, newsprint, brightly colored tissue paper, or craft paper, which is made mostly from recycled fibers, are other ways to go.

Holiday trash

If you have extra trash during the holidays, here are some friendly tips for getting the material collected:

- Tear up paper boxes to reduces the volume they take up in your recycling bin.
- Flatten cardboard boxes. Cut cardboard into 2’ x 2’ foot pieces and bundle them with a string.
- Place all food scraps, food-soiled paper, and plant cuttings in your green bin.

All properties in San Francisco have a green compost collection cart and San Franciscans are composting food scraps and plants, but analysis of the material San Franciscans throw in black bins labeled “landfill” show we can do a better job of composting. This is particularly true during the holidays because they include the biggest food days of the year.

Following these three steps should make sure all your holiday trash fits in your blue, green, and black bins. If you still

have extra material, send us an email through the “contact us” form at RecologySF.com and we will alert the Recology driver who collects materials from your property.

Battery recycling

Residents are encouraged to place used household batteries, such as AA, AAA, C- and D-sized batteries, in a clear, sealable plastic bag and to put the bag on top of their black trash bins.

Your Recology garbage-and-recycling collector will pick up the bag and toss it in a bucket designated for used batteries on the side of his or her route collection truck.

We ship used batteries to companies that take them apart and recycle the pieces.

S.F. residents can recycle small lithium batteries through this program, but must place tape over the ends of lithium batteries.

This program is not for computer, car, motorcycle, or large-appliance batteries.

Owners and managers of apartment buildings can contact Recology Sunset Scavenger or Recology Golden Gate and we will provide orange battery-recycling buckets. We recommend that you place the bucket in the lobby of your apartment building. When the bucket is full, call us; we will exchange your full bucket for an empty one and recycle the old household batteries.



What goes in the green kitchen compost pail?

- ☐ Discount parachutes
- ☐ Artificial face mole
- ☒ Regifted fruit cake

For more recycling humor, go to RecologySF.com.

Clip and post.

RecologySF.com

Recology Sunset Scavenger and Recology Golden Gate, your local recycling companies

Recycling, compost, and trash collection:

Recology Sunset Scavenger (415) 330-1300 Recology Golden Gate (415) 626-4000

Debris Box Service (888) 404-4008

RecycleMyJunk.com (415) 330-1300

