

Getting to Zero Waste over the Holidays and into the New Year

Fitchburg Public Works Department





Extra packaging and materials from holiday celebrations and gift exchanges can leave your refuse and recycling carts overflowing. Americans typically generate 25% more waste during the holidays. Much of your holiday packaging can be recycled curbside in your recycling cart or dropped off at the Fitchburg Recycling Drop Off Site at 2373 S. Fish Hatchery Rd. Read on to learn more about what can and cannot be reused or recycled:

- **Wrapping paper** can be recycled in your blue recycling cart as long as it's paper-based. You must remove all ribbon and bows. **Foil-type or plastic-based** wrapping paper is **not** recyclable and should either be reused or discarded in your green refuse carts.
- **Wrapping paper tubes**, along with paper towel and toilet tissue cores, can be recycled in your blue recycling cart.
- **Tissue paper** is **not** recyclable and should either be reused or discarded in your green refuse carts.
- **Greeting cards and envelopes** that are non-foil and paper-based can be recycled in your blue cart, but non-paper items such as metal foil and photographs should be removed and discarded in your green refuse cart.
- **Cardboard and paperboard gift boxes** can be reused or recycled in your blue recycling cart or taken to the Fitchburg Recycling Drop Off Site and placed in the cardboard recycling dumpsters. Remove any excess tape or ribbons prior to recycling.
- **Holiday lights and extension cords** can be dropped off at Fitchburg City Hall Lobby (5520 Lacy Rd.) 24/hours per day through January 30, 2019. Residents should remove any bulbs larger than marble-size and recycle those separately at participating stores. Consider buying LED lights to replace your old or broken lights to save energy throughout the holiday season!
- **Holiday Trees (real)** – Holiday tree collection will occur during the weeks of January 7, 2019 and January 21, 2019. Please place your tree behind the curb with the stump facing the street by Monday at 6:30am during those two weeks. These trees get chipped and then made available to residents as wood chips and compost at the Recycling Drop Off Site.

- **Holiday Trees (artificial)** – Artificial trees are not recyclable. Buy a Refuse Tag and set out with refuse. If the tree is in good condition, consider donating to St. Vincent De Paul or Goodwill.
- **Wreaths (real)** - Remove the branches from framing. Take both to the Recycling Drop Off Site at S. Fish Hatchery Rd (2373 S. Fish Hatchery Rd). Put boughs in “yardwaste” and metal or steel framing in “scrap metal.” The branches can be composted at home, or be placed at the curb during the next brush collection day.
- **White block polystyrene**, also known as Styrofoam®, can be taken to the white polystyrene recycling dumpster at the Fitchburg Recycling Drop Off Site.
- **Batteries** (both rechargeable and alkaline – AAA to D) can be dropped off at Fitchburg City Hall and put in the E-Cycling box. Battery terminals should be taped before putting in the box.
- **Ribbon** is not recyclable and should either be reused or discarded.
- **Bubble wrap** is not recyclable and should be either reused or discarded.
- **Ornaments are** not recyclable and should be either reused or discarded.
- **Garland** is not recyclable and should either be reused or discarded.
- **Tinsel** is not recyclable and should either be reused or discarded.
- Visit www.fitchburgwi.gov/solidwaste to view Fitchburg’s Holiday Recycling Guide, which is available in English and Spanish.

Fitchburg’s “Green E-News” – Get more news on “Green”/sustainability-related events and opportunities in and around Fitchburg by subscribing to Fitchburg's Green E-News. (We do not share email addresses and typically send only one e-blast per month.):

- Visit Fitchburg’s “Notify Me®” web page: <http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/list.aspx>
- Type your email address in the box and select “Sign In”
- If you want to receive text messages enter your phone number and select “Save”
- Click  (to subscribe/unsubscribe to emails) and/or  (to subscribe/unsubscribe) next to the lists to which you wish to subscribe / unsubscribe (e.g. “Green Fitchburg” is the mailing list for environmentally friendly suggestions or events)

Happy Holidays and Have a Great New Year!