

Ways To Reduce Waste During The Holidays

Between Thanksgiving and New Year's, household waste increases by more than 25%. Food waste, wrapping paper, shopping bags, Christmas cards, bows, ribbons, boxes, decorations, lights and more add an additional *1 million tons* of trash *per week* to our landfills.

The holiday season is an incredibly wasteful time in our society, but it does not have to be that way. There are some simple things you can do to reduce your waste during the holiday season without sacrificing any of the holiday cheer.

1. Reuse wrapping paper, use reusable wrapping paper, or consider wrapping in old comic pages like our parents used to do.

According to Waste Less Thinking over half of the paper consumed in the United States is used to wrap or decorate products. It is outrageous that we spend that much time and money for something that is so temporary and usually immediately thrown away.

2. Recycle your Christmas tree when you are done with it.

The City of Cortez host a Christmas tree chipping day each year after Christmas. The wood chips are then used for landscaping and/or given away. This information will be posted on the City's website: www.cityofcortez.com.

Also the landfill will accept Christmas trees for composting.

3. Turn off holiday lights during the day.
4. Recycle your Christmas cards.

While Christmas cards are a thoughtful way to keep in touch with friends and family during the holidays, most will be disposed of within a few days or weeks of being received. Around 2.6 billion Christmas cards are sold in the United States every year. That is enough to fill Panther Stadium ten stories high, and that does not include the envelopes or stamps. The Christmas cards can be recycled with your regular office paper.

5. Donate unwanted gifts to charity.

If you receive an unwanted or duplicate gift this year, consider passing it on to someone who may be less fortunate. (Exclude gag gifts obviously.) Some places in Montezuma County that you may consider giving to are:

The Salvation Army
201 North Pinion Drive
Cortez, CO 81321
564-4228

The Methodist Thrift Shop
444 East Main Street
Cortez, CO 81321
565-7369

Habitat for Humanity ReStore
6786 U.S. Highway 160
Cortez, CO 81321
565-8327

Second Chance
96 Central Avenue
Dolores, CO 81321
882-3233

You could also possibly donate to Renew/Wings by calling 565-4886

6. Consider experience gifts instead of things. Not only are experience gifts zero waste, they often are enjoyed more than things.