

Naughty and Nice Recycling Tips from Allied Waste

Allied Waste suggests a list of “Naughty and Nice” recycling tips to help make recycling a breeze for its customers.

The company stated even for diligent and dedicated recyclers, holiday decorations and gift wrap may present a challenge.

So, just what is acceptable for the recycle bin?

The “Nice” list includes things like gift boxes, shoe boxes, holiday cards and envelopes, paper gift bags and wrapping paper. On the “Naughty” list? Try items like tissue and foil-type wrapping paper, bubble wrap, foam peanuts, ribbons and bows, sticky gift labels and gift bags that are coated, laminated or dyed.

If gifts are carefully unwrapped you may want to consider reusing the wrapping paper and tissue paper. If you have a room full of eager children tearing into their packages, well, never mind. Just be sure to collect the remains (as wadded up as it may be) and put it in the recycling bin.

As for Christmas trees, yes, they are recyclable if cut and bundled into 4’ X 4” sections for pickup. But anything on the tree (tinsel, lights, bells, ornaments, etc.) is not. Remove these items so the tree can be chipped or composted. You can also support your local Scout Troup as they will be collecting Christmas trees for a \$5 donation. To be ensured pick-up, trees must be placed at the curb by 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning, January 7 from 9:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m. Or, if residents prefer they can deliver their tree to Service Club Ball field, 14608 SE 288th ST on this same day, also for a \$5 donation to the Scouts.

Allied also suggests creative and practical ways to reuse items that are not recyclable.

- Use sustainable packing materials when packing and sending gifts, instead of purchasing new foam peanuts, use shredded newspaper or even popcorn.
- Foam peanuts made from polystyrene and are not recyclable at the curb. They also cling to everything and, if spilled, can create more hassle than they’re worth. If you receive a package with foam peanuts, consider keeping them for future shipping needs; some mailing houses/shippers will accept them, as will V&G StyroRecycle behind the Renton Ikea.
- A special holiday greeting card may make a festive gift tag next year. For all other paper and paperboard greeting cards and envelopes, toss them into the recycling bin.

Granted, Santa will have already visited your house by the time you need to figure out whether or not to throw away that used gift box or toss it in the recycle bin (where it belongs) but just remember that he has started making his list of who has been “Naughty or Nice” for 2012. And it is never too late to be “Nice” on behalf of the environment.