

Christmas in numbers – stats and top tips from Recycle Now

Recycling top tips

- At home keep your recycling bin next to the main bin so you can take out the rubbish and recycle at the same time
- Get your kids involved in the household recycling routine. It's a great educational activity
- When you go to do your big Christmas shop at the supermarket, make sure you remember to take all of your recycling with you. If you have recycling boxes at home, this will make it even easier to transport to the supermarket
- Christmas may affect your local council's kerbside recycling scheme. For more information on how you can continue to recycle over the festive period visit www.hackney.gov.uk/xmas-recycling
- A whole range of jars - from cranberry sauce to mincemeat and baby food - can all be recycled: just give them a rinse in your leftover dish washing water and recycle them with your other glass.
- Remember to tell guests where your recycling bins are and what goes in them when they stay over Christmas
- Why not look out for items containing recycled material as gifts this Christmas? A growing range of clothes, furniture and even electronic goods containing some recycled material will make perfect 'green' gifts this Christmas
- A good way to reduce wrapping waste is to use 'furoshiki' a Japanese-style of wrapping presents with material which can then be reused. Watch the video on www.recyclenow.com
- Look out for gifts with packaging that can be reused or recycled easily. Gift bags can be reused again and again. Some retailers are packaging goods in tins that can be easily recycled or plastics containers that can be used for food storage at home
- The wire ties that often accompany gift packaging can be kept aside and reused as garden ties as they are not generally recyclable
- With a mass of new gifts being given and received this Christmas, there are bound to be clear outs of old furniture or tired models of equipment. Visit www.hackney.gov.uk/xmas-recycling for more information on the Bulky Waste Collection and Recycling Service
- For details on Hackney Council recycling services, visit www.hackney.gov.uk/xmas-recycling

Seasonal recycling statistics

- The amount of wrapping paper estimated to be thrown away in the UK at Christmas could stretch around the equator nine times or to the moon if each sheet was laid end to end.
- In the UK approximately 250 tonnes of Christmas trees that could have been recycled are simply thrown out after Christmas. Real trees can be sent for chipping and composting and the product is a rich biomass that can be used as mulch or soil improver. Alternatively, buy a living tree that can be planted in the garden when you've finished with it. For more information on how you can recycle your real Christmas tree, visit www.hackney.gov.uk/xmas-recycling
- Every year the UK throws out an estimated 4,500 tonnes of tin foil over the Christmas period. This is enough to cover around 1500 square miles - roughly the size of Suffolk! Hackney Council can recycle your tin foil through both the Green Box Recycling Service and Estate and High Rise Properties Recycling Service
- 13,350 tonnes of glass is thrown out in the UK during the festive season – from champagne and sherry bottles to mincemeat and cranberry sauce jars. Recycling all of them could save 4,200 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent being produced, which is equivalent to taking around 1300 cars off the road for one year or to not taking around 630 around the world flights.