

A to Z Recycling

Green Tips



5 Ways to Have a Green Holiday Season

- 1. Decorate with the Outdoors** - most decorations we buy ultimately end up in landfills. Instead, snip branches from evergreen trees and bushes or spray paint bare tree branches silver or gold. Rest them on a mantel or plant them in a small pot filled with decorative rock.
- 2. Buy lighting that uses LED technology** - they stay cool, last up to 20 years, a single bad bulb doesn't shut down a whole strand, *and* they reduce energy consumption by as much as 90%. Plus, it costs \$.72 a month to burn 10 strands of lights, versus \$7.20 per month for mini-lights and \$127.67 a month for large, incandescent bulbs (The Alliance to Save Energy).
- 3. Buy a real tree** - although which is greener - real or fake - is up for debate, a majority of real trees you can buy are grown as crops, not cut down at random. Ultimately, a fake tree will end up in a landfill, whereas your real tree can be recycled and used as mulch. Real trees also suck carbon dioxide, a major contributor to global warming and respiratory disease. Before disposal remove the tinsel. If tinsel is on a tree it becomes non-recyclable. Rather than disposing of your fake tree, donate it to prolong its life above ground.
- 4. Reuse and get creative, part I** - save cardboard boxes you accumulate throughout the year for gifts. Keep them in a central location in the basement and take them back down after the gift has been opened. Don't feel weird about it; feel wise. The folks at AtoZ Recycling do it!
- 5. Reuse and get creative, part II** - wrap your gifts in news print and punctuate it with a colored ribbon and a pinecone. Black and white matches everything; plus you'll save a lot of \$!

