



Cheery Chains of Delightful Decor

Shiny, glittery and velvety wrapping paper and any type of ribbon can't be recycled, but they can be re-used. Let's give those pretty things a new life as a garland! You can use it to decorate a wall, mantle or even as a wrapping decoration.

- 1 Gather your materials: paper or greeting cards with velvet, metallic coatings or glitter texture, plus a few lengths of ribbon. Any ribbon works!
- 2 Cut shapes out of the paper or cards. Try squares and triangles first (they're easiest), or advance to circles, hearts and stars.
- 3 Now attach the shapes to the ribbon! Put matching shapes on either side of the ribbon, and glue them together, or poke a hold through the center of the shapes and string your ribbon through (shown above).
- 4 Ta da—a twirly garland that looks great from any angle!

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Home for the holidays

Hosting family and friends during the holidays means more of everything: more meals, more mess—and more trash and recycling! In all the holiday hubbub, it can be hard to keep a handle on just what goes where.

Don't fret! Our room-by-room guide helps you sort it all out. We make it simple, so you have time to enjoy your holiday turkeys, latkes, mazao, dumplings, gumbo, casseroles, choppino, Hoppin' John, stews, pies and sweets!

We've also got great tips for zero-waste holiday items and crafty ways to reduce wasteful wrapping by reusing paper and other materials to bring extra holiday cheer to your home!

So come inside and see what we've got cooking!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Sustainable holiday decor ideas
- Recycling by room
- Tips for zero-waste meals

Food saving all-stars

Restaurants all over Central Contra Costa County have been going above and beyond making sure they are aligned with SB 1383—California's organics law. Most commercial businesses participate in the food to energy program in partnership with EBMUD. Here are a few that we want to give a big shout-out to:

- Oke Poke, Walnut Creek**
For the last few years, Oke Poke has actively been participating in the food to energy program. Their material is well-sorted and their recyclables are always empty, clean and dry. See their cheerful staff above!
- Postino, Lafayette**
Chef Stewart and his staff do an excellent job with food scraps. They have dedicated employees who empty the food scraps into the outdoor food waste carts.



- Yu Bistro, Orinda**
"Yu Bistro is really great with preventing food waste!" says our Recycling Coordinator. "The staff knows what to place in the food scrap containers and outdoor food waste carts. Nice!"
- Cantinho do Brazil, Danville**
This is a newer restaurant in Danville that opened late last year. Nick, the owner, is very excited about participating in the food to energy program to stop food waste from going to the landfill. He even sells the leftover pastries and food for a discounted price to prevent good food from being wasted—available on the Too Good To Go app.
- To find an all star near you, go to **RecycleSmart.org/restaurants**

re:source

Clearing the Clutter

We all have it—stuff that wants attention! To start the new year with a clean slate, we have a tool for you. **re:source** is the new and improved tool for Contra Costa residents to handle their stuff.

From malfunctioning electronics to wobbly chairs, to worn out clothes, **re:source** gives you options. Just enter the item and your zip code, and the tool will provide a list of options to help you repair, recycle or safely remove it.

Look for the widget on our home page at **RecycleSmart.org**

KEEP IT TRIM THIS SEASON

This year, make your holiday meals zero-waste! Here are a couple ways to get started:

- **Need to go grocery shopping?** Shop at your local farmers market to reduce packaging and support small businesses.
- **The greenest dishware?** Use reusable cups, dishes and cutlery whenever possible! If you need extra plates, uncoated paper ones can go in your green organics cart when you're done.
- **Have leftovers?** Turn it into soup or casserole, or have the household face off in a cooking challenge to clean out your fridge. But remember any amount of food scraps go in the green organics cart.
- **Pledge to compost!** You can win prizes from local eco-stores! Sign up and share the pledge at **ContraCostaComposts.com**

For more ways to trim your food waste, check out **RecycleSmart.org/food-recovery**



All that glitters is not good (for your cart)

In our last issue we showed you the magic of the big sorting machine. What's not so magical: when ribbons or glitter get into its gears. Remember, these items can get tangled in the machinery, which creates safety hazards for people working the machine and can even cause the machinery to shut down completely. Please keep those stringy things and other tiny bits (I'm looking at you, tinsel!) out of your blue recycling bin.

While you're at it, keep greenery displays natural so they can happily compost. Use trimmings from your tree, dried fruit or pinecones for alternatives to synthetic decorations. If you do use store-bought decor, make sure that you remove any wires, tape or other non-compostable materials before you drop wreaths or garlands in your green organics cart (and skip the snow spray altogether!).

2023 Holiday Tree Collection

- Week of Jan. 2-6: Customers in **Walnut Creek, Danville, Alamo** and **Blackhawk** (including unincorporated areas).
- Week of Jan. 9-13: Customers in **Lafayette, Orinda** and **Moraga** (including unincorporated areas).
- Week of Jan. 16-20: Customers who missed prior tree collection.

Remember to remove all tinsel, ornaments, stands and other decorations from your holiday tree before placing it at your properties assigned tree collection location (in or near the waste enclosure). Contact your property owner or manager for missed tree collection information or other questions!



Recycling room by room

Take the guesswork out of recycling this winter with our recycling guide! Remember, your recyclables need to be empty, clean and dry before they go into your blue recycling bin. If you can't fix, repurpose or donate items—they belong in the black landfill bin.

If you have a question about an item that is not listed, go to RecycleSmart.org/apts-condos/blue-bin for our full list.



BATHROOM



LIVING ROOM

Paperback books only!



KITCHEN



PANTRY

IF IT'S NOT RECYCLABLE, IT'S TRASH



BATHROOM

Used tissues, cotton swabs, feminine products, wipes, toothbrushes (remove and recycle batteries properly*), diapers, mirrors, aerosol cans

KITCHEN

Snack wrappers, chip bags, single-use plastic utensils, plastic straws, broken dishes and glasses, juice pouches, dirty or oily containers, paper milk and ice cream cartons, biodegradable plastics

LIVING ROOM

TV remotes*, firewood ashes, all electronics*, receipt paper, unusable textiles, plastic and padded envelopes, hangers, hard cover books

PANTRY

Car batteries*, polystyrene foam sheets and popcorn, spray paint cans*, water hoses, hazardous waste*, wires, treated wood*, motor oil*

*For information on how to dispose of items that require special handling, go to RecycleSmart.org/HHW

Need More Info?



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For tips, resources and other recycling services!

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Printed on paper made from post consumer waste (PCW).



Organics, Recycling and Landfill

925-685-4711

Ask your property manager to contact Republic Services about additional recycling, organic or landfill carts or bins, computer and TV collection, special clean ups or to request motor oil recycling kits, recycling tote bags and kitchen food scrap containers.

This newsletter is recyclable!



Smart Holiday Tips!

RecycleSmart is sharing our own holiday checklist on how you can reduce, reuse and recycle in the coming months:

- **Use reusable shopping bags** when you are out gift or grocery shopping to cut down on plastic and paper bag consumption.
- **Think outside the box with gift wrapping:** use tea towels, maps, reusable bags or newspaper to wrap your gifts.
- **Take the time to break down boxes and separate out packaging** before recycling.
- **Do not throw away electronics.** Property managers can call Republic Services to schedule an e-waste pickup for a fee.
- **Remember to make sure your recyclables are empty, clean and dry** before placing them into the blue recycling bin.
- **Separate out your batteries.** Drop off at one of our local partner retail locations listed on our website at RecycleSmart.org/HHW



HAVE TIPS TO SHARE?

Send your ideas to
Authority@RecycleSmart.org