



Fun with Furoshiki!

Furoshiki is the Japanese art of gift wrapping that uses colorful fabric instead of paper. It's a great way to give your presents a special touch, and reduce waste! All you need is an old piece of clothing that you don't want and can't be reused—the more colorful, the better!

- 1 Cut a fabric square with a diagonal three times longer than the width of your gift.
- 2 Lay the fabric on a flat surface and place your gift in the center.
- 3 Take the bottom corner of the cloth and bring it over the top of the gift, tucking the corner underneath.
- 4 Do the same with the top corner.
- 5 Bring the two side corners up and tie them in a tight square knot at the top.

Voila! You've created a beautiful gift—with memorable wrapping that can be used again and again!



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Get out from under holiday packaging
- Handling batteries and e-Waste
- Make a resolution with us!



In-grained sustainability

Nothing goes to waste at Canyon Club Brewery. Nestled in the town of Moraga, Canyon Club has found creative ways to keep food scraps out of landfills.

"A business is another community member, and we generate about 100x the waste that a typical community member creates," said Kevin Hamilton, President/Founder of Canyon Club Brewery. "I feel a responsibility to do whatever I can to reduce and manage our waste...brewing beer creates a lot of very usable organic grain."

Kevin estimates that their on-site beer brewing generates over one ton of spent grain a week—up to 100,000 pounds a year. The grain's sugar is used up in the brewing process, but the leftovers (the "spent" grains) are still high-quality.

So, what do they do? Give it to the pigs! A local pig farmer takes about 40% of the

leftover grain. A local worm farmer takes another 30%.

Canyon Club also partners with bakers who use the spent grain in their breadmaking class—it makes an incredible sourdough! Donating spent grain to feed animals or people helps reduce the environmental impact of wasted food.

Even the brewery space is sustainable: From the on-site greenhouse where they grow and propagate plants to decorate their space, to their recycled furniture, reusable glassware and cutlery, and paperless menus and checkout, Canyon Club sets a standard for sustainability at their facility.

Give them a visit at 1558 Canyon Road in Moraga, and tell them RecycleSmart sent you! Check out Food Recycling Project participants at RecycleSmart.org/Restaurants

It's Tree Time!

Visit RecycleSmart.org for the upcoming 2024 holiday tree collection schedule. Place your tree inside or near the garbage enclosure, or your property's designated tree collection location, during the scheduled collection week without blocking bins and carts. Remember to remove all tinsel, lights, ornaments, stands and other decorations. For questions, please contact your property owner or manager.



GO PAPERLESS

Get the latest RecycleSmart news straight to your inbox by signing up for our e-newsletter! It's easy—just go to RecycleSmart.org/newsletter-preferences to sign up. You'll have the option to stop receiving paper newsletters.

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APARTMENTS & CONDOS EDITION

WINTER 2023

Be picky about packaging

In California, packaging waste makes up 27% of what we dump in landfills.¹

Between cardboard, bubble wrap, foam peanuts, air pockets and other packaging materials, how can we sort it all?

We've got you covered! Check out our helpful infographic inside to see what goes where.

And maybe—just maybe—try cutting back on excess packaging this year. Our staff's favorite ways to reduce packaging, and save trips to the bin!, are here:

- 1 **Go local.** When you shop at a neighborhood retailer, you reduce packaging waste and support local businesses at the same time. That's a win-win. (Remember to bring your reusable shopping bags!)
- 2 **Go simple.** Give gifts that don't need wrapping. A gift card to their favorite restaurant, tickets to that hot new play... gifts of experiences are often the most memorable.
- 3 **Go green.** If you're shopping online, look for shops that sell environmentally-friendly products. Shops like these and online shops like Amazon often have reduced packaging options, which you can select at checkout.

¹ <https://calrecycle.ca.gov/packaging/packaging-epr/>

CALIFORNIA PASSES POWERFUL PACKAGING LAW

This just in! SB 54 requires 100% of single-use packaging and plastic food ware sold in California to be reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2032.

This Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law gives primary responsibility for managing packaging products after their useful life to producers, who can design and market products to be more easily reused, recycled or composted.

Flatten me before I go in the bin





*Batteries not included

Making room for new gadgets and toys this holiday season? Remember:

- Please remove batteries from toys and gadgets, and don't let batteries and electronics get in your black landfill bin! If you can't remove the battery, please dispose of the entire item in HHW or e-waste.
- Place tape on battery ends so they don't spark along their journey—did you know batteries can cause fires in collection trucks and at processing facilities?
- TVs, computer monitors, cell phones and other electronics contain toxic chemicals that can contaminate soil and groundwater if they end up in landfills.

Here are some more ways to properly dispose of batteries and electronics:

- Drop off household batteries at one of our FREE local partner retail locations. Visit [RecycleSmart.org/HHW](https://www.recycle-smart.org/HHW) for the list of locations.
- Ask your property manager to contact Republic Services to schedule an e-waste pickup for a fee.
- Visit or schedule a pickup from Concord Recycling Center or Pacheco's Rapid Recycle for free and low-fee e-waste recycling.

For more information about other common hazardous materials and proper disposal visit [RecycleSmart.org/HHW](https://www.recycle-smart.org/HHW)—or scan the QR code!



Make a Reuse and Reduce Resolution

New Year's is coming, and it's time for resolutions!

Here's a simple resolution for 2024: Make ONE ongoing lifestyle change or habit to reduce waste. You can get a jump start this holiday season by reusing wrapping paper and gift bags, gifting experiences instead of objects or shopping locally.

Made a change you're proud of? Share your waste reduction tips and 2024 resolutions with us! Send us an email at Authority@RecycleSmart.org or post on our Facebook page (@CCCSWA) We might share your ideas to help your neighbors!

Proper package placement

Keep contaminants out of your blue recycling bin with this holiday sorting graphic:

RECYCLE

Keep recyclables empty, clean and dry!



FLATTENED CARDBOARD BOXES
Tape, glue and labels are OK



BROWN PAPER PACKAGING



TISSUE PAPER



NON-GLITTER/METALLIC PAPER GIFT WRAP



SHREDDED PAPER
Contained in a clear or paper bag



PAPER ENVELOPES
Plastic windows are OK



MOLDED PAPER PULP



NON-EMBELLISHED, PAPER HOLIDAY CARDS

LANDFILL



Don't overfill your bin—make sure your lid is fully closed!



PACKING PEANUTS



RIBBONS AND BOWS



PLASTIC AND PADDED ENVELOPES



PLASTIC PACKAGING, AIR POCKETS AND BUBBLE WRAP



GIFT WRAP THAT HAS GLITTER, VELVET OR OTHER EMBELLISHMENTS



SHINY OR COATED PACKAGING
labeled "compostable" or "biodegradable plastic" goes in the black landfill bin



My Tips

Take it Back!

Lynn M., Lafayette

Hi RecycleSmart,

Since the pandemic, I've noticed that when I go online to return items, the store will reimburse me, but tell me that I don't have to send back the item. It's great that I get my refund, but I'm still left with an item I don't want. So wasteful!

I started doing some research and found a couple of ways to give those things to people who can really use them. My list is below—I hope you'll share this with other readers!

- Donating to a **local** thrift store often the easiest option!
- I use **RE:Source** to find out how to reuse, recycle and safely dispose of all kinds of things. (Find the link on the RecycleSmart home page: [RecycleSmart.org](https://www.recycle-smart.org))
- If you have used items to give away, buy or sell locally, the **OfferUp** app is a great way to give them another chance.
- Online platforms such as **Facebook Marketplace**, **Nextdoor** or **Craigslist** are other ways to sell items (I find treasures for myself, too!).

Need More Info?



Editor, Janna McKay
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For tips, resources and other recycling services!

[www.RecycleSmart.org](https://www.recycle-smart.org)
925-906-1801
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Organics, Recycling and Landfill

925-685-4711

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

This newsletter is recyclable!



COMPOST REFRESHER

Let's keep our green organics carts clean this season:

- **Plastic should never go** into the green organics cart. Plastic becomes smaller plastic pieces—microplastics—that seep into the soil and contaminate our food.
- **Remove any wire**, tape, tree stands, imitation greenery or other non-compostable materials from your wreaths and garlands.
- **Compost all food scraps**—meat, bones, shells and fruit pits can all go in your green organics cart along with your food scraps.

- **Uncoated food-soiled paper** like napkins and pizza boxes goes in the green organics cart. Shiny to-go paper food boxes and drink cups go in the black landfill bin.
- **Cooking for a crowd?** Soiled aluminum food trays should be disposed of in the black landfill bin.

We don't trash food. For more information about curbside composting visit [RecycleSmart.org/greencartsmart](https://www.recycle-smart.org/greencartsmart). If your property does not have a green organics cart, please contact RecycleSmart at Authority@RecycleSmart.org.



HAVE TIPS TO SHARE?

Send your ideas to
Authority@RecycleSmart.org