



## Color these Compost Critters

These cuties are turning food and garden scraps into plant food. Color them in to bring them to life (figuratively, that is)!

We're updating our kids' resources all the time, find more activities online at [RecycleSmart.org/schools](https://RecycleSmart.org/schools)

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
CONCORD, CA  
PERMIT NO. 99

# RecycleSmart

EVERYDAY RECYCLING MADE EASY

FALL 2020

## 'Tis the season for handcrafted holidays!

Make your holiday gifts stand out with unique, homemade wrapping! Traditional wrapping paper is a big waste of resources—and most of it can't be recycled. But you can create a merry mood with materials close at hand. Using fabric or tea towels, magazines or newspaper makes for one-of-a-kind giftwrap. Make your own personalized patterns on sheets of tissue paper. Or build a gift box out of an old album cover!

And that handmade holiday spirit doesn't stop with the wrapping. There are plenty of ways to make the season shine without all that clutter. Instead of buying more stuff, this year try creating homemade gifts for the people you care about. Your family and friends will be thrilled by the personal touch!

- Some holiday recycling reminders:
- Place clean and dry tissue paper and cardboard in the blue cart
  - Dispose of polystyrene and foam in the black cart
  - Commercial gift wrap, and shiny, laminated, or textured bows and ribbons go in the black cart (or pack up and re-use them next year!)

## BINGO!

There are new items in our lives lately; you can use this BINGO game to sort them properly.

When you're done using an item, sort the item as shown and make an X in that box.

Make a line of Xs (in any direction) for a winning board.

Send us a photo of your winning board and we'll send you a RecycleSmart cloth mask: [Authority@RecycleSmart.org](mailto:Authority@RecycleSmart.org)

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- Is recycling worth it? Our chart shows you why.
- Fall composting workshop!
- Making sure your decor is earth-friendly.

<b>B</b> RECYCLE	<b>I</b> COMPOST	<b>N</b> REUSE	<b>G</b> REDUCE	<b>O</b> TRASH
Paper grocery bags	Eggshells or meat bones	Cloth mask	Request "No utensils" on your takeout order	Shiny takeout containers
Empty and dry drink cans	Food-soiled paper products like napkins, paper towels	Metal straws	Shop locally—save on packaging!	Paper masks and latex gloves
Empty, clean and dry food containers	Table scraps	<b>FREE SPACE</b>	Repair instead of buying new	Wipes or paper with cleaning chemicals
Clean bottles and jars	Paper type takeout containers	Post used gear on Facebook "Buy Nothing" pages, Nextdoor, etc.	Use rechargeable batteries	Utensils—plastic or "compostable"
Flattened cardboard	Fruit or vegetable peels	A plant in a retired mug or bowl	Buy less: unsubscribe from retail emails	Diapers or pet waste





# Winter waste not

From November to January, Republic Services collects 17% more waste than the rest of the year! To make sure you're covered, Republic offers extra pick-ups for compost and recycling up to four times a year per household! You can book your extra pick-ups two weeks in advance by calling 925-685-4711.

Here are some tips to help you cut down on holiday waste:

- Avoid flocking! Trees or greenery with fake snow, or flocking, can't be composted. **Flocking is actually made of plastic.**

- Reuse ornaments, ribbons or garlands to decorate your greenery!
- When you toss your pumpkins and leftovers into the compost, remember to **remove all packaging** and decorations.
- Republic also schedules **tree pickup dates in January**—watch your mailbox for the flyer above!

To get more info about compost and special holiday pickups, you can visit [RecycleSmart.org](http://RecycleSmart.org)

# How it works

	HOW MUCH DO AMERICANS PRODUCE EACH YEAR?	WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO MAKE ONE TON FROM RAW MATERIALS?	AT WHAT COST?	HOW MUCH DO AMERICANS RECYCLE?	CAN IT BE RECYCLED?
GLASS BOTTLES	<b>8.9</b> MILLION TONS	<b>6.5</b> MILLION BTU/ TON Limestone, silica, and other materials	Extracting limestone can contaminate water and destroy wildlife habitats.	<b>34%</b>	Can be recycled forever
ALUMINUM CANS	<b>1.9</b> MILLION TONS	<b>13.7</b> MILLION BTU/ TON Bauxite, usually mined in Guinea and Australia	Bauxite mining degrades the environment and contaminates water supplies.	<b>49%</b>	Can be recycled forever
STEEL CANS	<b>2</b> MILLION TONS	<b>32</b> MILLION BTU/ TON Iron ore, carbon, and other materials	Steel production consumes more energy and emits more CO2 than any other industrial activity. Steel requires enormous amounts of coke (coal), which pollutes the environment.	<b>73%</b>	Can be recycled forever
PAPER PACKAGING	<b>41</b> MILLION TONS	<b>25</b> MILLION BTU/ TON Wood pulp, water, lime, bleach, and other materials	Paper is made from wood pulp, leading to deforestation. The paper industry is the largest consumer of water.	<b>73%</b>	<b>"DOWNCYCLED"</b> <b>5-7</b> TIMES
PLASTIC CONTAINERS	<b>14.5</b> MILLION TONS	<b>24</b> MILLION BTU/ TON Polymers produced from crude oil and natural gas	Drilling and refining oil and gas has severe negative environmental impacts, including air pollution, global climate change, oil spills, and soil, water, and ecosystem pollution.	<b>13%</b>	<b>"DOWNCYCLED"</b> <b>2-3</b> TIMES

US EPA Material-Specific Data, 2017

Then it's compost!

## Compost with Us!

**Question:**  
I've been catching more compost than ever with my new food scrap kitchen container. Can you point me to some guides for backyard or home composting?

—Andrea J., Danville

**Answer:**  
Your question is right on time, Andrea! We are launching online composting workshops this fall. The first session is scheduled for Saturday, December 5.

Home Composting Workshop (Online)  
**Saturday, December 5 at 10am**  
Register at [RecycleSmart.org/workshops](http://RecycleSmart.org/workshops)

Readers, if you would like a food scrap kitchen container like Andrea, contact Republic Services at (925) 685-4711 to request one. They'll deliver it right to you.

## Need More Info?



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

[www.RecycleSmart.org](http://www.RecycleSmart.org)  
925-906-1801  
Authority@RecycleSmart.org



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**Organics, Recycling and Landfill**  
925-685-4711

For questions concerning your recycling, organics or landfill carts, billing, new service, vacation hold requests, computer and TV collection, special cleanups or to request motor oil recycling kits and kitchen food scraps containers.



### SHOW OFF YOUR RECYCLESMARTS

Get your very own RecycleSmart face covering! Just "like us" on Facebook ([facebook.com/CCCSWA](https://www.facebook.com/CCCSWA)), then send an email to [Authority@RecycleSmart.org](mailto:Authority@RecycleSmart.org) with the subject line "Free Mask" and include your address. We'll mail you a mask!

### MORE ABOUT PLASTIC

After 2-3 cycles, the plastic is too brittle to work with and becomes trash. Even with huge companies like Starbucks working to include more recycled content, drink containers have maxed out at 2-3% post-consumer plastic\*. But with a new California law signed Sept. 24, plastic bottles must contain 15% recycled plastic by 2022, 25% by 2025, and 50% recycled plastic by 2030.

Read the bill at: [RecycleSmart.org/ab-793](http://RecycleSmart.org/ab-793)

\*[resource-plastic.com/pdf/Transparent2020.pdf](http://resource-plastic.com/pdf/Transparent2020.pdf)



**HAVE TIPS TO SHARE?**  
Send your ideas to  
[Authority@RecycleSmart.org](mailto:Authority@RecycleSmart.org)