SLO County Holiday Recycling Guide

Recycling (Blue Bin)



Boxes (tape and labels OK)



Greeting cards and envelopes



Aluminum trays and tins (clean)



Hard plastic clamshell packaging



Foil from chocolate coins (in a ball bigger than 2 in)

Organics (Green Bin)



Christmas trees (remove all decorations, cut into 4 ft pieces)



Fruitcake, and all uneaten food



Mistletoe and wreaths made of natural material (remove ribbons)

Garbage (Gray Bin)



Wrapping paper



Tissue paper



Bubble mailers



Flocked trees



Styrofoam

Naughty List



These items are frequently recycled when they shouldn't be.

1. Musical greeting cards: E-Waste

The batteries in musical greeting cards contain mercury, which is toxic to humans and the environment. To properly dispose, you can remove the battery and electronic parts to recycle at an E-Waste collection facility, and recycle the paper card in your blue bin.

2. Batteries: Hazardous Waste

Batteries are hazardous waste. To recycle household batteries, drop them off at any retailer in the county that sells batteries. Alternatively, they can be dropped off at any HHW drop-off site (see IWMA.com for hours and locations)

3. Wrapping paper: Garbage

Wrapping paper is not accepted in the recycling bin because it is often laminated in foil or plastic, and not 100% paper.

4. Tissue paper: Garbage

Tissue paper is typically made of recycled paper. Its fibers are shortened to the point where it cannot feasibly be recycled again.

5. Christmas lights: Drop-Off

Christmas lights that are no longer working can be recycled for free at the Exploration Discovery Center in Grover Beach, Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm. Please don't place them in your curbside collection bins, as they get tangled up and can stop the processing equipment.