



## Did You Know?

# did you know?

### Rethink your Rubbish !

Reduce the amount you throw away and recycle your rubbish - it's getting easier!

After preparing Christmas dinner, why not put your left over vegetable peelings in your compost bin? ASDA supermarkets alone sell **140 million sprouts** in the final week before Christmas, there's a lot of composting just waiting to happen.

Over six million trees were bought last Christmas in the UK, most of which were thrown out after December, creating over **9000 tonnes** of additional rubbish - that's the equivalent weight of **160,000 of Santa's little helpers!** So if you're buying a real Christmas tree, make sure it has roots so it can grow again. If it can't grow again make sure you take it to one of your local recycling centres where it will be chipped and turned into nutritious compost.

If you buy electrical goods as presents, look for items that run off mains electricity rather than batteries. More than **680 million batteries** are bought in the UK each year, but just 5% of those are

rechargeable - the rest are land filled. If you do buy batteries, buy rechargeable!

It is estimated that over Christmas as much as **83 square km** of wrapping paper will end up in UK rubbish bins, enough to cover an area larger than Guernsey. Use string to tie up your parcels so that the paper can be reused.

Around **125,000 tonnes** of plastic packaging are thrown away over Christmas - that's the equivalent weight of more than **50,000 festive polar bears!!!** When buying gifts, try to avoid items that are excessively packaged.

An extra **500 million aluminium and steel** drink cans will also be used over the festive period - vent your festive frustration by crushing your tins before placing them in your recycling box.

It is estimated that we could use an extra **750 million bottles and glass** containers over Christmas - what better way to relieve seasonal stress than smashing your bottles at the bottle bank?

Around **4,200 tonnes of aluminium foil** gets thrown away in the UK each Christmas - if you can't re-use the foil when cooking, visit [www.recyclenow.com](http://www.recyclenow.com) to find your nearest recycling point!

It is estimated that up to **1 billion Christmas cards** (17 for every man, woman and child) could end up in bins across the UK after Christmas. Send recycled cards if you can, and remember not to throw them away when Christmas is over as they can be recycled at WH Smiths and Tesco's Extra and Superstores!

More than **80,000 tonnes of old clothes** are thrown away over Christmas - if you get a whole new wardrobe, donate your unwanted clothes to charity shops.

Remember - the main sources of extra rubbish are packaging and cards, glass bottles, drinks cans and Christmas trees, all of which can be recycled! Check your Christmas recycling and rubbish collection services, and have a happy Christmas!

Make it your New Year resolution to cut your waste! Don't forget that recycling isn't just for Christmas. By kicking off the New Year with a resolution to reduce the amount of waste you and your family produce, you'll discover how easy it is!

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