



State of Louisiana

Department of Environmental Quality



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For Immediate Release
Dec. 22, 2004

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DEQ offers recycling tips for the holiday season

BATON ROUGE -- Louisiana, like the rest of the nation, produces more garbage during December than any other month. You can make the holidays easier and take care of the environment. DEQ suggests a few simple tips to help.

“Pre-Cycle” your Christmas tree

You can pre-cycle by taking recycling and reuse into consideration when you buy. An artificial tree doesn't have to be discarded and if you buy a live tree, you can replant it in your yard. If you have a cut tree, remember that tinsel, flocking and decorations must be removed before recycling. Recyclable trees are usually collected the first two weeks in January and are used in coastal restoration projects. You can get more information on Christmas tree recycling at www.savethewetlands.org/site/Xmas/xmas3.html.

Innovate your gift-wrapping and buy recycled

Save and reuse gift bags or use Christmas theme fabric with Velcro fasteners instead of paper wrap. Another option would be to use decorative gift boxes for your gifts. Many more products are being made with recycled content so buy recycled when possible and ask the retailer if you cannot find the product you want with recycled content. Every little bit helps.

Foam Peanuts are recyclable

Most local mailbox or postal shipping stores will take your foam peanuts for recycling. To find them call The Peanut Hotline AT 800-828-2214. If you are a retailer who would like to participate, go to www.loosefillpackaging.com/hotline.

Much of Christmas can be recycled

Most cardboard can be recycled and you can use rechargeable batteries for toys, cameras and gadgets. When those batteries no longer hold a charge, call the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation at **800-8-battery** or go to their web page at www.rbrc.org for the nearest battery-recycling drop off.

Have a safe Christmas. Never burn wrapping paper or Christmas trees in the fireplace. For more Christmas recycling ideas go to www.deq.state.la.us/assistance/recycling/index_home.htm. If you have recycling ideas to share contact us at deqassistance@la.gov. You can call the DEQ Recycling and Litter Section at 225-219-3266 or toll free at 800-305-6621.

