



Earth Friendly Holiday Ideas

Fun ideas to make the Holiday season earth-friendly.

Go around your house and find unused items. Old ornaments, used candles, paints (spray can, acrylic, model builders' paint), old nail polish, interesting magazine pictures, yarns, ribbons, fabric scraps, shirts with sparkles that you haven't worn in years, food cans, jars, old CDs. And don't forget to dig into Christmas decorations you no longer use – dull ornaments, greenery, ribbon bows, glittery items. Get the idea – just grab things that have been hidden away, just waiting for a new life.

Light up Winter

Today we use an Advent Wreath, Menorah, or the Kwanzaa candles to lighten the holidays & the darkest days of Winter.



For candle holders, use recycled clean baby food jars or metal cans or used votive candle glasses for candle holders.

Cover the jars/cans/votive holders with one or a combination of the following:

* Leftover Paint * Permanent Markers * Magazine Pictures * Scraps Of Old Fabric * Yarn, etc.



➤ Add sparkle with glitter or rhinestones trimmed from an old shirt

- ❖ For a Menorah - add a Star of David with rhinestones or glitter.
- ❖ For Kwanzaa candles – trim with multicolored yarn or scraps from an old tie-dye t-shirt. (Tie-dyeing was introduced in the 1960's by Peace Corp. volunteers returning from Africa)
- ❖ For an Advent wreath – add greenery from your backyard or make holly leaves out of leftover green fabric or felt.



Cookie Cutter Ornaments



Have cookie cutters you haven't used for years? Just add sparkle with trim, metallic paint, ribbons, cover in fabric scrap – use your imagination.



Reuse Ornaments

Dig out those old baubles and decorate with sequins, ribbons, yarns, etc.



Reuse Holiday Cards

- ❖ Use the front part of a holiday card. Add a ribbon to it and the back side is perfect to use as a Name Tag
- ❖ Cut out interesting shapes and use as ornaments
- ❖ Laminate special cards for bookmarker
- ❖ Donate holiday cards to charities who make use of them

Donate for Reuse

Donate your old electronics that are still operating. Many charities will welcome your e-waste.

To find a place that recycles electronics go to:



Earth 911 <http://earth911.org/electronics/>

More Recycling Ideas

❖ Remember to cancel **Mail Order Catalogues** that you don't want.



❖ **Tree Trimmings** - try edible or compostable items like popcorn or cranberries on a string, gingerbread cookies or items made from "found" objects around your home.

❖ Try using colorful pages torn from magazines to wrap small gifts, and old maps or the Sunday comics for larger boxes.

❖ Recycle Those **Foam Peanuts**. Drop off extra packaging materials at local private mailing centers.

❖ Save used **Wrapping Paper** this Christmas and reuse it all next year. Make it a family tradition. See who gets a special wrapping paper each year.



❖ Most **Gifts Boxes** can be flattened and reused throughout the year for other items.

❖ Set a box aside to collect the reusable ribbons, bows, and other package decorations.



❖ Decorate your own **Gift Bags**

Never burn Christmas wrapping in a fireplace.

Energy saver Lights

Replace the old outdoor lights and tree lights with LED lights – they use up to 76% less energy, last longer, are safer - cool to the touch.



Recycle your Christmas tree

➤ **Check your City's website to learn how to recycle your tree.**

Finally, *please* never burn a Christmas tree in a fireplace.

