

## USES FOR YOUR TREE AFTER CHRISTMAS:

- **Use your Christmas tree to prevent erosion:** Clean of all decorations and place the tree in an arroyo or erosive area on your property.
- **Recycle your Christmas tree.** These trees will be chipped into mulch and made available free of charge to local residents.

## CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING SITES:

### In La Plata County:

- Marvel Convenience Center on C.R. 134.
- Bayfield Convenience Center on C.R. 223.
- At the intersection of Highway 160 and C.R. 141 (Wildcat Canyon Road).

For La Plata County information, call 382-6200.

### In the City of Durango:

- Santa Rita Park—in the gravel area next to the playground.

For Durango information, call 375-4800.

### In the Town of Bayfield:

- Curbside pickup on Thursday, December 31, 2009 and Thursday, January 7, 2010 by Transit Waste. Customers must have their trees out next to trash cans by 7:00 a.m. for removal on these two days.

For Bayfield information, call 884-9545.

### In the Town of Ignacio:

- Lot on the south side of Becker Street, directly south of the high school.

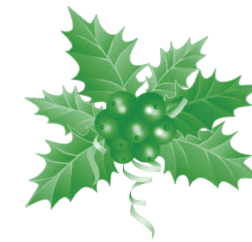
For Ignacio information, call 563-9494.

## WHEN MULCHING YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE:

- Christmas trees must be cleaned of all decorations including tinsel, bows, nails, etc.
- Only Christmas trees, natural wreaths and boughs will be accepted.
- Do not deposit other trash at the Christmas tree drop-off site. Trees comingled with other trash will render them unusable for mulch.

**Watch for announcements on the free mulch program in the spring, or call 382-6200 for additional information.**

LA PLATA COUNTY  
1060 E 2nd Avenue  
Durango, CO 81301  
(970) 382-6200



## RECYCLING AND WASTE REDUCTION SUGGESTIONS

### Including alternatives for:

- Wrapping paper
- Bows and Gift Decorations
- Packing Materials
- Green Gift Ideas
- House and Tree Decorations
- Alternatives to Cutting Live Trees
- Christmas Tree recycling





## WRAPPING PAPER



You buy it and use it once. You spend a lot of money for it to be torn up and tossed into a pile. You can't burn it, so it ends up in the garbage. But, you do have alternatives:

- **Wrap a gift in a gift.** Use a tablecloth, bandana, fabric, reusable canvas bag, a mug with a scrap of fabric stretched across the top, or a napkin to cover your gift.
- **Use comics, newspaper, old posters,** sheet music, blueprints, children's coloring work, pictures from magazines and calendars or maps for wrapping paper.
- **Make a gift box.** Separately wrap or decorate a box and lid so it can be reused; or purchase a premade, reusable gift box.
- **Reuse gift wrap, gift bags, tissue paper, boxes and tins.** Flatten and reuse wrapping paper by using a dry iron, on low heat, to remove the creases or wrinkles.
- **Make decorative gift bags.** Use scrap cloth or color a paper grocery bag for a festive and personal gift bag.
- **Use "post-consumer" paper.** When purchasing paper wrap, look for paper that is made of post-consumer materials.

## BOWS AND DECORATIONS

- **Reuse bows and ribbons.**
- **Decorate your package with a tree ornament.** Look around your house for baubles to spruce up your package. Use a pine cone, a sprig of pine, dried or silk flowers, toys, holiday cookie cutters, a scarf, shoe laces, cinnamon sticks, or hair bows and your gift will be as fun on the outside as it is on the inside.
- **Reuse the picture from old greeting cards.** Old photos or cards can be used for gift tags.



## PACKING

Instead of plastic foam . . .

- **Use cornstarch-based biodegradable packing peanuts** for packing fragile objects. These peanuts can be composted, dissolved and poured down the drain, or made into a fun art project.
- **Use glossy ads from the newspaper.** Glossy ads use ink that won't smear like the ink that is used on regular newsprint.
- **Recycle packing materials.** Reuse any bubble or foam packing from your mailings or call your local mail or packing service store. Most will accept plastic foam peanuts and may accept the formed pieces that come from products like televisions and stereos.
- **Use plain air-popped popcorn.** It is just as effective as foam in protecting your gift.

## GREEN GIFTS

- **Look for gifts that are durable.** Check the warranty and quality of the gift to ensure longevity.
- **Avoid purchasing items that have excessive packing:** items that are wrapped in a lot of plastic, cardboard, paper or foam.
- **Give an environmentally friendly gift.** Gifts such as a bird feeder, a book, garden or flower seeds, a plant, a refillable pen, a bus pass or lift ticket, a bike tune-up, a basket of fresh fruit or vegetables, a battery recharger with batteries, or reusable coffee filters are welcome gifts.
- **Give gifts that do not require packaging,** such as tickets to movies or plays; a membership to a health club; a hot springs pass; or a gift certificate for continuing education courses, a bike store, garden shop or a massage.
- **Give a gift of your time or talents.** Volunteer a service to a friend, relative, civic group, non-profit or volunteer organization. Snow shoveling, lawn mowing, baby sitting, cleaning or yard work, cooking or any other skills with which you are adept would be greatly appreciated, especially by relatives, close friends or volunteer organizations.



## HOUSE AND TREE DECORATIONS



- **Use reusable decorations.** Avoid single use decorations such as spray snow or tinsel that, in addition to creating more trash, can make trees unacceptable for mulching.
- **Make your own wreaths.** Reuse the metal wreath frame from last year by covering it with left over boughs from tree lots or trimmings from your Christmas tree.
- **Decorate with LED holiday lights.** LEDs save up to 98% of the electricity needed to power conventional Christmas lights.

## CHRISTMAS TREES

Every year, trees are harvested for Christmas. Some trees come from private tree lots planted specifically for Christmas. Others are hand cut from public or private lands.



Alternatives to cut trees are:

- **Purchase a manufactured tree.** When selecting a manufactured Christmas tree, look for "post-consumer" recycled paper or plastic materials.
- **Purchase a living tree.** Live trees can be planted in the spring. This provides valuable habitat, will shade your house in the summer, block winter winds, and remind you of Christmas throughout the year.

For cut trees, be sure to:

- **Get permission from the land owner** prior to cutting the tree or entering the property.
- **Acquire a tree permit.** The U.S. Forest Service and BLM have tree permits available. Call the U.S. Forest Service at 247-4874 for details. The permits can also be purchased at Kroegers or any District Ranger Office for \$8.00.
- **Keep the tree moist.** Keeping the tree trunk wet will help prevent the tree from drying out. In addition, keep limbs away from flame or other heat sources to reduce the possibility of fire.