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OTTAWA SANDUSKY SENECA

SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

WAYS TO REUSE DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

As we gear up to celebrate with our loved ones during the holidays, it's essential to be mindful of the waste that comes with it. According to the US EPA, household waste in America increases by over 25% between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day. This can be attributed to food, gift packaging, wrapping, and unwanted items that are replaced by new gifts. To combat this, consider implementing the following tips to reduce waste this holiday season:

Gift-giving:

- Opt for eco-friendly gift wrapping options such as recycled paper or reusable wrapping materials
- Give the gift of experiences instead of physical items
- Instead of buying brand new items, the perfect gift can be found at your local resale store, Goodwill or vintage shop.
- The best gifts are the ones made from the heart with your own hands using old, unused or scrap items. Use the term "one man's trash is another's treasure."
- Take items from around the house to repurpose them into something new.
- Gather packaging or ingredients to make a kit for holiday cookies, dips, drinks or other food for a holiday table.
- Freshen up or distress a worn item like an old piece of furniture as a gift for the home.
- Re-gift the item you received last Christmas that you have not used yet. It can be given to another who will use it or as a white elephant gift. A gift given to the right person, should be treasured like the intention of gift giving.



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Create Space and Donate After the Holidays



1. Once you start putting the gifts and decorations away, it's a great opportunity to reorganize and open up space in your home, closets and storage areas.
2. Wash an old sweater, a pair of slacks or jeans or a tie and place in the donation pile when you reorganize the closet.
3. Examine your holiday dishware and decorations and determine what can be kept for another season. Give to kids starting new households or donate what you no longer want. This is an easy way to declutter your home and give to others at the same time.

When donating items, make sure clothing, toys, furniture, etc. are clean and in good condition. Many charitable organizations may not have a way to clean items before they are given out. Call the organization, if you think an item is too damaged or soiled.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

01

REDUCE

Each year give yourself some time to think through the gifts you can give that really can be used. Often the gifts we give go to waste, too. Try to avoid giving plastic gifts, instead, opt for consumables like nice cooking salts or homemade tea mixes. Swap books, ingredients, and other necessities instead of going for things that are particularly flashy.

02

REUSE

Studies have shown that an artificial tree must be used up to 20 times compared to a live tree from a carbon footprint perspective. It is important to consider the environmental impact of our holiday traditions and make choices that align with our values of sustainability and conservation.

03

RECYCLE

When the celebrations are over, recycle as much as you can to create less waste. Review the District's Naughty and Nice Recycling List before tossing items into a recycling container. Not everything this holiday season is recyclable. For example, recyclers do not want the foam and film packaging with your empty cardboard box.

