

at your disposal



 news from Allied Waste of Corvallis

Safe & Sustainable Holidays

The holiday season brings all kinds of hustle and bustle. Some stress this time of year is a given, but reducing waste might actually lighten that load.

The holidays are the most wasteful time of the year. According to the U.S. EPA, the amount of waste produced increases by more than 25% from Thanksgiving to New Years. Trash from gift wrap and shopping bags alone amounts to four million tons in the U.S. annually and 28 billion pounds of edible food is wasted. That's about 100 pounds per person. Now for the good news. You can simplify the holidays, do something about the amount of waste and keep your family safe at the same time.

Most issues surrounding food safety and food waste involve leftovers. Plan ahead for the number of people you will be feeding, including a day or two of leftovers, but don't try to keep food too long. Check cookbooks and websites for information about serving sizes and safe leftover times. Preparing the right amount of food will keep everyone feeling well and eliminate the need to throw away extra food this time of year. If you do have food scraps, be sure to put them in the Mixed Organics cart for composting (if available in your area.)



Plan thoughtfully when giving gifts. Waste-free gifts of time and talent are appreciated just as much as the latest gadget. Make gift certificates on recycled paper or greeting cards to teach a skill, help with a task or share a meal. Tickets to concerts, the zoo, movies or a sporting events make fun gifts and don't come with any waste.

To avoid fire, lighted candles should never be used near Christmas trees, wreaths, poinsettias or boughs. The safest idea is to convert to LED light strings and decorations. They stay cool, use far less energy and cost about \$0.06 per string of 50 lights to operate over the holiday season versus \$4.50

per string for traditional lights. Old, less efficient holiday lights can be recycled through January at the Allied Waste Recycle Depot at no charge.

Wrapping paper can be recycled as long as it isn't the metallic variety. Better yet, reduce waste by wrapping gifts in shopping bags, towels or other reusable items, making the wrapping part of the package.



Wreaths, boughs and garland should never be placed in a fireplace, but can be safely

recycled in your Mixed Organic or Yard Debris carts. Allied Waste will collect Christmas trees from the curb December 27 through January 14. Trees go to the Pacific Region Compost Facility. Make sure trees are bare. No lights, ornaments or flocked trees. Remember, using this compost made from local organic material helps to close the loop.

Allied Waste of Corvallis 2011 Calendar

January	11	<u>Master Recycler class begins</u>
February	12	<u>Household Hazardous Waste Event</u> 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
March		
April	9	<u>Spring Recycle Event</u> 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
May	7	<u>Compost Workshop</u> 9 a.m. to noon, Benton Co. Fair
	14	<u>Household Hazardous Waste Event</u> 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
June	11	<u>Monroe Recycle Event</u>
July	9	<u>Adair Village Recycle Event</u>
August	13	<u>Household Hazardous Waste Event</u> 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
September	9	<u>Compost Workshop</u> 1-4 p.m., Benton Co. Fairgrounds
October	TBA	<u>Corvallis Leaf Collection</u>
November	12	<u>Household Hazardous Waste Event</u> 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
December	26-Jan. 13	<u>Christmas tree curbside collection</u>



Allied Waste bills can be paid online or by phone with a credit card, debit card or checking account. There is no charge for either option and both assure that payments are credited faster than a mailed payment. Pay online at: www.disposal.com or by phone at: 877-692-9729.

Holiday Schedule

Christmas and New Years Day fall on Saturday in 2010, so there will be no break in service for the holidays. Trash, recycling and mixed organics or yard debris will be collected as usual on Friday, December 24th and 31st. We do ask that carts be out on time or early. Drivers may be ahead of the normal schedule. The recycle depot will be closed on Christmas and New Years Day, but will open on Sunday December 26th and January 2nd.

All you ever wanted to know about the compost made at the Pacific Region Compost Facility is now available on a new website: www.pacificregioncompost.com

Keep a Lid on it

Be sure to close the lid on your trash, recycling and mixed organics carts after placing material in them. Keeping trash dry reduces the amount of liquid that eventually goes to the landfill. Keeping the lid on the recycling makes the sorting process easier. Paper is recycled more easily when it is dry. Compost gets up to temperature faster when it is not too wet, so keeping rain out of the yard debris or mixed organic cart is helpful too. All three carts will be easier for you to navigate to the curb without the extra weight of rainwater. We appreciate your help to make these processes more efficient.

Benton County Recovery Rate

The recovery rate, or percentage of the total waste generated that is recovered in recycling, composting or energy recovery for Benton County was calculated at 43.9% in 2009. The goal for Benton County was 50%. Benton County nearly met the goal in 2008 with a recovery rate of 48%. There are many potential reasons for the decline in 2009, but one thing is certain...Benton County residents are eager to reduce waste. Some tips to help us get that rate up are listed below:

Don't create the waste to begin with. Remember, the recovery rate is a percentage of total waste, so the less we generate in the first place, the better we do.

Donate anything that could be reused to one of the many resale businesses in the area.

If you live within the city of Corvallis, placing food waste in the Mixed Organics cart is a great way to increase what you recycle.

Take a look at what goes in your trash to determine anything that could be recycled. The Allied Waste web site at: <http://corvallis.disposal.com> has a comprehensive list of item to include in the curbside commingled recycling.



 Newsletter printed on recycled paper fiber. Please recycle when finished.



Allied Waste of Corvallis
P.O. Box One
Corvallis OR 97339

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Recycling



It's easy to recycle Christmas lights with Allied Waste this holiday season. Just drop off old light strings, working or not at the recycle depot, located at 110 NE Walnut Blvd. (enter off Belvue St.) There is no need to remove bulbs. The strings will be recycled locally in conjunction with Burcham's Metals in Albany.

Benton County is seeking volunteers to serve on the solid waste advisory committee. Call Teresa at 541-766-6800 to request an application.



Contact Us:

Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
at: 541-754-0444.
After hours, leave a message and we will call you back.
or e-mail us at: corvallis@disposal.com
or find us on the web at: <http://corvallis.disposal.com>
for on-line bill pay option: www.disposal.com
Pay by Phone: 877-692-9729
We are located at:
110 NW Walnut Blvd., Corvallis