Celebrate every day

If 2020 has taught us anything, it's that life on earth is so very precious and interconnected. We have adapted to a new way of living, and value not only front line workers, but also local goods and services more than ever.

Since everyone is having to rethink holiday plans and traditions in light of COVID-19, this edition offers information and inspiration. We hope you find ways to share and build community, but also reduce waste. We still have so much to celebrate.

COVID-19 Update

- Check the Region's website for up-to-date information on the pandemic and local requirements.
- Read through our waste set-out requirements for COVID-19.
- Go to the province's website for ideas on how to celebrate safely during COVID-19

Put masks, gloves, and wipes in a garbage bag, not a blue box.
Securely close all garbage bags and green bin liner bags. If you are sick, put everything that touched your face (including recyclables) in the garbage. Keep 2 metres away from collection staff.

Holiday collection and how-tos

Christmas Day and New Year’s Day are the only holidays on which our crews do not collect. With these days falling on Fridays this year, collection is delayed one day:

How to "Tree-cycle"

1. Set out your natural tree by 7 a.m. on your collection day during the weeks of January 4 to 15, 2021. Do not bag.
2. Remove all lights, ornaments, and stands.
3. Cut trees that are longer than 1.8 meters (6 feet) in half.
4. Keep it visible and accessible for collection crews. Do not place your tree on or behind a snowbank.

Please note:
After this special collection ends,
- tree-cycle by dropping off your natural tree at a Regional waste management site (fees will apply).
- a natural tree at the curb will be taken as a bulky item (limits apply).

All artificial trees will be collected as bulky items.

Need to find a local tree farm? Go to the province's website and choose one from their list.

Holiday hours of our sites
Our Cambridge and Waterloo waste drop-off sites will be closed to the public on
Sort your holiday waste

Use 2-blue boxes to sort:
Containers
- Only blue box (rinse, do not bag containers)
- Aerosol cans (empty)
- Cans, pop cans, foil trays
- Cartons (milk, juice, egg nog), juice boxes
- Glass bottles, jars (separate lids)
- Hard, clear packaging from toys or electronics (remove paper, put in the paper blue box)
- Paper coffee cups (separate lid)
- Plastic bottles and jugs #1-7

No Styrofoam!

Paper and Plastic Bags blue box
- Boxboard (cereal boxes, gift boxes)
- Cards, envelopes, flyers, junk mail
- Paper gift wrap, gift bags, tissue paper (remove tape, bows, no foil paper)
- Plastic bags and outer wrap (tie all bags into one bag)

Use the green bin:
- (line your green bin)

All food waste
- Cookies, fruit cake, snack foods
- Fruits, vegetables, peels, pits
- Meats, bones, fish, shellfish
- Nuts, shells
- Spreads, cheese, dips, crackers

Soiled paper products and other items
- Paper plates, napkins, towels
- Poinsettias, indoor natural greenery

Pet waste (placed in certified compostable bag or wrapped in newspaper)
- Kitty litter, cage bedding
- Dog, reindeer droppings

What goes into the garbage:
- Bows, ribbon, tape, foil or plastic gift wrap
- Candles
- Chip bags, snack wrappers
- Dishware and cookware
- Furnace filters
- Hangers (plastic, wood, metal)
- Light bulbs and strings (wrap sharp items in paper then put in garbage)
- Masks, gloves, wipes
- Plastic food wrap, bubble wrap
- Plastic cutlery
- Styrofoam
- Toys (consider donating)
- Wooden orange crates

3Rs Advent calendar: Ways to trim and manage holiday waste

- Don’t snooze on your collection day during the holiday season.

Send e-cards or emails. Phone, or meet your loved one online.

Give the gift of music and spread cheer!
Consider caroling with those in your household.

Check the lists - maybe twice! Recycle all you can in your green bin and blue box.

Have you learned a new hobby during the last 9 months? Gift your creations.

Make kitchen container liners out of newspaper.

Not sure how to deal with a type of item or package? Ask the Waste Whiz.
holidays! Set out your waste items by 7 a.m.

Sign up for our free Waste Whiz app and customize collection notices.

Set up waste sorting stations in your home to recycle more. Don't waste shampoo bottles!

Order labels for your blue boxes. Call 519-575-4400.

Reduce food waste by baking only your absolute favourite holiday treats.

Buy food that has 100 per cent recyclable packaging.

Buy food and other supplies at local bulk and "zero" waste stores. BYOC - Bring Your Own Containers or buy refillable ones.

Put greenery in your green bin. Please remove all wire and decorations.

Did you replace your artificial Christmas tree? Perhaps you can donate your old one to a local charity! #bekindwr

Share your favourite, traditional, or even secret recipes so that your loved ones can enjoy them during these times when we can't gather together. #bekindwr

Don't waste your food scraps! Make sure you know how to handle and recycle extra food scraps.

Recycle cards and paper gift wrap. Put them in a bag and place in your "Paper and Plastic Bags" container.

Reuse wooden crates (e.g. from clementines). There are many ideas online - from planters to doll beds. If you don'tflatten, size and bundle cardboard for collection.

Reuse old holiday cards by making decorations or little boxes. Look for ideas online.

Set up storage space for all Household Hazardous Waste (including batteries).

"Shop" at home. Thoughtful re-gifting could include antique or heirloom pieces that have special meaning to your family.

Give gifts that help the world such as:
- Donations in your loved one's name to environmental groups, conservation authorities, etc.
- Buy gifts that have recycled content.

Set up waste sorting stations in your home to recycle more. Don't waste shampoo bottles!

Order labels for your blue boxes. Call 519-575-4400.

Reduce food waste by baking only your absolute favourite holiday treats.

Buy food that has 100 per cent recyclable packaging.

Buy food and other supplies at local bulk and "zero" waste stores. BYOC - Bring Your Own Containers or buy refillable ones.

Put greenery in your green bin. Please remove all wire and decorations.

Did you replace your artificial Christmas tree? Perhaps you can donate your old one to a local charity! #bekindwr

Share your favourite, traditional, or even secret recipes so that your loved ones can enjoy them during these times when we can't gather together. #bekindwr

Don't waste your food scraps! Make sure you know how to handle and recycle extra food scraps.

Recycle cards and paper gift wrap. Put them in a bag and place in your "Paper and Plastic Bags" container.

Reuse wooden crates (e.g. from clementines). There are many ideas online - from planters to doll beds. If you don'tflatten, size and bundle cardboard for collection.
blue box. (No foil items, please.) reuse them, please put them in the garbage.

Need more ideas for a waste-free holiday?
- Check out additional waste reduction tips on our website.
- Go to Waste Reduction Week in Canada.
- Learn about and get involved in the Zero plastic waste movement.

Wishing you and yours all the best this holiday, and in 2021!

Remember to share this news!
Help put the pieces together for your circle of friends! Please forward this electronic newsletter to them using the link at the end, or even better, send them the link to the Region’s subscription page. There they can quickly sign up for Waste Management eNews and any other topic that they are keen on.

2021 Waste Collection calendars will be delivered from mid- to late December. Look for your copy in your mailbox!

Contact us
Region of Waterloo
Waste Management Division
925 Erb Street West
Waterloo, ON N2J 3Z4
Phone: 519-575-4400
TTY: 519-575-4608
Email: waste@regionofwaterloo.ca
Visit: www.regionofwaterloo.ca/waste

Follow us!
Twitter: @WasteWR