

Know the holiday recycling nice and naughty lists

Recycling during the holiday season is a must but even the most ardent recyclers need to know what belongs in that bin, what should be reused and what, unfortunately, must go in the trash can.

The University of Texas at Arlington's Sustainability Committee worked with the University's recycling partner, Balcones Resources, to develop a nice and naughty list for holiday season recycling.

On the nice list are items that can enter the recycling stream. They include:

- Paper, plain wrapping paper, craft paper, newspaper. Remove all tape before recycling. Or reuse it.
- Cardboard, boxes, wrapping paper tubes

The naughty list includes:

- Shiny, metallic, or foil wrapping paper.
- Giftbags (reuse them).
- Bubble or shrink wrap.
- Ribbons, bows, twine, decorative string (reuse them).
- Tissue paper (reuse it).
- Holiday ornaments: most have glitter or are made of glass or other non-recyclable materials.
- Anything with glitter on it.
- Garlands: most have glitter or are made of nonrecyclable materials. The only recyclable garlands are those made of paper or plain cardboard.
- Tinsel.
- Glass in general. More recycling programs are no longer accepting glass. Check with your city.
- Food containers soiled with food or grease, including pizza boxes.
- Heavily waxed paper boxes or containers.

Check with your city's recycling center to see if it will accept these items. Do not put these items in your recycling bin.

- Batteries.
- Electronic items in general.
- Extension cords.
- Holiday lights.
- Styrofoam.

Food is a big part of the holidays but is not for the recycling bin. Instead, create your own compost pile or bring food scraps to the UTA compost site, 500 Summit Ave., and drop them off at the front gate.

Finally, when the holidays are at an end, don't forget to [recycle your live, natural Christmas tree](#). Check with your city to see what its policies are on Christmas trees. Some offer free pickup.

Other helpful sites include:

- Balcones [list of recyclable materials](#)
- [Arlington city recycling services](#)
- [Dallas recycling training video](#)
- [Tarrant County Recycling Drop-off Stations](#)