

CVRD Holiday Zero Waste Guide

Looking to reduce waste over the holidays? Check out the 2025 Holiday Zero Waste Guide for holiday recycling tips, gift ideas, and gift-wrap alternatives!



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2025 CVRD Recycling Centre Holiday Hours

CVRD Recycling Centres will be operating at reduced hours during the holiday season.

Bings Creek Recycling Centre

Wednesday, Dec. 24: 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Thursday, Dec. 25: CLOSED

Friday, Dec. 26: CLOSED

Wednesday, Dec. 31: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

Thursday, Jan. 1: CLOSED

Peerless Road Recycling Centre

Wednesday, Dec. 24: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Thursday, Dec. 25: REGULAR CLOSED DAY

Friday, Dec. 26: REGULAR CLOSED DAY

Wednesday, Dec. 31: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Thursday, Jan. 1: REGULAR CLOSED DAY

Meade Creek Recycling Centre

Wednesday, Dec. 24: 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Thursday, Dec. 25: REGULAR CLOSED DAY

Friday, Dec. 26: REGULAR CLOSED DAY

Wednesday, Dec. 31: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Thursday, Jan. 1: REGULAR CLOSED DAY

For more information on hours and accepted materials, please visit:

<https://www.cvr.ca/2966/Recycling-Centre-Locations-Hours-Accepte>

Reducing Waste Over the Holidays

Curbside Recycling Tips for the Holiday Season

Recycle right and reduce waste in your curbside tote this holiday season! Check out these tips for common questions for managing holiday waste.

Can I put this in my curbside recycling tote?	Yes/No	Things to know
Paper gift wrapping	Yes	If you can easily rip the paper, it is recyclable. Glittery, glossy, metallic, and foil-lined paper must be put in the garbage.
Gift bags	Yes	Remove handles, metal grommets, and decorations such as bows and ribbons.
Greeting Cards	Yes	If the card plays music, please remove the batteries and electronic components first.
Gift Baskets	No	Neither cellophane nor the basket is recyclable.
Ribbons and bows	No	Reuse ribbons and bows or put them in the garbage.
Broken holiday decorations and ornaments	No	Consider repairing or donating first. Please put ornaments in the garbage if broken.
Holiday Lights	No	Please take to a CVRD Recycling Centre.

Food Waste

Did you know that 63% of the food Canadians throw away or compost could have been eaten? For the average Canadian household, that costs \$1100 per year. For planning tips and helpful hints on using up all your leftovers, visit Love Food Hate Waste Canada.

<https://lovefoodhatewaste.ca/>

Gift Wrap Alternatives

Canadians throw away 545,000 tonnes of gift wrapping and gift bags each year.

What's important to know, is that **not all wrapping paper is recyclable** as metallic, glittery, glossy, or foil-lined wrapping paper is incompatible with the recycling process. These wrapping materials contaminate recyclables which can result in entire loads of recycling being sent to the landfill.

Cloth Bags and Wrapping:

Take the reusable route instead!

Handmade or store-bought cloth bags are an excellent alternative to wrapping paper as they can be reused as produce or grocery bags.

Use tea towels, pillowcases, scarves, towels, etc. to make the wrapping a part of the gift! This can be achieved using the Japanese wrapping technique called [Furoshiki](#).

Alternative Paper Materials:

Or, use what you already have with these wrapping paper alternatives:

- Newspaper
- Drawings and paintings
- Book or magazine pages
- Paper bags from the grocery store
- Maps

For more information and wrapping ideas, [visit the Recycling Council of British Columbia's green gift wrap guide](#).

Zero Waste Gift Ideas

Feeling the pressure for last-minute gifts? Try giving the gift of experiences by:

- Passing on or gifting a new skill such as an art class, sewing class, dance lesson or sharing baking tips!
- Making memories with a weekend away or attending a local event such as a book fair, concert or community event.
- Gifting an annual National Parks pass or museum membership.

For those sticking to a budget, check out the [Recycling Council of British Columbia's Experience on a Budget Gift Guide!](#)

Want to go the homemade route instead?

- Share some homemade baking to spread the holiday cheer!
- Get crafty and show off your skills by [creating decorations with natural materials](#).
- Go digital and make a virtual scrapbook, collage or gallery to share memories with loved ones.

For more creative gift ideas, visit the [Recycling Council of British Columbia's Holiday Info Guides!](#)



2026 Christmas Tree Recycling Events

Now that the holidays are over, it's time to take down your decorations, dispose of your live Christmas tree and welcome the new year! Please don't burn your tree; support healthy hearts and lungs and give back to our community instead by recycling your live Christmas tree at a local chipping fundraiser or CVRD Recycling Centre.

Chip In for the Kids by disposing of your live Christmas tree with the Easter Seals' annual Christmas Tree Recycle. All funds raised will go towards Easter Seals' programs and services, including Camp Shawnigan. Live trees (without tinsel, lights or decorations) will be chipped in exchange for a donation at the following locations:

January 3 & 4, 2026 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Shawnigan Lake: Mason's Store & Patio Ltd.

Mill Bay: Thrifty Foods

Trees can also be recycled at [CVRD Recycling Centres](#) free of charge if the tree stem is less than 3 inches. If larger, trees must be disposed of as clean wood waste at \$165/tonne.