



ENVIRO-WATCH

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Do you ever think about the amount of waste you throw away at Christmas?

One of the most efficient measures we can take when it comes to waste, is to produce less waste in the first place! Remember it isn't only about the amount of food that gets wasted at Christmas by cooking too much, but the amount of wrapping paper, magazines, cardboard boxes, plastic bottles, cans, glass bottles and old electronic equipment that we throw away.

Ways to reduce the amount of waste generated at Christmas include:

- ◇ Avoid wrapping presents with excess packaging.
- ◇ Recycle containers from your Christmas cheer (glass bottles, aluminum cans, plastic bottles).
- ◇ Use re-usable gift bags or recycled wrapping paper.
- ◇ Plan meals in advance to use the food you have already bought.
- ◇ Check foods in the cupboards and fridge ahead of your Christmas shopping trip.
- ◇ Create a shopping list of what is needed and stick to it.
- ◇ Don't use disposable plates, cups and cutlery. Using your dishes and then placing them in the dishwasher saves money and resources. Saves on the cleaning up without creating waste!
- ◇ Send e-cards or reduce cards by sending one per family.
- ◇ If you receive a present that you don't like, why not give it to charity and give someone else a chance to enjoy it?
- ◇ Gifts do not necessarily have to be material items. Treat someone to a day out, buy cinema tickets or open a children's savings account.
- ◇ Choose gifts and products which are long lasting and sustainably sourced or produced with recycled materials.



In this issue:

Thinking about waste at Christmas	1
Blue, Red and Green Recycling Bins	2
Pink and Yellow Recycling Bins	3
Why does Recycling Matter?	4
EU Recycling Obligations	4



Recycling Paper and Cardboard

Just think about all that wrapping paper and boxes which get thrown away on Christmas Day once all the presents have been opened.

Instead of throwing them all in the normal refuse bins, why not take them all to nearby Blue Recycling Bins. In addition to wrapping paper and cardboard at Christmas, you can also recycle magazines, newspapers, paper food packaging and egg cartons.

Remember when collecting paper and cardboard for recycling to fold the empty cartons and boxes to make them easier to transport and place in the bins.



WHAT ITEMS CAN YOU DEPOSIT IN THE **BLUE RECYCLING BINS?**

**NEWSPAPER
MAGAZINES
CARDBOARD
EGG CARTONS
FOOD PACKAGING
BOXES**

REMEMBER: Fold empty cartons & cardboard boxes to make them easier to transport and place in bins.



WHAT ITEMS CAN YOU DEPOSIT IN THE

GREEN RECYCLING BINS?

**ALL GLASS JARS
GLASS BOTTLES
WITHOUT THEIR
CAPS & LIDS**

Bottles of wine, spirits, etc.
Jars of food, jams, etc.
Perfume and cosmetic
glass bottles.



Recycle your Glass

H.M. Government of Gibraltar's Green Recycling Bins accept all empty bottles of wine and spirits.

Empty glass food jars, like jam jars, can also be deposited in the Green Bins. Empty glass perfume bottles are also accepted.



Recycling all types of batteries

There is a large variety of electronic equipment and toys available, most of which are powered by batteries. Why not invest in rechargeable batteries to save money and minimise the amount of battery waste generated. Maybe purchase a rechargeable battery set as a Christmas present for someone?

All types of household batteries can be recycled in the Red Recycling Bins.



WHAT ITEMS CAN YOU DEPOSIT IN THE

RED RECYCLING BINS?

**ALL TYPES OF BATTERIES
including:**

AAA, AA, C, D, 4.5 volt,
9 volt and Lantern (Spring).
Smaller batteries from watches,
etc. are also recyclable.

NB: Car and other vehicle
batteries should be taken
to the Recycling Centre
at Europa Advance Road.



Recycle your Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment

As part of the European Union's requirements for all European Countries to recycle 50% of their municipal waste by 2020, H.M. Government of Gibraltar recently introduced its latest addition to the recycling 'family' of bins.

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) is basically anything that uses electricity to work. Examples of WEEE include:

- ◇ Television sets and Video Recorders.
- ◇ Sewing Machines, Drills and Saws.
- ◇ Compact fluorescent lamps.
- ◇ Mobiles, Telephones, Laptops and Printers.
- ◇ Hand-held video game consoles and Video Games.

In addition to the Pink Recycling Bins, H.M. Government of Gibraltar also provides a Recycling Centre for the collection and sorting of all WEEE. It is situated at Europa Advance Battery, Europa Advance Road and operated by Gibraltar General Support Services Ltd.

The Centre is open from:

Mon-Fri: 8am to 8pm

Sat-Sun: 9am to 5pm

(Inclusive of most Public Holidays)

Mixed Packaging and Cans / Metals

Most of our food products are packaged when preparing them for transport in order to maximize their shelf life. In Gibraltar we have the facility to recycle all this packaging despite the recycling instructions on some packaging.

Items which can be recycled include:

- * Plastic bottles including empty fizzy drinks bottles.
- * Plastic wrappings including crisp, chocolate and biscuit wrappings and boxes.
- * Cans, Aluminum foil and foil trays.

WHAT ITEMS CAN YOU DEPOSIT IN THE

PINK RECYCLING BINS?

ANYTHING ELECTRIC including:

Small household items: clocks, coffee machines and electric toothbrushes.
IT and telecommunications equipment: all types of phones, computers and keyboards, etc.
Toys and leisure equipment: video games, car racing sets, etc.

For a comprehensive list please visit: thinkinggreen.gov.gi



Items of WEEE include:

- * Large household appliances.
- * Small household appliances.
- * IT and Telecommunications equipment.
- * Lighting equipment.
- * Electric Toys, leisure and sports equipment.
- * Electrical and electronic tools.

WHAT ITEMS CAN YOU DEPOSIT IN THE

YELLOW RECYCLING BINS?

PLASTIC

Bottles of water, soft drinks, etc.
Cleaning product containers.
Bath/shower gel bottles, yogurt containers, plastic shopping bags, plastic wrappings (from biscuits, etc). Packets of crisps, sweets, etc.

TETRA BRIK

Tetra Brik packaging from juices, milk, wine, etc.

CANS/METALS

All types of food tins and cans (tomato, tuna, peas, etc). Soft drink cans.
Metal bottle caps, Clean aluminium foil and foil trays.



Why Does Recycling Matter?

If you're not already recycling, it's very easy to do and you can really make a difference.

When we recycle, used materials are converted into new products, reducing the need to consume natural resources. Recycling helps conserve important raw materials and protects natural habitats for the future.

When recyclable materials are reprocessed into new products, the amount of rubbish sent to landfill sites reduces. Landfill sites produce emissions of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. The smaller the amount of refuse sent to landfill sites, the greater the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, which helps combat climate change.



EU Obligations

The European Union has set a target for all European Countries to recycle 50% of their municipal waste by 2020. This target also applies to Gibraltar. Meeting the target will require a big effort from the whole community to increase the amount of waste that is recycled locally.

It's easy!

Together we can make a difference!

I recycle!

What are you waiting for?

I'm going to start!

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas from all at the Ministry for the Environment!

