



Reducing Christmas Waste



As the year draws to a close and Christmas approaches, it's easy to get caught up in a whirlwind of celebrations, meals, and sales. This can be overwhelming and distract us from celebrating Jesus' birth, while also resulting in massive amounts of waste.

30%

Waste increases by 30% over the Christmas period



According to a study by KitchenAid, 9 out of 10 Australians throw out more than 25% of their food over the Christmas period

150,000 kilometers

Wrapping paper is a massive waste contributor, with Australians alone using 150,000 kilometers of wrapping paper over Christmas in 2017, most of which ends up in landfill



Aussies receive over 20 million unwanted gifts at Christmastime

Ways to reduce your impact

Gift Wrap

There are many wrapping alternatives for waste reduction. Consider wrapping gifts with reusable materials such as fabric napkins, Christmas patterned tea-towels or even scarves. Reuse older gift bags, and rather than buying a new roll of wrapping paper, why not look around the house for old craft paper, unwanted maps and magazines, or even newspaper? Aged paper paired with some twine can make a stunning plastic-free gift wrap. If you do use wrapping paper, be sure to use as little tape as possible, making it easier for the recipient to remove before recycling.





Christmas Cards

Christmas Cards are a well-loved tradition to show the people around us that we care. Unfortunately, most cards are thrown out at the end of the Christmas season. E-cards are an easy waste-free alternative that can be sent via email. If you do receive cards this Christmas, try converting the card-fronts into gift tags for simple yet effective reuse.



Food Waste

Food waste is a contributor to greenhouse emissions and is also a waste of money and resources. Consider a few strategies when catering over Christmas:

- Keep some fridge space clear for leftovers, and use them over the following days
- Plan out your dishes before shopping, and check what you already have in the pantry
- Be aware of over-catering. Generally, the more people present at a gathering, the less food is required per person
- Set a food budget for your Christmas party and stick to it. This will reduce waste and cost.

Waste-Free Gifts

Many gifts (particularly novelty Kris Kringle presents) are tossed away in the months after Christmas. Gifted experiences such as concert tickets, a trip to a museum, or perhaps an evening of baby-sitting provide a meaningful waste-free alternative to traditional gifts. On-behalf donations to an organisation close to the recipient's heart are also a fantastic alternative gift.

Applying just a few of these strategies can massively reduce the amount of waste you go through, while also saving you money over the Christmas period. In celebrating God's love represented in Jesus, it is important that we take the time to consider our impact on His creation.



RESOURCES

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