

# RETHINKER

FALL/WINTER 2020

Seasons greeting from the RethinkWaste family! This special Holiday Rethinker Issue is for residents of single family homes who participate in the curbside pickup program. Questions? Email [rethinker@rethinkwaste.org](mailto:rethinker@rethinkwaste.org).



The Rethinker newsletter is dedicated to educating residents and businesses regarding waste reduction, reuse, and recycling. With your help, we can meet our goal of diverting waste from the landfill and maintain healthy, livable communities.

**RethinkWaste Administrative Offices**  
610 Elm Street, Suite 202 | San Carlos, CA 94070  
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## 'Tis the Season for Gifting & Receiving

Read our tips to help reduce your holiday waste and make the holidays a little greener.



Get more eco-friendly holiday tips at [RethinkWaste.org/holidays](https://RethinkWaste.org/holidays)



### IF GIFTING...

1. **Power up.** Many electronics, toys, and gadgets require batteries. If batteries are not included, consider reusable batteries. They help reduce waste and can save you money too.
2. **Skip the wrapping.** Reuse last year's wrapping paper and gift bags, or choose eco-friendly options: non-metallic gift wrap, kraft or butcher paper, newspaper, scrap sewing material, or a colorful scarf.
3. **Get crafty.** Making gifts can lead to meaningful keepsakes that come with a lighter ecological footprint. Bake cookies, write a poem, make some candles, or construct a memory book with photos to cherish.

### IF RECEIVING...

1. **Energize.** As you start receiving and using new gadgets, make sure to properly dispose of your spent household batteries. Check out the other side of this mailer for free and easy ways to do this.
2. **Sort it out.** Make sure you sort your gift wrapping and packaging materials into the correct cart or bin—or better yet—save materials to reuse next year!
3. **Donate.** Making room for your new gifts at home? Think of donating items in good condition that you no longer need instead of trashing them. Visit [RethinkWaste.org/ReduceWaste](https://RethinkWaste.org/ReduceWaste) to learn more.



## Practice Battery Safety This Holiday!

Batteries power our daily lives. After they have lost their charge, they need to be properly disposed of. Here are your need-to-know battery safety tips:

- 1 NEVER place batteries inside any of your collections carts (blue, green, or black)!**
- 2** Batteries—especially lithium-ion varieties—can be highly flammable! For this reason, remember to **tape your battery terminals with clear tape.**
- 3** Remember to **remove batteries** before donating old toys, or tossing broken toys in the garbage.

Learn more at: [RethinkBatteries.org](http://RethinkBatteries.org)



Collect used batteries in any clear zip-top bag and place the sealed bag on top of your black garbage cart lid on your regular collection day.



A FREE & EASY WAY TO SAFELY DISPOSE OF YOUR USED HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES

## EMBEDDED: Tech Gadget Gift & Battery Guide

If you're giving, receiving, or donating tech gadgets this holiday season, it's important to understand that a majority of them have embedded, rechargeable batteries. If this is the case, **THEY SHOULD NOT BE THROWN IN THE TRASH.**

Here are a couple of options if you're unable to safely remove batteries:

- E-waste items with batteries such as laptops, cell phones, and MP3 players can be taken to the Shoreway Public Recycling Center in San Carlos free of charge. [RethinkWaste.org/PRC](http://RethinkWaste.org/PRC).
- Other items with embedded lithium-ion batteries such as toothbrushes, razors, and vape pens should be properly disposed of via San Mateo County's Household Hazardous Waste Program. You can make an appointment online at [smchealth.org/hhw](http://smchealth.org/hhw).



## Holiday Tree Collection: January 2 - January 31

Recology will collect holiday trees curbside for composting between January 2nd and January 31st. Please note that trees may be collected by a vehicle other than your regular compost collection vehicle.

### FOR PROPER TREE COLLECTION PLEASE FOLLOW THESE EASY STEPS:

1. Remove all decorations and tree stands (flocked trees are accepted).
2. Place tree next to your green Compost Cart or **place inside with trunk sticking out.**
3. Trees larger than 8 ft will need to be cut in half in order to be collected. If you have an oversized tree and cannot cut it, please contact Recology for a special collection at no charge.

**After January 31st, please cut the tree to fit inside your Compost Cart.**



### PROGRAM INFORMATION:

RethinkWaste is your regional public agency\* that owns the 16-acre Shoreway Environmental Center in San Carlos and manages two major contractors: Recology & South Bay Recycling. [RethinkWaste](http://RethinkWaste.org) | (650) 802-3500 | [rethinker@rethinkwaste.org](mailto:rethinker@rethinkwaste.org) | [RethinkWaste.org](http://RethinkWaste.org)

Questions about your recycle, compost or garbage service? Contact Recology: [Recology San Mateo County](http://Recology.com) | 225 Shoreway Rd, San Carlos | (650) 595-3900

Questions about the Shoreway Environmental Center, including hours of operation, materials accepted, disposal, buy back rates, etc? Contact South Bay Recycling: [South Bay Recycling](http://SBRecycling.net) | 333 Shoreway Rd, San Carlos | (650) 802-8355

**\*RethinkWaste Member Agencies:**  
Atherton  
Belmont  
Burlingame  
East Palo Alto  
Foster City  
Hillsborough  
Menlo Park  
Redwood City  
San Carlos  
San Mateo  
County of San Mateo  
West Bay Sanitary District

