



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

News Release

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Dennis Williams, Public Information Officer
Phone: 858-573-1241

Pauline Priest, Recycling Specialist
Phone: 858-492-5016

**CITY OF SAN DIEGO REMINDS RESIDENTS
TO RECYCLE HOLIDAY FOOD PACKAGING AND COOKING OIL**

Tips to Reduce Holiday Refuse

SAN DIEGO, CA— From Thanksgiving through the New Year's holiday the average San Diego household generates between three and 10 extra bags of trash. However, not all this material is actually refuse. Mixed in that waste are many recyclable materials, such as food and gift packaging and cooking oil. Too often these recyclables end up buried in the City's Miramar Landfill.

"The Landfill has only about six more years of useable life left to bury trash," said Elmer L. Heap, Jr., director of the City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department. "Although San Diego's waste diversion rate was 52 percent for 2004, we must do a better job recycling because more than two-thirds of material buried in the landfill is recyclable.

"Worse, as the Miramar Landfill and other regional landfills continue to reach capacity, transportation and disposal costs for San Diego's waste will increase," said Heap.

The following items used to package food and gifts can be recycled in residents' blue curbside recycling bins or at recycling drop-off locations at City Recreation Centers:

- aluminum pie and turkey tins, and foil;
- pressboard food boxes (cracker and stuffing boxes, etc.);
- glass food jars used for apple sauce, fruit juices, preserves, jellies and jams, etc;
- metal cans used for cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie filling, green beans, etc;
- paper egg cartons;
- paper shopping bags;
- cardboard and paper product packaging of all kinds;

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- paper gift wrapping;
- frozen food boxes;
- plastic juice bottles;
- plastic milk and water jugs;
- soda, cider, wine, champagne, beer and other alcohol bottles;
- wine-in-a-box boxes (remove the inside plastic bladder), and
- empty aerosol cans.

The City also encourages reusing many holiday-generated waste items: food jars for storing leftovers; pie tins to send leftovers home with family and friends, gift bags for next year's gift giving, cardboard product boxes for shipping packages, etc. Vegetable wastes can be composted in a backyard compost bin.

Turkey bones and skin, or anything that can decay should be placed in a plastic bag before disposing in the trash. If trash is not collected for several days, these materials can be bagged and frozen to avoid decomposing odors.

For residents planning to cook with oil, the Miramar Recycling Center, located at the Miramar Landfill at 5165 Convoy Street, offers a cooking oil drop-off location free of charge. The Miramar Recycling Center is open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Recycling Center is closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. To contact the Miramar Recycling Center, call (858) 268-8971.

Cooking oil, fat and grease must not be put down drains as it causes damage to your plumbing and the City's sewer system. Remember that you must not put fluids in your black trash bin. If you do not bring your cooking oil to the Miramar Recycling Center, all cooking oil, fat and grease should be absorbed with paper towels, newspaper, or other material such as cat box litter and placed in a plastic bag before being disposed of in the trash. For more information about proper cooking oil, fat and grease disposal, call 858-292-6484 or visit www.sandiego.gov/mwwd/.

Liquids of any kind should not be disposed of in your black trash containers.

For more information on holiday waste reduction ideas, recycling, composting or trash collection, contact the City's Environmental Services Department at 858-694-7000 or visit the department's website at www.sandiego.gov/environmental-services/.

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