

For Eye on the Environment 12-31-17

Christmas Treecycling and Extra Trash Set-outs Allowed in Many Areas

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*'Twas the week after Christmas and in curbside carts
Were trees of Christmas past, cut up in parts.
Some areas allow whole tree collection from the street.
Other residents must load trees in cars' back seats,
and they go to a drop-off to dispose a tree whole.
There they also pick up mulch for weed control.
Compost and mulch trees if you want to conserve
give your tree new life as a way to observe.*

Even though Christmas tree recycling is an annual ritual, differing rules, dates and deadlines in various parts of Ventura County can make collection and drop off confusing. The advertisements, fliers, and other outreach from each recycling hauler and each city recycling program are seen by residents of other areas.

The best treecycling method for the environment, requiring the least amount of truck idling time and transportation, is for you to cut your tree into segments and fit the pieces into your regular curbside yard waste recycling cart. As long as your tree is not free of decorations, stands, or other items, it will be mulched with your other yard clippings. Fire-proofed trees should not be placed in recycling containers.

For those who do not cut their tree into pieces, check your city's web site, your refuse hauler's web site, or call the phone number on your trash bill to find out whether and when homes in your area are allowed to set out trees whole by the curb. If yours is one of the communities paying through monthly collection charges for whole tree service at this time of year, find out the dates allowed for set-out.

For example, this year, in all unincorporated areas (communities outside city boundaries) curbside collection of whole trees will take place without extra charges between December 26 and January 5. Residents setting out trees after January 5 will be charged for special collection.

In many areas, even if you miss the deadlines for whole tree set-out or do not have this program available, you can still obtain this service by calling your refuse collector and requesting their annually allocated "free bulky item collection."

For businesses, homes without curbside yard waste service, and apartments without yard waste collection bins, Christmas treecycling drop off sites are available between December 26 and January 19. These sites are Agromin Organics, 6859 Arnold Road, near Oxnard; Agromin at the Simi Valley Landfill, 2801 Madera Road, near Simi Valley; Agromin's corporate office, at 201 Kinetic Drive, in Oxnard; Peach Hill Soils' retail site at

Performance Nursery, at 6101 East Los Angeles Avenue, in Somis; and Peach Hill Soils compost site, at 10765 West Los Angeles Avenue, near Moorpark. Peach Hill has a small sign on Highway 118, just east of Grimes Canyon Rd., so call for directions (529-6164), or look for a truck with the Peach Hill logo.

Moorpark residents may also use drop-off sites on Marquette Street and Park Crest Lane December 26 to January 6, and Oxnard residents may bring trees free to the Del Norte Regional Recycling & Transfer Station, December 26 to January 27, 7 AM to 4 PM. Use the roll-off container next to the buyback center, off Del Norte Blvd.

In most areas, residents can also put out twice the normal amount of trash (in up to two 50 gallon bags) during the two weeks following Christmas.