



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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Christmas Trees Are Too Good for the Trash!

Why Keep Christmas trees out of the trash?

Every year, Bay Staters buy one million cut Christmas trees. Simply throwing them away would not only be a waste of reusable resources, but a disposal problem. If all the cut trees sold in Massachusetts this holiday season were packed tightly together on their sides, they could fill every square foot of a major regional shopping mall to a height of 15 feet or create a pile that would rise ten stories and span a football field from one goal post to the other.

Is there a proper way to dispose of a Christmas tree?

Yes. Most Massachusetts cities and towns provide Christmas tree collection programs (usually during the first 2 weeks in January). The collected trees are chipped and either composted or used for mulch.

Where can I get more information?

If you have questions about where to take your tree for proper disposal, or when to put it on the curb, contact your city/town for information ([Massachusetts City & Town Recycling Links | Mass.gov](#)). Christmas tree collection dates are also often included on municipal trash & recycling calendars. **Remember to remove all tinsel, lights, ornaments, stands, and/or garlands!**

This information is available in alternate format. Please contact Melixza Esenyie at 617-626-1282.

TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370
MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep

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