

Christmas tree pickup to begin

It will begin to look a lot like Christmas— again— in Halton, as the colourfully decorated trees found in many homes throughout the region will soon adorn innumerable front lawns.

Halton Region will collect the trees during the next two regular collection days, beginning the week of Jan. 11. Residents who don't have a collection calendar can find one online at <http://www.halton.ca/ppw/waste/calendar>.

The trees— stripped bare of tinsel and ornaments— will be taken to Halton's waste management site in Milton where they will be turned into mulch for use in landscape projects. The Region collected 343 tonnes of trees in 2008, less than the 411 tonnes collected in 2007 and 347 in 2006.

To assist in the massive pickup, the Region is reminding residents to remove all decoration from the trees, as well as plastic bags and tree stands. Residents are also asked to ensure the trees don't become stuck or frozen in snow banks.

Of course, residents might have other holiday leftovers that require disposal as well, including:

Artificial Christmas trees— consider donating ones in good condition to a reuse centre, a list of which can be found at www.halton.ca/ppw/waste/reuse.htm. Otherwise, the trees are considered bulk waste and will not be picked up until a scheduled bulk collection day. Residents can also drop them off at the Halton Waste Management Site, 5400 Regional Road 25 in Milton from Monday to Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Christmas cards (paper or cardboard only) can go in the Blue Box. Christmas cards (with metal foil, sparkles, plastic parts, feathers, decorations or musical components) can't be recycled and go inside a garbage bag or can.

Christmas tree ornaments— contact a reuse centre to donate ornaments in good condition. Otherwise, toss in a garbage bag or can.

Wrapping paper— goes inside a garbage bag or can. It doesn't go in the Blue Box because the dyes or coating used in the paper negatively impacts the Region's ability to recycle it.

Christmas lights— go inside a garbage bag or can. The Region is asking residents to avoid accidents by wrapping broken glass and sharp objects in a puncture-resistant package, such as a taped and sealed cardboard box or a sealed plastic tub, before putting them in the garbage.



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