

TIPS & TRICKS ON WASTE REDUCTION DURING FESTIVE SEASON:

1. **Wrapped in Love:** Instead of buying new wrapping paper, re-use old boxes, gift wrap, newspaper, fabric and ribbon to wrap your gifts. You can let the kids participate by creating their own gift wrap by drawing or painting on recycled paper.
2. **Re-Gift and Donate:** Instead of buying gifts for the sake of it, re-gift items that were gently used or not used at all. There is always someone who will appreciate it. Donate any items or furniture you're not using to those in need.
3. **Make Edible Gifts:** Add even more meaning to your gifts by gifting loved ones homemade biscuits, cakes, jams or chutneys.
4. **Re-duce Food Waste:** Make a shopping list and use it, try to not overstock on food. If you have extra food after your Holiday meal, make a food package for the less fortunate. Re-use leftover food to create new meals. Use vegetable and fruit scraps to create compost.
5. **Avoid Disposable Food and Beverage Containers:** Try to avoid using things like disposable dishes, knives and forks, extra napkins and cups. Refill your water bottle where you can instead of buying a new one.
6. **Decorate by Up-Cycling:** Instead of buying new decorations, get creative by using recycled glass, plastic, cardboard or cans to decorate your home. Make use of items in your garden, look for pinecones, sticks and twigs to add a natural element to your decorations.
7. **Holiday decorations:** Instead of buying a synthetic tree or using a tree once then throwing it away, go back to your roots and use an actual potted tree. You can decorate with all the usual holiday ornaments. Once the festive season is over you can replant it and keep it for next year.
8. **Local is still Lekker:** Buying local is good for the economy and reduces your carbon footprint. Support your local businesses by buying from farmers markets and street vendors – buy from families this holiday season when you can.
9. **No Vacay from Recycling:** People tend to generate more waste during the festive season which leads to more recycled material ending up in our landfill sites. Take the time to still separate your recycled material. Visit https://sstafrica.org.za/my_map/index_waste_recycle.html for Recycling Drop-off locations.
10. **Ditch single use plastic items:** Do you have a reusable straw? Take it with you. Try to keep your reusable shopping bags close to the door or in your car this holiday season, so you don't forget them. Let's try use less single use plastics this holiday season.

Take some time to read through the Recycling & Waste Separation at Source information on <https://www.nelsonmandelabay.gov.za/page/waste-separation-at-source> and start 2023 by being *Waste Wise*.