

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 14, 2010

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HOLIDAYS BRING TIMELY REMINDERS:

HOLIDAY-RELATED TRASH HINDERS RECYCLING EFFORTS; DISPOSE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS PROPERLY

GLENDALE, Ariz. -- As the holidays approach, the city of Glendale's Sanitation Department faces a potential slow-down in its recycling efforts from well-meaning residents who are unaware of the holiday-related trash that can not be recycled by the city.

In an effort to avoid this annual problem, the Sanitation Department issues this timely reminder of what is not allowed in curbside recycling containers.

Residents should be aware the following items *should not* be placed in recycling:

Ribbons and bows	Holiday wrapping paper
Tissue Paper	Plastic gift bags
Water resistant gift bags	Holiday cards with glitter
Ornaments	Tree lights
Garland and tinsel	Paper plates
Napkins	Plastic silverware
Holiday trees-artificial or real	Bubble wrap
Packing peanuts	Styrofoam
Extension cords	Food of any kind

In addition, this is the time of year when many residents should review their prescription drugs and get rid of any that are no longer needed. That's because many people who may be past the stage of child-proofing their home will

(more)



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Holiday trash tips
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be hosting relatives with young children, increasing the risk of childhood poisonings. Residents are urged to make sure prescription drugs are kept out of reach and that those which are no longer needed are disposed of properly.

“Once it was common practice to flush these medications down the toilet or sink,” said Frank Lomeli, deputy director of Field Operations for the city. “We now know that some of these substances are bad for our environment. The medications may pass through sewage treatment plants and septic tanks into surface waters, soils, and the groundwater.”

The Sanitation Department provides these tips for the proper, environmentally safe disposal of medications.

- Check to see if your pharmacy has a medication recycling program that disposes of unused or expired medications in an environmentally safe manner.
- Alternatively, take unused, unneeded, or expired medications out of their original container for disposal.
- Mix the medications with an undesirable substance like coffee grounds or kitty litter and put them in an impermeable, plain container such as an empty can or sealable plastic bag. This will ensure the medications are not diverted or accidentally ingested by children or pets.

Throw these containers in the trash.

By following these recycling and medication disposal tips, Sanitation officials say holiday-related trash won't cause problems in the new year. For more information on recycling, call the Sanitation Department at 623.930.2660 or visit www.glendaleaz.com/sanitation. From there go to the recycling section and click on “What is recyclable.”

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