



WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE AFTER THE HOLIDAYS

Whether you live in town or in the country, we have some tips for responsibly disposing of your real Christmas tree!

1. Contact your public works department to see if they provide a curbside tree pickup service. Some municipalities require you to bring your tree to a central location. Information can often be found on your town or city's website. See below for regional and city information.
2. You can turn your tree into mulch if you have access to a chipper. The mulch can be used in your garden, landscaping, or compost pile.
3. If you still have your Christmas tree in the yard when warm weather arrives, there may still be a use for it. If permitted in your community, burn the branches and spread the ashes in your garden as a soil amendment.
4. Some areas use discarded Christmas trees for fish habitat. To prevent polluting waterways, make sure you remove all decorations from your tree. Some farmed trees are coated with pesticides and flame retardants, so we advise only disposing of wild trees in this way.

Christmas Tree Disposal: Region & City Instructions

If you utilize a Christmas tree disposal service, it is critical that your tree is free of ALL ornaments, stands, tinsel, garland, or other decorative items.

Always check your city's website or social media page for the most up-to-date information regarding tree disposal.

1. Kalispell

- The City of Kalispell will pick up Christmas Trees beginning around January 2. Place the trees at the street in the boulevard area. The city will either chip or dispose of the trees for a two-week period.

2. Missoula

- The Urban Forestry Division is inviting citizens to drop off their cut Christmas trees to be recycled into productive mulch. To recycle your tree, drop it off at one of these sites through January 15th, 2026:
 - i. Garden City Compost - 1125 Clark Fork Lane
 1. Hours: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM M-F
 - ii. Fort Missoula - South Avenue Parking Lot
 - iii. McCormick Park
 - iv. Playfair Park

3. Bozeman

- Compost
 - i. As a courtesy service, the Forestry Division recycles post-holiday Christmas trees to be composted and used as mulch in our city parks.
 - ii. Trees will be recycled into a natural compost/mulch. Please remove ALL ornaments, lights, wire, twine, etc.





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- iii. Please DO NOT cut the tree into smaller pieces! Whole trees are more easily managed by our equipment.
- iv. Wreaths and garlands are not accepted. We cannot chip this material for mulch. Please dispose of these items properly.
- v. The following sites have been reserved for Christmas Tree Recycling and will be open through February 2026
 - 1. Location: Christie Fields, enter off East Mason Street, drop off will be indicated by signs.
 - 2. Location: Gallatin Valley Regional Park, enter off Oak Street, drop off near BMX tracks.
 - 3. Location: Enter off Haggerty Lane for drop off at Softball Complex (not Highland entrance.)
- vi. See the City of Bozeman [website](#) for more information.

4. Butte

- Trees can be dropped off starting Christmas Day through usually the end of January. Please remember to remove all lights, decorations, ornaments, and tinsel from your tree. No other trash, garbage, or debris can be left at these locations.
- Check the Butte-Silver Bow [Facebook](#) page for updates!

Drop-off Locations:

- i. Corner of Platinum St and Excelsior Ave.
- ii. Corner of Sampson St and Utah Ave.
- iii. High Altitude Skating Center lot.

5. Great Falls

- Recycling: December 26th - through January 9th.
- Before recycling your Christmas tree, remove all lights, decorations, tree stands, etc. Flocked trees cannot be recycled and should not be taken to recycling locations. Deposit only your live Christmas tree in the containers. Commercial trees are not being accepted. The recycled Christmas trees will be composted or used to improve fish habitat.
- Check the City of Great Falls [Facebook](#) page for updates!

Containers will be located at:

- i. Meadowlark Park - Fox Farm and Park Garden Road
- ii. Americans Little League (Parking Lot) - 1100 38th St N

The City of Great Falls, Great Falls Fish Wildlife & Parks, and Walleyes Unlimited Great Falls Chapter sponsor the Christmas Tree Recycling Project. For more information, contact Public Works at (406)771-1401.

6. Billings and Surrounding Area

- Recycling/compost: December 27, 2026 – January 19, 2026. Check out the City of Billings [website](#) for more information.
- *Mulch is used by the Montana Audubon Center and Zoo Montana*
 - i. **BILLINGS:**
 - 1. Zoo Montana – 2100 South Shiloh Rd
 - 2. Radius Recycling – 1100 6th Avenue Rd





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3. Hanser's Automotive – 430 South Billings Blvd
4. Billings Landfill – 5240 Jellison Rd
5. Heights-Clevinger Park – 840 Bench Blvd
6. Poly Vista Park – 38th Street West & Colin Dr.

ii. **LAUREL:**

1. Thompson Park – Splash Park Parking Lot

iii. **LOCKWOOD:**

1. Lockwood School – 1932 US Hwy 87E
2. Rocky Mountain Compost – 3060 Farley Ln

iv. **SHEPHERD:**

1. Shepherd High School – Parking Lot 7842 Shepherd Rd

v. **HUNTLEY:**

1. United Methodist Church - Parking Lot

7. Miles City

- The Miles City chapter of Walleyes Unlimited and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks have set up a Christmas tree drop-off location at Spotted Eagle Lake. The trees will be used in the spring to provide fish habitat.
- Submerged and anchored trees increase habitat complexity, provide hiding cover for juvenile fish and nesting cover for some species of adult fish.
 - i. Spotted Eagle / by west restroom
- Drop off trees at the Miles City landfill in the tree pile.

8. Helena Area

- Register for Boy Scouts curbside Christmas Tree pickup at <http://troop214helena.square.site>
- They will pick up in Helena, the Helena Valley and East Helena areas. Note: The City of Helena and Tri-County Disposal will not be picking up trees any longer.
- The trees are used for a fish habitat conservation project at Canyon Ferry Lake. The Scouts transport the trees there and help the MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks prepare them for the lake.
- Tree pickups will be on Saturdays - January 3, 11 and 17, between 9 am and 3 pm.
- Suggested donation for the service is \$10.
- You can also haul trees to the Transfer Station for disposal.

