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Sarasota County issues tips for handling holiday trash

Need help disposing of the holiday trimmings, disintegrating Christmas trees and New Year's tinsel? Let Sarasota County recycle them so they don't wind up in the landfill.

According to Solid Waste Manager Larry Alexander, "This is one of the most important services we provide to customers within Sarasota County who are served by Waste Management. There's no need to throw out an old tree if it can serve as free mulch for other people's landscaping."

Just be sure to prepare the tree first. "Remove all the decorations. If the tree is taller than six feet, cut it in half," says Alexander. "Take the tree out of any plastic bags you may have used to remove it from your home, and place it at the curb."

All trees are mulched at the landfill. Some are also composted for use as natural fertilizer. Leftover gift wrap goes in the garbage.

For more information about Sarasota County's Solid Waste and recycling programs, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000, or visit www.scgov.net.

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