



Holiday Tree Disposal **FACT SHEET**

★ *Clean it Up!*

Before you can dispose of your old holiday tree, it needs to be stripped of all artificial decorations. All lights, tinsel, garlands, ribbons, ornaments, etc. and any additional nails or support structures (i.e. tree stands) must be removed. Only live trees may be disposed of in the manners listed below.

★ *Yard Waste and Curbside Pick-up*

Old holiday trees are considered yard waste if picked up by your local solid waste collector. Most collectors will ask that you cut up the tree in order for it to fit in the appropriate containers for pickup. If the tree is left whole, many collectors will not pick it up. Certain communities, however, may provide curbside pickup services in late December and early January.

★ *Recycling Center Drop Off*

Some communities encourage their residents to recycle their natural holiday trees at certain recycling centers. Some centers may only take the trees for recycling, while others accept the trees and then provide the mulch created from them. For information about recycling centers, yard waste, or potential curbside pickup, contact your local [Solid Waste Coordinator](#).

★ *Fish and Wildlife Drop Off Sites*

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) organizes holiday tree drop off sites in different locations in many counties across the Commonwealth. The purpose of these sites is to collect trees for future fish habitats. KDFWR asks citizens to bring their old trees to strategic locations in most counties in Kentucky. The trees are then submerged in public lakes or ponds. Once underwater, these groups of trees and their branches become safe places for fish to spawn, young fish to feed, and small fish to hide from larger predators. Anyone interested in bringing their old holiday trees to these drop off locations can visit [the KDFWR webpage](#).



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