



Blue Bin News

St. Louis City Residential Recycling Newsletter

Winterize Waste

Winterizing our homes can help us stay warm and cut our energy bills, reduce waste, and save time and money. Proactively preparing for the harsh elements can prolong the life of your home and possessions, and allow you to avoid problems before they happen or save time otherwise spent on replacing items. To get started, try the following winterization tips:



- Store rakes, shovels, brooms, and snow blowers in a covered area to keep them in tip top shape, avoiding premature repair or replacement.
- Drain garden hoses to prevent them from cracking in freezing temperatures.
- Use foam blocks (e.g., Styrofoam packaging) as insulation in dog houses, around water pipes, or to cover outdoor spigots.
- Save wood ashes for melting icy sidewalks or driveways. The ashes can also be included in your compost pile for added nutrients.
- Replace disposable furnace filters with reusable filters that can be rinsed and reused multiple times.
- Reduce wear and tear on window screens by replacing them with storm windows.
- Keep warm and save money using a draft guard made from scraps of fabric. Simply sew a tube the length of your door, fill with rice, sand, kitty litter, etc. and place in front of doors with drafts.
- Keep a hand operated (e.g., crank, shake) flashlight handy in case of a power outage. The last thing you'll want to do in the event of a black-out is search for batteries.
- Clean the leaves and other debris from your gutters and add them to your compost pile. You'll prevent ice dams from causing leaks in your home and have nutrient rich compost in time for Spring planting.

Making and Recalling Memories this Winter

Many of us will seek shelter indoors this winter, providing a perfect opportunity to rummage through our basements and storage closets to clear out clutter. What better way to reminisce than to curl up on the couch with a box of old memories and sort out items to keep from ones to donate, reuse, and recycle? Post unwanted pieces on a materials exchange (<http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/MaterialExchanges.html>), donate them to charity, or offer them to family and friends. Time indoors may also be spent hosting holiday parties. When preparing for get-togethers:



- Prepare only as much food as is needed and use leftovers as lunches or new dinners.
- Construct decorations from reused, recycled, or compostable materials.
- Serve food on reusable plates and bowls, set out reusable flatware and napkins, and serve drinks in reusable cups and glasses.
- Let everyone know where your recycling and/or compost receptacles are located and be sure they know what goes in each one.

Remember, your efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle this winter will be rewarded for years to come. Happy Holidays!!!

December 2009 Upcoming Events

Details available at

<http://stlouis.missouri.org/citygov/recycle/calendar.html>



* **Saturday, December 19 (3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)** - Found Art And Upcycling Conversation
www.earthwayscenter.org/calendar.html



