



December 2021 Newsletter

As the holiday season comes to an end, we have some great ways for you to get rid of extra waste including a new Styrofoam Recycling Event, discounted orange overflow bags and curbside Christmas tree collection. We also have the results of our latest audit that shows recycling is continuing to improve in Salem.

Styrofoam Recycling Event - January 8th

The Cities of Salem and Beverly are partnering to offer residents a Styrofoam Collection Day.

Hold on to your Styrofoam after the holidays, Save That Stuff will be collecting it to recycle. The event will be a drive through event at 401 Bridge St, Salem's Community Life Center from 9am-1pm on January 8th. Please only bring rigid white expanded polystyrene (Styrofoam); no packaging peanuts or food service containers, such as meat trays, clamshells, or Styrofoam cups can be accepted. While Styrofoam cannot be recycled curbside, Save That Stuff has densifiers that can process the material for recycling. We're excited to offer residents a way to sustainably dispose of all the Styrofoam they may have received from the holiday season.



We Take foam Packing Pieces, and foam Coolers

We do not take soft foam, or any food service foam.

Holiday Trash and Recycling Info

Trash & Recycling -- With Christmas and New Year's Day both occurring on weekends, there are NO DELAYS in curbside collection.

Discounted Orange Overflow Bags -- these are now available for \$1 each through January 7.

Christmas Tree Collection -- Waste Management will collect real trees for 3 weeks. Place bare tree at the curb on your trash day, the weeks of Dec. 27, Jan. 3, or Jan. 10. (No tinsel, ornaments, stands, or tree bags.)

Wreaths & garland -- place in trash. Due to wires and other artificial content, these cannot be composted or chipped by WM or Black Earth.



Audit Results

Some good news from our ongoing recycling efforts: our contamination rate has **dropped to 8.3% in the 2021** audit! That's down from 28% three years ago and 8.9% last year. Our goal had been to reduce contamination to under 10% and we reached it! These results keep us in Waste Management's "best in class" category of its client municipalities. There are still some routes where we can make more progress, however; please see the graph below. It is important to remember that plastic films, bubble wrap, Styrofoam, liquid and food waste, wood, and scrap metal should NOT go in your recycling bin.

[Read more here](#)

	Recycling Route	% Contamination	Type of Contamination		
Blue Recycling Week	Monday	5.9%	Trash bag, metal, film	1-3%	low levels of contamination :)
	Tuesday	3.4%	trash bag, loose trash	3-5%	
	Wednesday	8.7%	metal, Film, yard waste	5-7%	Average levels of contamination
	Thursday	18.7%	film, trash bags	7-9%	
	Friday	6.5%	film	11-13%	
Green Recycling Week	Monday	15.0%	Film, trash, metal	13-15%	high levels of contamination :(
	Tuesday	8.0%	film		
	Wednesday	2.7%	film		
	Thursday	6.2%	Wrappable, suitcase type storage bag, film, clothing		
	Friday	19.0%	House blinds, trash bags, film		
City Wide Average		8.3%			

Thank you Recycling Committee and Volunteers

As 2021 comes to an end, we wanted to express our gratitude to the many volunteers who make this newsletter, our events, our social media and more possible. We still face many challenges due to the pandemic, but we we're able to have a Repair Café this year and re-invent some events like Free Book Day in place of the Book Swap. We planned a new Styrofoam Recycling Event and started collecting TerraCycle materials to We hope to do even more events in 2022. So thank you again to the dedicated crew of committee members and volunteers whose passion makes this all happen. Keep up the great work and Happy New Year!

Connect with Us



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