

O Christmas Tree – The holidays are over, what do I do with thee?

The holidays will soon be a memory – and the beautiful tree that was admired by many now needs to be taken down and removed from your home.

How can Monroe County residents properly dispose of real – and artificial – holiday trees?

Real trees:

- Some municipalities offer a free tree collection or recycling program to turn that green into compost or mulch
 - Check with your Town or Village or visit <https://www.monroecounty.gov/des-environmentalrecycling> for treecycling disposal programs near you
- Additionally, the Monroe County / WM ecopark will accept real trees outside near the compost area during normal hours of operation
- If you have space in your yard, consider using the tree as a brush pile for birds or rabbits. Not only will it provide them extra shelter during the cold winter months, but the brush provides excellent bird and critter watching!
- Goat farms may accept trees as the needles contain Vitamin C, which can be a tasty snack

Artificial trees - with or without electronics:

- Artificial trees are accepted at the Monroe County / WM ecopark during all collections, no appointment necessary – in the electronics area
- Also accepted are any holiday decorations that include electronics, including string lights
- Details and operating hours for the ecopark can be found at www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark

PRO TIP: Regardless of the method of tree disposal you choose -
REMEMBER TO REMOVE ALL LIGHTS, DECORATIONS, TINSEL, etc.

It is a violation of New York State law to place electronics in the recycling bin or the trash. A list of alternative collection sites for electronic devices throughout Monroe County can be found here: <https://www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark-electronics> .

Happy 2025!